

Dialogue

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Star, Oli said the president made the remarks in response to a query from LDP leaders about the president's sole authority to appoint the EC.

The president further said he could alone form the new EC without consulting the political parties. "But I feel it is logical to hold talks with the parties on the issue considering the present situation," Oli quoted the head of state as saying.

On December 22, the president made similar remarks in a written speech at the beginning of the ongoing talks with the political parties initiated by him.

The LDP yesterday differed with the president on his contention, Oli said.

Citing constitutional provisions, they explained at the talks the president does not have the sole authority to form the EC, the LDP chief

said. Oli said the president only cited Article 118 of the constitution as the source of his power to appoint the EC.

But they told him that as per Article 48 (3) of the constitution, the president does not have the sole authority to do so, the LDP leader said.

Article 48(3) says the president will perform all his functions in accordance with the advice of the prime minister, excepting appointment of the prime minister and the chief justice.

At the talks, the president said he would inform LDP about his power and jurisdiction to address the issues mentioned by it, the party said.

Meanwhile, The Daily Star on Saturday carried a news analysis headlined "Does the president have power to appoint CEC and EC members."

Ethiopia jails Swedish journo for terrorism

AFP, Addis Ababa

An Ethiopian court on Tuesday sentenced two Swedish journalists to 11 years in jail for supporting terrorism and entering the country illegally, after a trial criticised by rights groups.

Reporter Martin Schibbye and photographer Johan Persson were arrested in Ethiopia's Ogaden region on July 1 in the company of rebels from the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) after entering Ethiopia from Somalia.

Both Swedes showed no emotion at the sentencing, as if in shock, according to an AFP reporter in the court.

Defence lawyer Abebe Balcha said they would decide later in the week whether to appeal.

Provide graft info with evidence

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information backed by evidence to its headquarters in Segunbagicha or deliver it by hand in sealed envelopes addressed to the ACC chairman, said a press release.

The ACC termed corruption as the major hindrance in the economic development, employment generation and poverty alleviation of the country.

Against this backdrop, it is a moral obligation for people with a sense of patriotism to provide information and evidence regarding corruption so that ACC can take legal measures, it said.

Earlier on June 7, the Public Interest Related Information Disclosure (Protection) Act, 2011, which is a bill to protect whistleblowers, was passed in the parliament. It empowers a person to disclose information on ministries,

divisions, departments or any government or non-government organisations to authorities concerned.

As per the law, authorities concerned may reward or honour a whistleblower if the information divulged is proved right in the court. No criminal or civil or departmental proceedings can be initiated against the whistleblower for disclosing information in public interest and his or her identity will not be revealed without his or her prior consent.

If the whistleblower is a government official, he or she cannot be punished, demoted, forced to retire, or harassed in any way which may cause him or her significant stress or damage his or her social dignity, the law says.

According to the law, he or she cannot be called upon as a witness or produced before the court in connection with the criminal and civil cases to be filed following the information disclosed.

ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman felt the necessity of a large scale campaign concerning the act and said they have issued the press release

to encourage people to step up and provide information backed by evidence about corruption.

"People don't know about the act. They don't know that their identities will be kept secret and will be rewarded if the information is proved

right in the court," he told The Daily Star.

"We are considering arranging discussions, seminars and dialogues with different stakeholders to help people understand more about the act," said the chairman.

Loudspeakers

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what can I do when the electoral laws have allowed the candidates to use loudspeakers during their campaign?" questioned Returning Officer Abdul Batan.

As per the rules, a mayoral candidate can use nine loudspeakers while an aspirant councillor is allowed to use one between 2:00pm and 9:00pm daily.

Taking the opportunity, the candidates are trying their best to attract the voters

by relaying slogans, speeches and songs through the loudspeakers.

"We feel really disturbed. All the sound gadgets are let loose at the same time. Students, patients and children are facing this rather weird situation of sound pollution to their peril," Dilnashen Mohsen, former president of Comilla Sammilito Sangkritik Jote, told The Daily Star.

Housewife Sabina Akhter was shopping at the town hall

market putting her fingers in her ears. "This [loud sound] is so irritating. It should be stopped," she insisted.

Convener of Socheton Nagorik Committee Comilla chapter Shah Md Alamgir Khan demanded the authorities take immediate measures to stop the sound pollution.

Nine candidates are fighting to win the mayoral race, while another 287 are vying for 27 posts of ward councillors. The polling is scheduled for January 5.

Death sparks violence

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Swapan Samaddar, 26, in an unconscious state in front of a local police camp while going to a fish market at about 4:30am.

Arun immediately rushed to the police camp and drew attention of the law enforcers. Instead of taking any action, the camp members asked him to leave the place, Arun said.

Later, Arun with the assistance of locals made an arrangement to take Swapan to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital (SBMCH).

But, Swapan, who had bruises all over the body, died on his way to the hospital, villagers said.

As the news of Swapan's death spread, agitating locals assembled at the police camp and demanded an explanation of police inaction.

At one stage, they attacked the law enforcers and pelted them with bricks forcing the cops to fire 20 rounds of rubber bullets in self-defence, police said.

Of the injured villagers, Sushanta Baroi, 20, was admitted to Agoiljhara Health Complex while Kamala Rani Samaddar, 31, to Goila Health Complex with bullet injuries. The other injured took primary treatment at different local clinics.

Abul Kalam Azad, chairman of the upazila, said the police camp at Jalla was opened to curb activities of the outlawed Sarbahara Party. But, it turned into a place of harassment for the locals.

Contacted, Md Abdul Motalib, acting district police superintendent, said he visited the spot, and

situation became normal with the help of local government representatives at noon.

Bhanu Lal Das, additional inspector general of police in Barisal range, said the authority had ordered to replace the cops of the camp with new forces.

Police arrested Amal Dakta in connection with the murder of the businessman.

Swapan's body was sent to SBMCH morgue for an autopsy, said Sukumar Roy, in-charge of Uzirpur Police Station.

The cops, who were injured by bricks, are camp in-charge Delwar Hossain, Habildar Nasiruddin, constables Sohail, Rusel and Emdad.

Delwar and Emdad were later suspended on allegations of unprovoked firing, police said.

Weak prosecution, worried citizens

FROM PAGE 1
to previous governments' negligence of and/or refusal to hold the trial of the war criminals.

Successive governments since the August 15, 1975 bloody changeover have not merely refrained from holding a trial of the war criminals. The various post-1975 regimes in a planned manner have also rehabilitated the war criminals in national politics.

Immediately after the emergence of Bangladesh, the anti-liberation forces were constitutionally banned. They even lost their right to become voters and, therefore, to cast votes in any public election.

Such a situation changed, however, after the August 15 changeover. The military regime which seized power repealed the Collaborators

Order 1972, thereby blocking the trials of collaborators then on-going. The regime led by General Ziaur Rahman released over 11,000 people who had been put behind bars on charges of war crimes. The regime was not content to stop there. It amended the constitution through a martial law proclamation to allow the anti-liberation forces to resume political activities along with the right of voting in elections.

The anti-liberation camp was to be provided with a fresh infusion of blood during the period of military rule under General HM Ershad, who had seized power in a coup on March 24, 1982. Taking advantage of the country's volatile political situation in the Ershad years, the anti-liberation and fundamentalist forces went

ahead in consolidating their political base. Eventually it was the BNP, founded by General Zia, which took the anti-liberation force Jamaat-e-Islami into an alliance with it and then to state power in 2001. Two top Jamaat leaders - Matur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojaheed - were inducted in the cabinet by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. The irony for Bangladesh was that Nizami and Mojaheed, two of the leading war crimes suspects now facing trial, were to display the national flag of a country whose birth they had violently opposed on their vehicles and at their residences. It was an unprecedented situation anywhere in the world, for nowhere had collaborators been rehabilitated, to say nothing of being placed in positions of political authority in a country whose birth they had sought to abort. Freedom fighters and families of martyrs, already pained at the failure of governments to bring the killers of their loved ones to justice, were now pushed into new spasms of agony at the sight of the collaborators of the Pakistan occupation army wielding the power of the state.

But then came the dawn of hope. On March 25 last year, the AL-led government formed the International Crimes Tribunal and also set up the investigation agency and prosecution panel, their task being to inquire into the crimes committed in 1971 and bringing the perpetrators of the crimes to justice. The tribunal has already framed 20 specific war

crimes charges against Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee, and is now hearing the depositions of prosecution witnesses in the case. It has taken into cognisance charges of crimes against humanity committed by top Jamaat leaders Nizami, Mojaheed, M u h a m m a d Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla, and BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury. All the accused are now in custody.

On Monday, the tribunal was to decide whether to accept the charges and order Ghulam Azam's arrest. Instead, it sent the charges back to the prosecution for more work to be done on them. Monday's development clearly brings into question the inefficiency and incompetence of the prosecution. Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo acknowledged as much before the media when he said the charges were "perfectly all right", but the problem lay in how they had been arranged.

The flaws in the classification of the charges seem to have added impetus to the campaign of the anti-liberation forces against the trial. They may now try to use the prosecution's failure to properly submit the charges and relevant documents as a means to achieving their political purposes.

In the current politics of electoral alliances, the Jamaat-e-Islami has become a vital component of the BNP-led four party coalition. That is clearly why the BNP itself has questioned the

ongoing trial of war criminals and demanded the release of the Jamaat leaders currently in detention as war crimes suspects.

There is a clear lesson here for the government: it should neither ignore Monday's incident nor take it lightly. It should look into the matter since it has caused serious embarrassment to it and to the nation and also has been a setback for the prosecution. It has certainly hurt the sentiments of people, including freedom fighters, who have been waiting for over three and a half decades to see the war criminals of 1971 brought to justice.

The government owes it to itself and to the nation to evaluate the performance of the prosecution panel. It should take the measures necessary to strengthen the prosecution panel through provision of enhanced logistics, manpower, indeed everything which will ensure that the process of justice runs its full, unfettered course in respect of the trial of the war criminals.

None should forget that this is an extraordinary trial of crimes against humanity, a successful conclusion of which is necessary in the interest of the nation's future. The entire process, therefore, deserves an extraordinary degree of effort and care for the national goal of seeing justice triumph succeed. Any negligence should be dealt with rigorously. All loopholes in the process must be plugged swiftly.

Hard time for workers

FROM PAGE 1
However, increased recruitment by Oman, and jobs for a small number of female workers in Jordan this year led to a slight increase in the number of jobs abroad. By the year end, the number could be around 5.5 lakh.

The slide in overseas jobs followed the ban imposed by Malaysia in early 2009 and restriction on recruitment by Saudi Arabia in 2008. Besides, Kuwait continues its ban, imposed in 2006, while job transfer options in Saudi Arabia have also become limited, frustrating the Bangladeshis there.

Recruiting bodies had expected the government to step up efforts for the reopening of manpower markets in the three countries where over 30 lakh Bangladeshis work. But that did not happen.

"We did not see strong diplomatic efforts in this regard. It was very frustrating," said Abul Basher, president of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira).

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Khandker

Mosharraf Hossain, however, said too many irregularities in labour recruitment had led to the ban.

Malaysia, which is now recasting its foreign workers sector, will soon start recruiting from Bangladesh. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are also taking similar steps, he said.

At a press conference recently, Mosharraf said amendments to labour immigration-related rules were underway, and an inter-ministerial taskforce had been formed to monitor irregularities in the recruitment process.

The high cost of migration was a major reason behind malpractices in recruitment, he said. "We will soon fix migration costs. If recruiting agencies do not abide by them, action will be taken. All this will surely help expand our labour market."

NO NEW MARKET EXPLORED

Early last year, the government formed five committees which would visit different manpower importing countries in Africa, East Asia and Europe to explore new

markets. But the committees are yet to visit any country.

"We requested our missions in the countries concerned to arrange specific programmes so that such visits become fruitful. But we did not find them doing this," said an official when contacted.

However, in September last year, a delegation led by the foreign secretary visited four West African countries - Ghana, Liberia, Senegal and Ivory Coast - for exploring opportunities for jobs, share-cropping and trade. So far there has been no headway made regarding jobs in those countries.

Romania recruited around 1,500 garment workers starting in 2008. But alleged abuse of workers and the flight of some workers to other European countries led to a temporary halt to recruitment.

Seasonal workers who had gone to Sweden in 2010 returned early for bad weather. Besides, some of them had left Sweden. This led to a halt to recruitment by Sweden.

Abul Basher said there was a lack of coordinated

efforts by the foreign and expatriates' welfare ministries in exploring new markets for manpower export, addressing workers' issues and developing the sector, which could fetch nearly \$12 billion a year.

MIDDLEMEN, AN UNSETTLED ISSUE

For years, experts have suggested either legalising or eliminating middlemen from the recruitment process as they contribute to high migration costs and engage in malpractices, but their suggestions have consistently been ignored.

The Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) initiated the creation of a database to allow job seekers to register online and upload their bio-data. This would enable recruiting agencies or employers to choose job seekers from the database. If implemented properly, this would eliminate middlemen and cut migration costs, BMET officials have said.

The government stressed

more recruitment of workers by the state-owned recruiting agency BOESL. The agency alone recruited female workers for jobs in Jordan, a move that irked private recruiting agents.

The government's job is to regulate the sector but it is not doing the job properly, said one agent.

SLUGGISH PROGRESS IN SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Immediately after this government took charge, Mosharraf emphasised skills development. Accordingly, a Tk 140-crore Skill Development Fund was created and initiatives were taken for establishing 30 technical training centres and five marine technology institutes. But three years into the government's term, the construction of only eight centres is now going on.

POSITIVE STEPS
The government quickly established the Expatriates' Welfare Bank aimed at giving loans to job seekers at nine percent interest, and to returnee migrants at 11 percent interest.

Migration experts appreciated the government's positive steps in repatriating over 36,000 stranded Bangladeshis amid the civil conflict in Libya early this year and granting them Tk 50,000 each.

The government introduced a smart card with computer chips containing job seekers' and employers' information. Using the card, migrants can get help from the authorities in case they fall into difficulties, including losing passports.

It is now providing free training to women going abroad as housemaids. Annual overseas jobs of female workers increased to around 26,000 in the last three years compared to about 19,000 in the previous three years.

Migrants' rights activist Anisur Rahman Khan, however, said, "The number could increase further, but we have not seen much of an effort to protect female workers from abuses."

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Urea Fertilizer Factory Limited

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation)

TENDER NOTICE

1) Ministry/Division	Ministry of Industries
2) Agency	Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC)
3) Procuring entity Name	Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Ghorasal, Narsingdi (UFFL)
4) Description of Jobs	To Carry 1085 M Ton Sulphuric Acid from T.S.P Complex Ltd. Ctg. to UFFL, Ghorasal, Narsingdi. Through Covered Van.
5) Invitation Ref. & date	UFFL/PUR-2.001/2011-2012/507 dated: 24-12-2011.
Key Information	
6) Procuring Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
Funding Information	
7) Budget and source of Fund	UFFL's own source
Particular Information	
8) Tender Last selling date	Date 21-01-2012
9) Tender closing date and time	Date 22-01-2012 Time: 11.00AM
10) Tender opening date and time	Date 22-01-2012 Time: 11.10 AM
11) Name and Address of the Officer's	
Selling Tender Documents (Principal)	Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban (6th floor), 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka
Selling Tender Documents (Others)	1) Sr. General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6 Agrabad C/A, Chittagong 2) General Manager (A&F), UFFL, Ghorasal, Narsingdi
Receiving Tender Documents	1) In the Tender Box of Local Purchase office, Administration Bhaban Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Ghorasal, Narsingdi
Opening Tender Documents	General Manager (Commercial), Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Ghorasal, Narsingdi (In presence of the bidders or their authorized agents who would wish to be present).
Information for Tender	
12) Eligibility of Tender	Necessary papers to be submit complying the conditions mentioned in the Tender Documents.
13) Brief Description of Jobs	To Carry 1085 M Ton Sulphuric Acid from T.S.P Complex Ltd. Ctg to UFFL Store, Ghorasal, Narsingdi. Through Corved Van.
14) Price of Tender Document	Tk. 2,000/- Per set (Non-refundable)
15) Lot no. Identification Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)
N/A	01(One) UFFL, Ghorasal, Narsingdi Tk. 80,000/-
Procuring Entity Details	
16) Name of official Inviting Tender	Md. Abdus Salam Khan
17) Designation of official Inviting Tender	Managing Director
18) Address of official Inviting Tender	Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Ghorasal, Narsingdi.
19) Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone No: 880-038994-85076, 88058 Fax No. 880-2-9325550, E-mail No: uffl42@yallahoo.com
20) Special Instruction: (1) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof. (2) Due to unavoidable circumstance in the tender will not be received/opened in the date & time the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time.	

Mohiuddin Ahmed
Manager (Commercial)
For Managing Director

স্বাক্ষর: ইউএফএফএল লিমিটেড-০৭/৮/২০০৪ তারিখঃ ২৫/১২/২০১১ই