

Shujon wants more info in MP aspirants' affidavits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujon) yesterday slammed a political party for proposing the Election Commission to cancel the provision of affidavit submission by candidates ahead of polls.

In 2005, the High Court passed an order that all contestants will provide eight information -- including their wealth and assets, educational qualifications, sources of income and occupations -- in affidavits ahead of parliamentary elections.

Instead of cancellation of the provision, Shujon demanded that such candidates add five more information -- including the candidates' age (if they are foreign nationals), details about their dependants and whether they are involved in businesses with the government.

Shujon Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar placed the demands at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Shujon also urged the EC to take stern actions against the contestants of the next general election if they provide false information or conceal anything in the affidavits.

Shujon Vice-President Kazi Ebadul Haq and Associate Coordinator Sanjida Haque Bipasha were also present at the briefing.

On October 8, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, in a dialogue with the EC, demanded that the commission scrap the existing provision of submitting affidavits.



Monjurul Alam Monju

AL leader

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secretary of Chittagong (north) unit of Bus Owners' Association, soon after the incident.

Protesting his detention, transport workers blocked Hathazari road for three hours from 9:00am. The blockade disrupted Chittagong city's communications with Rangamati and Khagrachhari districts.

Jasim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said the shooting happened in front of Officers' Club near MA Aziz Stadium around 12:30am yesterday.

Monjurul and Joynal Abedin Chowdhury, an activist of Jubo League Chittagong (south) unit, were locked in an altercation after spending a few hours at the Officers' Club. At one stage, Monjurul shot Joynal in his right leg from his pistol, he said.

Soon after the incident, police rushed to the spot and detained Monjurul, and Joynal was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, the OC added.

Quoting Monjurul, the police official said, "It was an accidental shooting."

Monjurul claimed that his firearm was licensed. But the police official said they were verifying whether the firearm was licensed.

Victim's elder brother Md Alamgir, also an AL leader in Anwara upazila, told The Daily Star that the duo frequented the Officers' Club. Monjurul used to scold his brother for good relations with other AL leaders.

Last night, Monjurul opened fire on his brother following an altercation at the Officers' Club, he added.

Due to Hathazari road blockade, people were seen waiting at different bus stops for buses, and many of them opted for CNG-run auto-rickshaws to reach their destinations, paying exorbitant fares.

Talking to this correspondent around 11:00am, Soma Das said she and her family were waiting for a Rangamati bound-bus near city's Oxygen intersection from 10:00am to go to Rangamati to attend a wedding ceremony, but they did not still get a bus.

Abdullah Al Masum, additional superintendent of police in Hathazari circle, said the transport workers put the blockade around 9:00am and continued until 12:00noon.

Rohingyas may lose land, crops

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got these documents. In Myanmar, you need to present documents to prove everything."

The stack of papers, browning and torn at the edges, may not be enough, however, to regain the land in Kyauk Pan Du village, where he grew potatoes, chilli plants, almonds and rice.

"It depends on them. There is no land ownership for those who don't have citizenship," said Kyaw Lwin, agriculture minister in Rakhine state, when asked in an interview whether refugees who returned to Myanmar could reclaim land and crops.

Despite his land holdings, Myanmar does not recognise Ahmed as a citizen. Nearly all the more than 1 million Rohingya who lived in Myanmar before the recent exodus are stateless, despite many tracing their families in the country for generations.

Officials have made plans to harvest, and possibly sell, thousands of acres of crops left behind by the fleeing Rohingya, according to state government documents reviewed by Reuters.

Myanmar also intends to settle most refugees who return to Rakhine state in new "model villages", rather than on the land they previously occupied, an approach criticised in the past by the United Nations as effectively creating permanent camps.

Poor highway

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today," said Afaz Ali, a trader.

"Our bus was stuck over the night, at least for five hours, only at Kaliakair. My wife and young daughter suffered for lack of lavatory (toilet) facility on the road, which was at times unbearable," he added.

AKM Mizanul Haque, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station, said vehicles moved very slowly due to potholes hidden under stagnant water.

Besides, the road had been dug up at different points for widening under the four-lane project, forcing vehicles to move slowly. The slow movement of vehicles worsened the situation, the OC said.

At some places, vehicles broke down right in the middle of the road and drivers fell asleep, stretching the tailbacks, he added.

Traffic Inspector Sajedul Islam was seen struggling hard to ease the traffic congestion in Rasulpur area in the morning.

"The condition of the highway from Elenga to Rasulpur was bad even earlier. The road subsided at many points, and numerous potholes were enlarged in rains for the last two days," Sajedul said.

"Vehicles remain stuck for hours almost every day due to the battered road condition and the unplanned four-lane work ongoing," said Rasel Miah, driver of a Rangpur-bound bus.

Though the Roads and Highways Department did temporary repairing works on several occasions at the cost of crores of taka, the road condition became worse rather than improve, he said.

ADMISSION SEEKERS STUCK IN TRAFFIC JAM

Many of the admission seekers of Rajshahi University who were travelling on the route failed to take the tests.

Sourav Biswas, one of them, said he had boarded a Rajshahi-bound bus from Dhaka's Kallyanpur around 10:00pm on Saturday. He reached only Tangail bypass area around 10:00am yesterday morning.

"My exam is at 2:30pm. Now it is not possible to reach Rajshahi before the exam as our bus is still stuck at Elenga in Tangail [around 11:30am]," said Mohammad Rokibuzzaman, another admission seeker.

Antara Shimu wanted to study in social science faculty at Rajshahi University. But by the time she would reach Rajshahi from Dhaka, her admission test would be over. The five-hour journey on the route at usual times took her more than 20 hours due to traffic jam.

She left home in Dhaka at 9:00am on Saturday. The bus that was scheduled to set off for Rajshahi at 10:00am, started the journey six hours later for traffic jam.

Reaching Rajshahi around 12:30pm yesterday, she could take the tests held

'OWNERLESS' CROPS

The exodus of the Rohingyas from the conflict zone in northern Rakhine has left some 71,500 acres of planted rice paddy abandoned and in need of harvesting by January, according to plans drawn up by state officials.

Tables in the documents, reviewed by Reuters, divide the land into paddy sown by "national races" - meaning Myanmar citizens - or "Bengalis," a term widely used in Myanmar to refer to the Rohingya, but which they reject as implying they are illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

Kyaw Lwin, the state minister, confirmed the plans, and said there was a total of 45,000 acres of "ownerless Bengali land".

Two dozen combine harvesters operated by officials from the agriculture ministry will begin cutting stalks this month in areas under military control.

The machines will be able to harvest about 14,400 acres according to official calculations contained in the plans. It is unclear what will become of the remaining crop, but officials told Reuters they would try to harvest all the paddy, recruiting additional labour to harvest manually if necessary.

An acre of paddy in Myanmar typically makes more than \$300 at market, meaning the state will gain millions of dollars worth of rice.

afterwards.

Shimu was still luckier than hundred others from eastern parts of the country, who failed to take any of the RU admission tests for traffic jam.

Many applicants and their relatives said they made a journey of 17 or more hours on the route. Many students took another route through Nagarbari ferryghat, but that too took nearly ten hours.

The RU dean for social science faculty, Prof M Faizar Rahman said 84.18 percent applicants took the three admission tests held before 1:30pm yesterday.

RU teachers and officials claimed that nearly ten percent of the applicants could not take the tests, citing 95 percent attendance in the previous years.

However, the RU Pro VC said many of those who had not sat for the tests secured places in medical colleges and other major universities. At the same time he admitted that at least a few hundred students could not attend the tests for traffic jam.

The attendance in two tests of the arts faculty could not be known immediately.

Transport managers said around a hundred students returned their tickets as they cancelled trips for traffic jam.

Our Tangail correspondent Mirza Shahil, Rajshahi correspondent Anwar Ali Himu and Rajshahi university correspondent Arafat Rahman contributed to the report.

Arbitration

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At the arbitration, Lal Mia and his men offered 20 decimals of land to the girl's family, said Abdullah Al Amin Johnny, chairman of Ramgopalpur UP.

The chairman admitted the incident and said the victim's family did not inform him about it and the matter was settled locally.

Locals allege Sajib's family is trying to cover up the rape attempt luring the victim's family.

The victim's father, a day labourer, said he was in Dhaka when the incident took place and did not attend the arbitration.

He alleged Lal Mia forced him and other members of his family to put their signatures on a blank stamp paper.

"We are poor and have no power to avoid the decision of the influential arbitrators," he lamented.

About the land, he said it was not handed over to them.

Lal Mia could not be contacted as he did not receive any calls.

Delwar Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Gouripur police, said they heard about the matter, but the victim's family did not file any complaint.

The OC said he sent a team to the victim's house yesterday but no one was there.

The harvested rice will be transported to government stores, where it would either be donated to those displaced by the conflict or sold, Rakhine state secretary Tin Maung Swe told Reuters by phone. "The land was abandoned. There is no one to reap that, so the government ordered to harvest it," he said.

IDENTITY CHECKS

Those who decide to cross back into Myanmar will first be received at one of two centres, according to government plans reviewed by Reuters.

At the centres, officials said, the returnees will fill out a 16-point form that will be cross-checked with local authorities' records. Immigration officials have for years visited Rohingya households at least annually for checks, photographing family members.

For refugees who lost all their documents, the government would compare their photos to those that immigration authorities have on file, said Myint Kyaing, the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

Officials will accept as evidence "national verification" cards handed out in an ongoing government effort to register Rohingya that falls short of offering them citizenship. The card has been widely rejected by Rohingya community leaders, who say they treat long residents like new immigrants.

Waterlogging

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season," he added.

Mosharraf urged the authorities concerned to follow the modern waste management system to keep metropolitan cities and towns across the country clean, adds BSS.

Dhaka North City Corporation Panel Mayor Osman Gani presided over the programme, while Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon and Local Government Division Secretary Abdul Malek, among others, spoke on the occasion.

The minister said every day thousands of tonnes of waste were being produced from around 4,000 health service provider institutions and over 700 pharmaceutical companies in the country.

"Waste management has become a great challenge across the world, and it can be dealt only by doing respective duties of all concerned," Mosharraf mentioned.

He also suggested that the authorities concerned introduce an area-based waste management system and make people of the respective areas aware of smooth waste management.

BNP delegation

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and democratic practice to persist in other countries, especially in its neighbouring countries, and governments of those countries should be elected democratically," Fakhrul said.

He said the Indian minister also expected that the Election Commission would be able to discharge its duty of holding a neutral election.

He said the discussion was held in a very cordial atmosphere where the BNP chief talked about two issues -- Rohingya and the country's current political situation and the next general elections.

Khaleda talked about the Rohingya issue as it emerged as a big problem. She said Rohingyas were given temporary shelter, but they would have to return to Myanmar.

The BNP leader said the Indian external affairs minister agreed on the safe return of the Rohingyas to their country.

Sushma said India kept the pressure on the Myanmar government, and the whole world also continued its pressure to take back Rohingyas, the BNP leader added.

This is the second visit of Sushma to Bangladesh. She last visited in 2014 after becoming the Indian external affairs minister. Khaleda also had a meeting with her at the same venue during her first visit.

Titanic victim

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who was travelling on the ship with his wife, Mary Alice, who survived the sinking.

The letter was sold by the Holverson family at an auction held by Henry Aldridge & Son in the southern English town of Devizes. Iron keys from the Titanic also sold for 76,000 pounds.

"The prices illustrate the continuing interest in the Titanic and her passengers and crew," said auctioneer Andrew Aldridge.

"I'm delighted with the new world record for the Titanic letter. It reflects its status as the most important Titanic letter we have ever auctioned."

In his letter Holverson also described his experiences rubbing shoulders with one of the ship's most famous passengers.

"John Jacob Astor is on this ship," he said of the American financier and real-estate investor, who was one of the world's richest men at the time.

DU releases test results

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former and present students and cross-section of people.

Instead, the authorities formed a probe body to "find out those who are spreading rumours of question leak in different social platforms".

"I have talked with the IT experts of counter terrorism unit about the time mentioned in some news. They said it could be manipulated somehow," said Prof Akhtaruzzaman yesterday.

Asked about the publication of results in such shortest period of time without verifying the allegations, he said the allegations were baseless.

"We had earlier published results in such short time," the VC told reporters after announcing the results.

Pass rate in this unit is 14.35 percent. The rates were 13.46 percent in science group, 22.07 percent in humanities and 12.77 percent in business group.

As many as 98,054 candidates applied for 1,610 seats for three groups, but 71,549 of them sat for the test. Of them, only 10,264 students have secured pass marks.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Pragatisheel Chhatra Jote, an alliance of left-leaning student organisations, yesterday demonstrated in front of the VC office demanding cancellation of the test.

As many as 150 activists walked in a procession from Madhu's Canteen to the VC office. They started taking position inside the VC office by breaking locks of two collapsible gates.

"The authorities published the result to cover up the incident and hide the perpetrators without forming a neutral investigation committee," said Eva Majumder, president of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front of DU unit.

Meritorious students are being defeated by money due to corrupt administration, she said.

On Thursday night, Criminal Investigation Department arrested two Chhatra League leaders and an admission seeker in connection with ques-

tion leak. A mobile court also sentenced 12 admission seekers to one-month imprisonment each for using electronic devices during the one-hour test that began at 10:00am.

A Dhaka court on Saturday placed two Bangladesh Chhatra League men and an admission seeker, arrested on suspicion of leaking the question papers, on four-day remand.

A total of 32 people including three DU students and two BCL leaders have so far been detained during this year's DU admission tests. Twenty-seven of them were admission seekers.

In the last 10 years, questions of admission tests of different public universities were allegedly leaked from the examination centres. In many cases, the questions were leaked at least half an hour before the test.

In most of those cases, probe bodies were formed, but none was found guilty. In a few other cases, the committee found the allegations to be true and cancelled the test.

But the syndicate remained out of reach.

TEACHER MISBEHAVES WITH JOURNO

Assistant Proctor Soheli Rana behaved roughly with the DU correspondent of an English daily newspaper.

Mir Arshadul Haque, DU correspondent of The Daily Independent, alleged that the teacher tried to capture his photo through his smart phone without his consent.

"When asked why he was capturing my photo, he rather got angry and asked me to show my identity card provided by my office. He even tried to take away my university ID along with my press card."

Newly appointed DU Proctor Prof Golam Rabbani arrived on the spot and confined him in the VC office. After 20 minutes, he was freed with assistance from other media correspondents, Arshadul added.

Latter, the VC stepped in.

He said the incident was really unfortunate and that he would look into the matter.

South Africa complete

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over their opponents. The one place where this improves upon the Test series' end in Bloemfontein is that this is only the second-largest margin of defeat for Bangladesh against South Africa in ODIs while the innings-and-254-run hammering in Bloemfontein was the biggest in terms of runs in Tests against South Africa.

But even though the captaincy has changed from the Tests, the lack of fight seemed identical. The bowlers were toothless in conceding 369 on a belter of a pitch and by the time it was the batsmen's turn, the shots played only seemed to hint that they want to be done with the series. Imrul Kayes scored one before he charged Dane Paterson in the second over and lobbed it to mid off to give the rookie his first ODI wicket. Liton Das was dismissed leg-before playing across the line against Paterson, a marginal decision that left Bangladesh in the fourth over.

There will be no prizes for guessing how Soumya Sarkar, playing his first game of the series in place of the injured Tamim Iqbal, got out. There was a waft and an edge involved, slip was the position -- the variables were De Villiers taking a fine catch and Rabada bowling an innocuous delivery outside off stump. The score was then 20 for three in the fifth over, and by then the expectation was that Bangladesh would try for respectability and reach around 250 on a flat wicket, like they had done in the second match when faced with a similar chase.

That, however, was expecting too much fight as apart from Shakib Al Hasan's 63 and Sabbir Rahman's 39 there was not a single score above eight in the top seven. The only other double-digit scores were 17 from skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and a result-delaying 15 from Mehedi.

Mushfiquer gave the charge and was caught at mid off off the bowling of Andile Phehlukwayo, and Riyad followed 10 runs later in the 15th over, swinging across the line and being trapped plumb in front by debutant Willem Mulder and leaving the side on 61 for five. Shakib and Sabbir's 67-run sixth-wicket stand avoided utter embarrassment and gave the fans something to cheer about when Shakib reached his 35th ODI fifty with a nudge to deep square leg off Tahir in the 24th over.

But it was not to last as Shakib gave part-time off-spinner Aiden Markram his maiden wicket in the 31st over, hoisting him into the arms of deep midwicket for an 82-ball 63. Sabbir soon edged behind off the same bowler to make it 135 for seven. Mashrafe was caught behind off Paterson and Taskin Ahmed was caught off Tahir in the 41st over, three balls before the leg-spinner performed the predictable last rites.

Earlier, it was another toothless bowling display from Bangladesh

which helped South Africa reach 369 for six. There was however to be no repeat of the AB de Villiers show as the master batsman was out for just 20 in the 46th over to Rubel Hossain for the second match in a row, to leave South Africa on 325 for four. Rubel and Taskin Ahmed then bowled some good yorkers to extract the wickets of Willem Mulder and Andile Phehlukwayo, both taken by Taskin in the 47th over, but at the end they seemed to lose their lengths as fast bowler Kagiso Rabada cashed in on half volleys and full tosses to score an 11-ball 23 with three fours and a six.

The match started with the South African skipper Faf du Plessis winning the toss for the first time this series, but if there were hopes that the trend of the toss winner losing the match would continue today, it was quickly extinguished by the start provided by Quinton de Kock and Temba Bavuma, who replaced the rested Hashim Amla for this match. De Kock started the innings with a boundary through the off side off the very first ball from skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and that set the tone for the innings, a note that was amplified by three boundaries in the next over of off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who replaced Nasir Hossain for this match.

There was no respite for Bangladesh, as South Africa regularly kept picking more than six runs an over either through boundaries or runs almost off every ball. In the 14th over, De Kock brought up his fifty off his 47th ball with a single off Mehedi, and with a lofted boundary off Rubel in the next over brought up the century stand -- the fourth conceded by Bangladesh to South Africa's openers in six innings on tour.

Mehedi got his first wicket on tour when he got rid of Bavuma for 48 in the 18th over when the right-hander holed out to long on and in the 22nd over, had De Kock caught at midwicket for 73.

Skipper Du Plessis and debutant Aiden Markram then put on a 151-run partnership for the third wicket in just 19 overs as Mashrafe inexplicably released what little pressure Shakib Al Hasan and Mehedi had exerted by bringing on part-timer Mahmudullah Riyad, who conceded 33 off three, including 17 in an over. Markram was later dropped on 54 by keeper Mushfiquer in the 37th over from Shakib.

Du Plessis then seemed to pull a muscle in the 41st over and had to leave the field on 91, paving the way for De Villiers. Later in that over, Markram was run out for 66 courtesy of a direct hit from Imrul Kayes.

Taskin ended with figures of two for 66 off seven, Rubel was taken for 75 off his 10, Mashrafe conceded 69 off nine. Only Mehedi and Shakib, with two for 59 and none for 56 respectively, conceded less than six an over.