

Parliamentary hearing before appointment

FROM PAGE 1
special committee told The Daily Star.

People with dubious records will not dare to express their willingness to be appointed to the posts as their previous records might be made public in the hearings, they said.

At present the executive branch of the state maintains secrecy during the process of appointing constitutional officers, and the people come to know about the appointments only after the process is completed.

The special committee on March 29 at a meeting held in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban had preliminary discussions on the idea, it will hold further discussions on the matter.

"Majority members of the committee are in favour of introducing the system. So, we will try to take the idea

forward," a member of the special committee said, wishing anonymity.

The move comes in response to controversies over appointments of the Supreme Court judges, chief election commissioner (CEC), election commissioners, chairmen and members of the Public Service Commission (PSC), and the attorney general -- as the executive branch of the state always controls the appointments.

"If the system is introduced, it will contribute to bringing an end to the controversies regarding the appointments," said Rashed Khan Menon, a member of the special committee.

Contacted by The Daily Star, two eminent jurists Ghulam Rabbani and Shahdeen Malik echoed Menon.

"I definitely support the

idea. If the public hearing system is introduced and the hearing is broadcast live like the congressional hearings in the US, then it will bring good result for the nation," Rabbani, also a former judge of the Appellate Division of Supreme Court, said.

He also stressed the need for appointing an ombudsman in line with a constitutional provision.

"This is the best method of appointing the most deserving candidates through an open and transparent process. If this procedure is established, finally merits and qualifications will prevail over party loyalty," Malik said lauding the idea.

Rashed Khan Menon, also the chief of Workers Party, who placed the proposal at the parliamentary special committee, said they will hold detail discussions

regarding whether the idea is realistic in Bangladesh's present context.

He however said such system exists in many countries, and it has been proven effective in ensuring quality appointments to constitutional posts.

Talking to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity, another member of the special committee expressed scepticism about implementation of the idea, as the committee has yet to know about the prime minister's thoughts on it.

"I don't know whether the government will agree to lose its sweeping authority over the appointments. If the parliamentary confirmation system is introduced, the government must appoint qualified people to the posts, and it will not be able to favour people loyal to them" he

said.

Another member of the special committee opposed the idea, saying, the system of parliamentary confirmation will politicise the appointments more.

The member is in favour of making a committee headed by the chief justice and representatives of the Supreme Court Bar Association, and Bangladesh Bar Council to pick the candidates for appointments as judges of the Supreme Court.

The immediate past caretaker government led by Fakhruddin Ahmed moved to reform the procedure for appointing Supreme Court judges.

It promulgated an ordinance in March 2008 and formed a Supreme Judicial Commission to ensure transparency and impartiality in appointments of SC

judges.

The ordinance prescribed setting up of a nine-member commission headed by the chief justice, which would recommend names for appointments as additional judges of the High Court. The HC in April 2008 stayed the functions of the Supreme Judicial Commission for three months.

And eventually, the caretaker government's move did not see the light of day.

Ban on use

FROM PAGE 20
twenty-four hours into Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid's announcement in this regard.

Allegations are rife that some teachers of different educational institutions use mobile phones in classrooms and examination halls, disrupting teaching activities and interrupting students' attention during examinations, the circular reads.

"Therefore, mobile phones cannot be used during class and examination hours," it adds.

A number of teachers have welcomed the decision and termed it helpful for the students.

Husne Ara Begum, principal of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, said receiving phone calls in the class hampers lessons by diverting the learners' attention.

Bangladesh offered to export pharmaceuticals, jute and jute-made goods, ceramics and tea packaging to Sri Lanka, and this matter will prominently figure during the visit.

In response to Bangladesh's request, the Sri Lankan government had agreed to provide training to Bangladeshi nurses in that country, but the health ministry failed to formulate a draft MoU in this regard in last three months.

part-time job to complete his higher secondary education.

Nitor Director Prof Abdul Awal Rizvi told The Daily Star that Limon's condition is improving.

He also said they hope to get him an artificial leg within three months if they can pool the money needed.

Limon's father Tofazzel Hossain said people are coming forward with financial help following reports in the media. So far, he has received Tk 30,000 for his son's treatment.

He, however, needs more help to buy Limon a good foreign-made prosthetic leg, which usually costs around Tk 2 lakh.

Limon's mother Henu Ara Begum has filed a case with a Jhalakathi court, accusing six Rab men of attempt to kill her son.

Limon hopes

FROM PAGE 20
Chhaturia in Rajapur of Jhalakathi on March 23.

As infection threatened to spread further up his body, doctors at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in the capital amputated his leg on March 27.

"At first, I thought I'd have to live the rest of my life at the mercy of others," he told this correspondent yesterday, lying on a bed at Nitor.

"Then I heard doctors can outfit amputees with artificial limbs. It gave me a glimmer of hope. I started dreaming that I'll get back on my feet again."

Before that, he needs a

30-40 lawyers accused

FROM PAGE 20
Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka, filed a case with Kotwali Police Station on Sunday night against the lawyers accusing them of obstructing police from their duties and assaulting them.

Nazma Begum, a bench officer (peshkar), filed another case with the same police station against the same accused under the Speedy Trial (Law and Order Disruption) Act.

On Sunday, a group of lawyers snatched a fellow lawyer, an accused in a fraud case, from the dock of a Dhaka court as it rejected his bail petition and ordered sending him to jail.

The lawyers also vandalised furniture and windowpanes of the courtroom after

Metropolitan Magistrate MA Salam rejected the bail petition of advocate Nurul Islam, and passed the order.

Nurul Islam later surrendered to the same court at 5:30pm the same day.

Asked about the cases, Dhaka Bar General Secretary Mohammad Iqbal Hossain said they had held a meeting with the CMM AKM Enamul Haque to settle the matter amicably and requested him not to file any cases.

But the CMM ignored their request and demented them, he added.

"We have called an emergency meeting at Dhaka Bar Association today where all former presidents and general secretaries would be present and discuss the next course of action" said Iqbal.

306 more Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 20
IOM, 3,965 availed the 16 flights of Bangladesh Biman

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Embassy in Athens will arrange the repatriation of eight Bangladeshis who arrived at the port of Corfu, in Crete Island of Greece after verifying their identities.

Besides, one Bangladeshi, among the 49 who jumped off a ship during evacuation on March 6, still remains missing at Hania, Crete Island.

J Special

FROM PAGE 20
Yesterday's was the committee's first meeting with the premier since its formation on July 21 last year.

Starting around 7:15pm, the meeting ended at about 11:30pm.

The 15-member special committee headed by Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury consists of only Awami League-led ruling alliance lawmakers, as main opposition BNP did not delegate any member.

Bangladeshi imam dies

FROM PAGE 20
Laurent Gbagbo.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday confirmed that Imam Abdus Salam, who hailed from Barisal, died of heart attack on April 10 while physician Md Muhibul Hasan received bullet wounds on April 9.

Police in Dhaka said the imam was of the rank and status of warrant officer of police and the physician was at Mymensingh Police Hospital prior to his posting in Ivory Coast.

The 120-member Bangladesh police contingent deployed at Gulf Hotel in Abidjan, commercial capital of Ivory Coast, included the imam and the doctor.

Internationally recognised elected president of the country Alhassane Ouattara is staying at the hotel.

About 2,000 army and 361 police personnel from Bangladesh who have been

working in Ivory Coast as UN peacekeepers are unhurt. Of the police men, one is in UN Police and all others are in Formed Police Unit (FPU).

Of them, 180 are deployed in Abidjan, 90 in Bouake airport area and 90 at the base station in Yamoussoukro city.

Briefing journalists yesterday, the foreign minister said the body of Abdus Salam will be brought back home under UN supervision. Condition of the injured doctor is improving.

She said UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon was informed of the matter by AK Abdul Momen, Bangladesh ambassador and permanent representative to the UN in New York, to take necessary measures for the safety and security of Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Ivory Coast.

According to an ISPR press release yesterday, they will be buried with military honour.

The two Bangladeshi blue helmet holders were among the 26 who died when a UN plane carrying staff members and peacekeepers broke into pieces on landing at the airport in Congo's capital Kinshasa. Six others survived the crash.

The deals will be made to promote export and avoid double taxation. MoUs on cultural, educational and scientific exchange programme and agricultural research will be signed.

Sri Lanka sought access to higher education in

Rajapaksa flies

FROM PAGE 1

programme schedule of the visit and are now fine-tuning the agreements and Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) to be signed, said foreign ministry officials.

They said drafts of agreements and MoUs have been exchanged in light of the recently held foreign secretary-level consultation in Dhaka in January.

Signing of the deals, mostly related to promotion of trade and investment, will usher in a new chapter in the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, said the ministry sources.

The deals will be made to promote export and avoid double taxation. MoUs on cultural, educational and scientific exchange programme and agricultural research will be signed.

In response to Bangladesh's request, the Sri Lankan government had agreed to provide training to Bangladeshi nurses in that country, but the health ministry failed to formulate a draft MoU in this regard in last three months.

Bangladesh. Some 500 students of that country are now studying in private medical colleges here. Bangladesh agreed to make room for more students in different educational institutions.

Both the sides agreed to take a fresh look at the existing Shipping Services Agreement signed in 1979 to make it more suitable for present day needs, officials said.

Bangladesh offered to export pharmaceuticals, jute and jute-made goods, ceramics and tea packaging to Sri Lanka, and this matter will prominently figure during the visit.

Use of mobile phone has increased significantly in the country in recent times. According to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission website, the number of active subscribers of mobile phone reached around 7.29 crore in March this year.

Land acquisition draft

Department and the rest to Bangladesh Railway.

The project, expected to be finished by December 2013, is aimed to ease the capital's traffic movement by linking the northern part of the city to the central and southern parts, and touching some important commercial and business centres.

In yesterday's meeting, the PM said the government would take all necessary steps so that not a single area of the project suffers. She termed the expressway public interest project and asked all concerned to complete the

work timely.

The cabinet meeting also approved the proposal of ratifying the UN convention on protecting the rights of migrant workers and their families.

Briefing the media after the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said every year Bangladesh sends around 4 lakh workers abroad and at present about 70 lakh Bangladeshis are working overseas immensely contributing to the country's economy.

The cabinet ratified the convention considering their contribution, he added.

between January 2009 and December 2010, found the probe.

During the time, shares worth about Tk 19 crore were sold from these accounts with Al-Arafah Islami Bank, LankaBangla Securities, BLI Securities and NBL Securities.

Operating four BO accounts in wife's name is a direct violation of the SEC circular. Besides, big transactions were made through these accounts. The intelligence can investigate the matter, recommended the probe report.

Kafiluddin Ahmed Chowdhury, the then deputy general manager of state-run Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) during the stockmarket debacle and currently general manager of House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC), maintained two BO accounts -- a joint account with his wife Farzana Akter and a dummy account in the name of his brother-in-law Masum Billah -- in IFIC.

The report also recommended investigating how the DGM of ICB deposited such huge amount of money and that the finance ministry can file a departmental case against him, as he is now the general manager of HBFC. The matter can also

be sent to Anti-Corruption Commission, it added.

The probe committee became suspicious when they found that Shamima Sharif, wife of a Dhaka Stock Exchange member, withdrew Tk 1.52 crore from Commercial Bank of Ceylon through LankaBangla Finance.

She deposited the money in SAR Securities and LankaBangla Securities.

In light of this case, the probe committee recommended, "The SEC can investigate the matter. This issue can also be sent to the Bangladesh Bank to see whether the withdrawal can be considered as money laundering."

Asked whether share business is permitted in the service rule, he replied he had not read the rules. He believed it was illegal doing business in the names of wife and brother-in-law. He did not answer why his wife and brother-in-law's money was deposited in his name," the probe report said.

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