

Move to speed

FROM PAGE 16

meeting the review report covering the first three years of the plan, said progress had been made in terms of some governance indicators.

"But more progress needs to be done."

The committee will probably be set up after the prime minister and Muhith return from a visit to the United Nations this month. It will be given six months to make recommendations, the finance minister said.

An efficient civil service system and strong institutions are important for reducing corruption, ensuring proper implementation of public money and delivering better services to people.

The size of the government has expanded in the last 30 years, but it is still functioning on the basis of the 1983-85 Enam Committee report, Muhith said, adding that the new commission would be asked to submit a report like the Enam Committee did.

He acknowledged the incumbent government's failure to bring about any substantial change in public services in the last six years.

"We have not done anything special in public service reforms. There has been limited progress. The number of staff has increased but reforms have not taken place."

Muhith also said reform of public services would not come so soon.

Since the Public Services and Pay Commission has not submitted its report, the government has held up quite a number of reforms that it thought of and prepared.

A draft of the Civil Services Act has already been prepared, but the government is yet to make the next move.

"We will give attention to it after we get the Pay Commission's report by December this year," said the finance minister in response to comments by Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

The economist said the mid-term review had not touched on governance issues.

"We are doing Medium Term Budgetary Framework, but we have not been able to strengthen our institutions. Had it been done, the country would have progressed far better," he said.

Strengthening the judiciary to achieve faster disposal of civil and criminal cases requires particular attention, said Shamsul Alam, the Planning Commission official.

The review of the latest plan also pointed to the problems in the civil administration.

"In an environment of weak administrative capacity and limited budgetary resources, efficient planning and budgetary systems can play an important role in helping improve the efficiency of public spending," the review report says.

To improve governance and institutions, attention should be focused on developing and strengthening a number of core public institutions, including the central bank, ministry of finance, tax department, planning commission, audits and accounts, parliamentary sub-committees, land administration and the public utilities, it adds.

Emphasis has to be on improving services in education, health, population, nutrition and water supply. The capacity of the public administration also has to be enhanced, according to the report.

There should be a long-term strategy for re-building the civil services considering the socio-political realities of Bangladesh. The basic features of a reform strategy for civil services include merit-based recruitment and promotion, strong training, ensuring proper incentives and work environment, establishing and enforcing clear rules of business and codes of conduct and seeking feedback on performance through a citizen's charter, recommends the report.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 16

risk, despite years of bold monetary policies, as countries struggle to implement structural reforms necessary to help economies grow," it said.

In its annual assessment of the factors driving countries' productivity and prosperity, the report identifies uneven implementation of structural reforms across different regions and levels of development as the biggest challenge to sustained global growth.

It also highlights talent and innovation as two areas where leaders in the public and private sectors need to collaborate more effectively in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic development.

In South Asia, India slipped 11 places to 71st and Sri Lanka lost eight positions to end at the 73rd. Pakistan advanced four steps to the 129th, Bhutan gained six to end at 103rd, and Nepal jumped up 15 points to 102nd.

The rankings are based on 12 categories that include institutions, infrastructure, health, macroeconomic environment, and primary education, higher education and training, market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, market size, business sophistication and innovation.

Moon ride at Agargaon

FROM PAGE 16

Five packs of Biriyani (a delicious rice dish) and sweets they were taking to their relative's house went under the dirty water as well.

Later, Ratna and her child were rescued by local and several other rickshaw-pullers.

The entire incident happened while this correspondent was talking to two students of a nearby school, who had had a similar accident at the same spot, barely five minutes earlier.

The rickshaw carrying the students—Mohammad Amzad Hossain and Rafiqul Islam Abdullah— had toppled over on its side after hitting the same hidden pothole. Both of them were class-X students of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Government Boys High School.

Locals also put a log and a bamboo inside the pothole as a marker to warn other people about the hidden pothole.

Four accidents had taken place at the same spot since 8:00am, Monowara Begum, at a nearby roadside tea stall, told this correspondent around 1:00pm on the day.

At least 20 vehicles, mostly rickshaws, are victims of accidents at the very spot every day whenever the pothole goes under rainwater, according to local residents.

The stagnant water takes a long time to be removed due to the poor drainage system there.

In fact, many locals are so scared of falling off rickshaws and getting hurt on the appalling Shahabuddin Sharani that they simply cross the road on foot.

They are not worried about getting wet and muddy from splashes made by vehicles going past them.

The beginning part of the road has been in such dilapidated conditions for the last one year. The authorities, however, have turned a blind eye to the problem, locals have alleged.

River Protection

FROM PAGE 16

over the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation building on the city's Rajuk Avenue at Dainik Bangla intersection.

Md Atharul Islam, a retired secretary, has been appointed the commission chairman and Md Alauddin, who went on retirement leave as a shipping ministry additional secretary, has been taken on a three-year contract as the permanent member of the commission.

Rest of the commission members are supposed to be a hydrologist, an environmental expert and a lawyer, all as part-time honorary members. Shipping ministry would recommend the names of the members to public administration ministry that will finally place the names at the Prime Minister's Office for approval.

Feroz Khan Nun, a joint secretary of public administration ministry, presently attached to the shipping ministry, will work as the commission secretary.

"Formation of the commission is not complete yet, as it requires at least three members out of five to take a decision," said Khan.

Approval of the commission's organogram would even take years, as it is now undergoing ministerial scrutiny, he added.

While inaugurating the commission, minister Shajahan Khan termed the river grabbers and polluters as present-day "Razakars", meaning enemy of the country.

The situation began to deteriorate since an adjacent road, the one in front of the office of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, was constructed last year.

The condition of another road, starting from near the Islamic Foundation building and ending near the Agargaon BNP Bosti (a slum), in the area is even worse.

The road has nothing to offer its users apart from bumpy rides, locals said.

The Public Works Department (PWD) and the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) have yet to take any step to repair the roads.

Contacted, the PWD and DNCC tried to pin the blame on each other for the dilapidated roads.

Md Kabir Ahmed Bhuiyan, chief engineer of the PWD, said though the area was under PWD jurisdiction, it was the duty of the DNCC to repair the road as the city dwellers pay the latter their tax money.

He said the DNCC had been asking the PWD to officially hand over responsibility of the roads to them. However, the engineer said the DNCC could repair the roads even without the "hand-over".

"We have already issued several letters to them in this regard," said the PWD engineer, adding that the city corporation sets up temporary cattle markets on the roads without taking their permission every year.

Sayed Quadrat Ullah, additional chief engineer of the DNCC, said the particular damaged roads fell under the jurisdiction of the PWD and said, "It is their (PWD) responsibility to maintain all those roads."

"The DNCC cannot work in areas that are not in its jurisdiction. We can repair the roads only after a department or agency hands over the responsibility [of the roads] to us," Quadrat added.

It was drafted

FROM PAGE 1

"Everyone concerned will give their suggestions to this end so that the loopholes in the policy, if any, can be dealt with through the law."

Claiming that the Awami League government believes in "complete freedom of newspapers and mass media", Hasina hoped the country's media would play a more responsible role following the formulation of the broadcast policy.

On the relocation of tanneries from the city's Hazaribagh to Savar, the PM said the owners were supposed to shift their tanneries to Savar by December this year, according to a memorandum of understanding between Bangladesh Institute of Small Industry and Cottage and the entrepreneurs.

"Thirty percent work of setting up the central effluent treatment plant [in Savar] has been completed. The rest of the work is expected to be completed by 2015."

Speaking on her July tour to the UK, the Hasina said British Prime Minister David Cameron had "unequivocally" announced that the January 5 election of Bangladesh was a past issue and the UK wanted to look forward.

"The UK wants to strengthen bilateral ties with Bangladesh in the coming days," she quoted Cameron as saying.

Replying to another query, the premier said her government had taken up a mega plan to generate 38,360MW electricity by 2030 through independent power plants, joint venture companies and other sources.

Sheikh Hasina also highlighted her government's successes, including the recent victory in the maritime boundary disputes with India, implementing the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace treaty, empowering women, and establishing rule of law and people's right to justice.

Dhaka, Delhi

FROM PAGE 1

any timeframe for the extradition.

The legal process for Nur Hossain's extradition has already begun, Mozammel told reporters yesterday, the second day of the three-day home secretary-level talks between Bangladesh and India.

The talks began on Tuesday at a hotel in the capital.

The meeting also discussed that India may place the bill of land boundary protocol in its next parliament session for ratification in November.

The immediate past Congress-led government failed to pass it for lack of required majority in the Lok Sabha. The BJP, which now has the majority in parliament, had then opposed the bill.

The protocol was signed during former Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka in September 2011. Its ratification is likely to settle the longstanding land related disputes between the two countries.

During the meeting, Bangladesh and India reached an agreement to bring down border killing to zero.

Bangladesh proposed that the Indian border force should not kill Bangladeshi nationals in case of trespass, but hand them over to the law enforcers, Mozammel said.

The meeting also discussed border management issues, trafficking of arms, drugs, women and children, training for Border Guard Bangladesh and police by India.

Mozammel led a 13-member Bangladesh delegation at the meeting while his Indian counterpart Anil Goswami a 16-member delegation.

BNP activists clash

FROM PAGE 1

their party chairperson in the morning. A large number of police were deployed in the area with armoured personnel vehicles and water cannons to thwart any untoward incidents.

Witnesses said the clash erupted around 1:10pm, just after Khaleda entered the court. Initially police tried to disperse the crowd by charging truncheons but things went out of control when the BNP men threw brickbats at the law enforcers.

Police then lobbed tear shells and fired rubber bullets triggering the clash which spread to Bakshibazar, Palashi and in front of the Shaheed Fazle Rabbi Hall of Dhaka Medical College.

The clash continued until around 1:45pm just before Khaleda left the court.

Mehedi Hasan, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, claimed that a group of activists tried to enter the Madrasa area with Khaleda. Police had to resist them to ensure the BNP chief's security, he said.

The court, meanwhile, fixed September 10 to record deposition of the complainant in connection with Zia Charitable Trust and Zia Orphanage Trust graft cases filed against Khaleda Zia and eight others.

Khaleda was asked to appear before the court on that day. The court came up with the order in response to two petitions filed by a defence counsel seeking adjournment to the deposition.

In the petitions, lawyer Khandaker Mahub Hossain said they had earlier submitted four leave-to-appeal petitions with the Supreme Court challenging the legality of the four High Court orders, which were pending for hearing yesterday.

On April 23, an HC bench scrapped two petitions in which the BNP chairperson had challenged the charge

framing against her in the cases. On June 19, another HC bench rejected two writ petitions filed by Khaleda questioning the legality of appointment of Bashudev Roy as judge of the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka.

Roy indicted the BNP chief and the eight others in the corruption cases on March 19. On that day, the judge had asked the BNP chief to appear before the court yesterday in two cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission against Khaleda, her elder son Tarique Rahman and seven others.

Of the nine accused, Khaleda and four others are now on bail. Tarique, also vice-chairman of BNP, is on bail in the Orphanage Trust graft case but his lawyer represented him in his absence. The other three accused remain absconding.

ZIA ORPHANAGE TRUST GRAFT CASE

The ACC in July 2009 filed the Zia Orphanage graft case against Khaleda, Tarique Rahman and four others for embezzling over Tk 2.1 crore through the "fake" trust.

The four others accused are former BNP lawmaker Kazi Salimul Haque, businessman Sharfuddin Ahmed, former principal secretary Kamal Uddin Siddiqui and Momenur Rahman -- a nephew of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman.

ZIA CHARITABLE TRUST GRAFT CASE

The ACC on August 8 in 2011 filed the Zia charitable graft case against Khaleda and three others for abusing power in setting up the charity.

The three other accused are Harris Chowdhury, Khaleda's former political secretary, Ziaul Islam Munna, assistant private secretary (APS) of Harris, and Monirul Islam Khan, APS of former Dhaka City Corporation mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

Harris, Momenur and Kamal Uddin remain absconding.

Playing music helps

FROM PAGE 16

helping as Martin noticed 90 percent of them graduate from high school while 50 percent or more didn't from those same neighborhoods.

A two-year study of 44 children in the program shows that the training changes the brain in ways that make it easier for youngsters to process sounds, according to results reported in Tuesday's edition of The Journal of Neuroscience. That increased ability, the researchers say, is linked directly to improved skills in such subjects as reading and speech.

But, there is one catch: People have to actually play an instrument to get smarter. They can't just crank up the tunes on their iPod.

Nina Kraus, the study's lead researcher and director of Northwestern's auditory neuroscience laboratory, compared the difference to that of building up one's body through exercise. "I like to say to people: You're not going to get physically fit just watching sports," she said.

Kraus said studies like hers are challenging because researchers need to follow subjects for years in order to track changes in the brain. She said more and larger studies need to be done in a variety of districts around the country to "help us understand what are the most effective forms of learning and how might learning be tailored for

an individual child."

The latest findings are striking a chord with supporters of such programs who say music is frequently the first cut for school boards looking to save money.

"Over and over, we've learned that children need rich, multisensory environments, and learning music sort of brings all of that into a package for them," said Mary Luehrsen of the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation, which awards scholarships and research grants for the study of music, adding that the results make the point that music training should be an important part of all school curriculums.

April Benasich, a professor of neuroscience at Rutgers University who was not involved in the study, said previous research by Kraus has demonstrated the value of music in improving concentration, memory and focus in children.

Funeral ground

FROM PAGE 2

were, he started complaining of staff shortages and of having his hands full dealing with a backlog of cases. At one point, he claimed to be at a hearing and said he would be available for comments after September 10. He then cut off the phone.

Recruited, 1,647 doctors

FROM PAGE 1

There are still 25 vacancies, of which seven are at the entry level, according to Dr Ekramul Kabir, upazila health and family planning officer of Amtoli Health Complex.

Thirteen of the 27 physicians' posts in Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon are currently vacant. Of these, five are entry level posts.

Of the total 35 posts in Kalia upazila of Narail, eight posts of medical officers are still vacant, though 18 new physicians have recently been posted there.

The Daily Star also found between two and four vacancies in the post of medical officers in Bhurungamari of Kurigram, Shaghata and Fulchhari of Gaibandha, Hatiya of Noakhali, Charfassion of Bhola and Tala of Satkhira.

There's a completely different picture in some places as well.

Gazaria upazila Health Complex in Munshiganj had 21 posts, with five of these being vacant. Through the new recruitments, a total of 11 doctors have been posted there, six of them attached as OSDs.

Similar cases were found in Savar, Kaliganj and Gazipur Sadar where five to 10 doctors have been attached in each upazila with OSD status.

Sirajganj, the home district of Health Minister Mohammed Nasim, had 51 vacant posts but all of those were filled up with the new recruits. Additionally, 92 physicians have been attached to nine upazilas of Sirajganj as OSDs.

"Now many doctors do not even have chairs to sit on. Who knows how they will serve here," said a physician at Sirajganj Sadar Hospital. He did not wish to be named.

These malpractices are taking place amid a precarious healthcare situation in the rural areas.

"Bangladesh suffers from both a shortage of and geographic mal-distribution of human resources for health," says a report of the World Health Organization (WHO).

There are three physicians and one nurse for every 10,000 people. Also, there is 36 percent vacancy in sanctioned health worker positions and only 32 percent of the healthcare facilities have 75 percent or more of the sanctioned staff working there, according to the WHO.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on many occasions

has urged doctors to serve the rural people and even announced special privileges in this regard.

The government has formulated special guidelines that make it mandatory for physicians to serve at upazila and union levels for two years. Those who comply with the guidelines will get opportunities for higher education and better postings later.

At the same time, doctors will be given the chance to work in their home districts, and physician couples will be posted at the same place.

Even then, newly appointed doctors seem unwilling to work in remote or rural areas.

Regarding the OSDs, a newly-appointed doctor in Bhola said the government had "actually messed up" while posting a large number of doctors.

"Of course, I know a number of new doctors who resorted to hectic lobbying to get postings in Dhaka and adjacent areas," he claimed.

Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, chairman of the National Committee on Health Rights Movement, said those attached to upazilas around Dhaka must have been given some undue privileges. "The latest recruitment has achieved its political goal, but has not been able to ensure healthcare."

Health Secretary MM Neazuddin rejected such allegations outright, saying, "There could be some minor mistakes. We will correct these."

He justified the OSD doctors' attachment to the upazilas around Dhaka by saying that these areas need more doctors because the population in these areas is higher.

"It was the prime minister's order that doctor couples have to be posted in the same upazila. For this, there could have been some mismanagement."

Admitting physicians' unwillingness to work in remote areas, he said the government was planning to introduce financial incentives for those serving in the rural backwaters.

Suggesting reforms in the health system, Rashid-e-Mahbub said, "The authorities should create a pool of doctors through the BCS exam. Hospitals needing physicians will advertise and recruit locally."

Under such an arrangement, doctors cannot help working in any location of the country they are posted in, he observed.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার					
অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, অর্থ বিভাগ					
প্রশাসন-৬ শাখা					
Website: www.mof.gov.bd					
নং-০৭.০০.০০০০.০৮৬.৩০.০০৪.২০১৪-১৫.৯৪৮					
তারিখ-০২/০৯/২০১৪					
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি					
১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়/অর্থ বিভাগ।			
২.	সম্প্রদায়িক দপ্তরের নাম	সহকারী সচিব, প্রশাসন-৬ শাখা, অর্থ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা।			
৩.	দরপত্র নং	০৭.০০.০০০০.০৮৬.৩০.০০৪.২০১৪-১৫.৯৪৮			
৪.	কি জন্য আহ্বান করা হয়েছে	কম্পিউটার টেনার এবং টেন্ডারী ও বিবিধ সামগ্রী ক্রয়।			
৫.	সমগ্র পদ্ধতি	পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM) (Frame Work চুক্তি মোতাবেক সরবরাহ করতে হবে)।			
৬.	বাজেট এবং অর্থের উৎস	রাজস্ব খাত।			
৭.	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	০২/০৯/২০১৪ইং।			
৮.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিতরণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৮/০৯/২০১৪, বিকাল ৫.০০টা পর্যন্ত।			
৯.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২১/০৯/২০১৪, বেলা ২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।			
১০.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২১/০৯/২০১৪, বেলা ১০.০০টা। দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে খোলা হবে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।			
১১.	দরপত্র প্রত্যাখ্যান	সহকারী সচিব, প্রশাসন-৬ শাখা, কক্ষ-২১৫, ভবন-৭, অর্থ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।			
১২.	দরপত্র জমা ও খোলার স্থান	উপ-সচিব (প্রশাসন), কক্ষ-২২৪, ভবন-৭, অর্থ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।			
১৩.	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	সিডিউল গ্রহণের আবেদনের সময় নিম্নলিখিত মূল কাগজপত্রগুলো প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং এ সকল কাগজপত্রের ফটোকপি ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে (১) ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (হাল নাগাদকৃত), (২) অয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিলের সনদ হালনাগাদ, (৩) ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট (পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর বিধি-১০০ প্রযোজ্য হবে), (৪) ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, (৫) সর্বশেষ কাজের তালিকা বহরের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র।			
১৪.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অন্যত্রয়সংখ্যায়)			
১৫.	ক্রয় নং	নাম	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ (ফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানত দাখিলের নিয়মাবলী	সরবরাহের মেয়াদকাল
	০১.	কম্পিউটার টেনার	৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা	বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফ্ট আকারে সহকারী সচিব (প্রশাসন-৬), অর্থ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয় এর অনুকূলে দাখিল করতে হবে, অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।	Frame Work চুক্তি মোতাবেক
	০২.	টেন্ডারী ও বিবিধ সামগ্রী	৪০,০০০/- (চল্লিশ হাজার) টাকা।		
১৫.	যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা	সহকারী সচিব, প্রশাসন-৬ শাখা, কক্ষ-২১৫, ভবন-৭, অর্থ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।			
১৬.	বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী : নিম্নলিখিতকর্তার কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতে দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখেন, দরপত্র তফসিলের নির্ধারিত স্থানে দর অর্কে এবং কথায় লিখতে হবে ও মোট টাকা উত্তোলন করতে হবে। এই দরপত্রের সকল কার্যক্রম "The Public Procurement Act-2006" ও "The Public Procurement Regulation-2008" মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে।				
মো রুহুল আমিন মল্লিক সহকারী সচিব ফোনঃ ৯৫১২৫৯৬					
জিডি-৩৩৭১					E-mail: rmollick@finance.gov.bd