

FINAL DAY OF AL COUNCIL



Though the first day of Awami League's 20th National Council on Saturday saw less traffic congestion than anticipated in the capital, diverse scenarios were seen in different areas on the second day. *Clockwise from top left*, Motijheel that usually remains overcrowded turns an almost traffic free one. A traffic congestion at Kakrail intersection around noon. AL leaders and activists crowding in the Matsya Bhaban area near the council venue. Police personnel checking a commuter's bag as part of beefed-up security measures taken for the council. An ardent supporter, who travelled all the way from Kushtia, holding a replica of the party symbol, outside the venue Suhrawardy Udyan.

PHOTOS: STAR

Bidding sets SCC admin against councillors

Official work halted for five days as stand-off continues

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

All administrative work at the Sylhet City Corporation office in Topkhana area of the city is unofficially stopped after the rooms of three top SCC officials have been locked by a faction of ruling party councillors, resulting in rising tensions among the officials who are refusing to return to work until the councillors apologised for their action.

On October 17, after office hours, 10 city councillors led by Azadur Rahman (ward-20), locked the rooms of Enamul Habib, chief executive officer of SCC; Nur Azizur Rahman, chief engineer; and ANM Monshef, chief accounts officer, said SCC officials.

Councillor Azadur said they locked the rooms as a protest since the administrators were working according to their whim as SCC did not have a mayor.

But, according to SCC officials, the councillors locked the rooms after one of their contractors did not get a tender for the Laldighirpar Hawker's Market reconstruction project.

In the first tender, the bid was Tk 1.8 crore for the project, which was cancelled due to legal problems, they said.

Later, a second tender was called and a local Awami League leader won the bid with Tk 1.05 crore but the corporation officials decided not to give the work order for the huge difference in the bidding, according to SCC officials.



Sylhet city councillors lock an office of a city corporation official on Monday last week, among the three offices they locked that day.

PHOTO: STAR

Contacted, Mokhlesur Rahman Kamran, councillor of ward-9, said, "As we do not have a mayor, the administration is overseeing everything as they desire. Even though the bid was won, still they refused to give the work order. They must have their own agendas..."

"Since the difference between the first and second bid was too high, we had decided not to give the work order. According to the procurement law we have the provision to go for third or fourth tender if we are not satisfied with the bid amount..." said Enamul Habib, chief executive officer of SCC.

During a visit at SCC office yesterday afternoon, this correspondent found that most of the officials were not in their rooms and people were waiting to get their work done. Many came by to renew or apply for trade licenses, holding tax or paying bills but had to return empty-handed.

Seeking anonymity, many SCC officials said they will not go back to work until the

councillors apologise.

Another SCC source claimed the deadlock will not end as the local Awami League leaders have taken the responsibility to solve the situation, which is taking longer due to the party's national council.

"The councillors may have their reasons...but we will not go back to work until our rooms are unlocked..." said Enamul Habib. Hopefully we will come to an understanding soon, he added.

Attitudes to mental illness need change

Prothom Alo, Beacon Pharmaceuticals roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People have to change their negative mindset about mental sickness and should be aware about mental diseases to improve the country's mental health situation which is as important as physical health, experts said at a roundtable yesterday.

They said the public and private medical college hospitals need to launch a psychiatric unit to widen the health service.

The speakers came up with the remarks at the roundtable conference "Mental Diseases: Reality and support for treatment" organised by Bangla daily Prothom Alo in association with Beacon Pharmaceuticals Ltd at the newspaper's office in Dhaka.

"Many people in the country cannot identify their mental sickness, and many rural people don't even know what mental disease is," said Ebadul Karim, managing director of Beacon Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Prof Mohammad Ahsanul Habib, former director of Pabna Mental Hospital, said people have negative thoughts about mental sickness and the persons taking treatment at mental hospitals.

He said the patients' "stigma" can be removed if they can be treated at general hospitals.

Dr Abdullah Al-Mamun, head of psychiatry department at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said the mental health issue can be included in primary healthcare system if the medical colleges take steps to launch the psychiatric unit.

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সম্মানিত করদাতাদের জন্য জরুরি তথ্য: ০৪

সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের
কর্মচারীদের আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল

সম্মানিত করদাতা, দেশের উন্নয়নের জন্য যে রাজস্ব প্রয়োজন তার বড় অংশ আসে আপনার দেয়া আয়কর থেকে। তাই একজন করদাতা হিসেবে আপনি দেশের উন্নয়নের গর্বিত অংশীদার।

আপনি যদি সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের বা সরকারের কোন কর্পোরেশনের একজন কর্মচারি হিসেবে ২০১৫-১৬ অর্থ বছরের কোন মাসে ১৬,০০০/- টাকা বা তার বেশি মূল বেতন উত্তোলন করে থাকেন তাহলে এ বছর (২০১৬-১৭ কর বছর) আপনাকে আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করতে হবে।

আপনার জন্য এ বছরের আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিলের শেষ দিন ৩০ নভেম্বর ২০১৬। রিটার্ন দাখিলের সময় আর বাড়বে না।

৩০ নভেম্বরের মধ্যে রিটার্ন দাখিল না করলে ডিসেম্বর মাস থেকে আপনার বেতন-ভাতাদি পেতে অসুবিধা হতে পারে। বিলম্বে রিটার্ন দাখিলের জন্য জরিমানা ও বিলম্ব সুদ আরোপযোগ্য হবে। এছাড়া, রিটার্ন দাখিলে ব্যর্থ হলে কর আইন ভঙ্গ হবে। এতে এক বছর পর্যন্ত জেল অথবা অর্থদন্ড অথবা উভয় শাস্তির বিধান রয়েছে।

শেষ দিকে রিটার্ন দাখিলে অনেক ভিড় হয়, ফলে করসেবা পেতেও অসুবিধা হয়। তাই আগেভাগেই আপনার রিটার্ন দাখিল করে রিটার্নের প্রাপ্তি স্বীকারপত্র গ্রহণ করুন।

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