

PROPOSAL FOR VIP LANE
TIB terms it unconstitutional
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the cabinet division's proposal for a separate lane for the VIPs unconstitutional and discriminatory, the Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday urged the government to revoke it.

The cabinet division in December last year gave a proposal to the Road Transport and Highways Division for making a separate lane for important persons and emergency services and the proposal is now at Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) for its opinion.

Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam on Monday said, "A formal request was sent from the Cabinet Division for vetting."

In a press statement, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said they are worried over the proposal and such proposal by the cabinet division is a clear violation of the constitution as well as discriminatory and an ultimate abuse of power.

CONCEALING INFORMATION ABOUT WEALTH
Former BNP MP's jail term upheld
HC however declares he served his 3-yr term during stay in jail custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld three years' jail sentence of former BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim for concealing information about his wealth. The trial court awarded him the punishment in 2008.

It also fined him Tk 50 lakh for the offence and ruled that in default, Hafiz would have to serve one year more in prison.

The HC said it would be considered that the three years' jail sentence of Hafiz was served out, as he had already been in jail for more than two years in the charge.

The court, however, acquitted Hafiz of another charge of amassing illegal wealth. The trial court had jailed him for 10 years for the offence. Both the charges were brought in a case filed with Gulshan Police Station on May 8, 2007.

The bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus and Justice Bhishadev Chakraborty ordered the government and the Anti-Corruption Commission to confiscate the properties of Hafiz's wife Mafruza Sultan in line with the lower court verdict.

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Birth at health centres must for lowering

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So, we have to continue to build awareness among the people about risks of infant mortality," he said.

Ziaul Matin, a health manager at Unicef Bangladesh, said the rate of stillbirth is almost the same as that of infant mortality. "If we want to prevent it, the mothers need to be provided quality services during [child] deliveries," he said.

Speaking as the chief guest, Health and Family Welfare State Minister Zahid Maleque said child marriages need to be prevented and malnutrition eradicated as these are major reasons for low-weight births. "Our health coverage has increased.

Now we have to ensure quality."

Prof Abul Kalam Azad, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services, said to ensure quality service, health care providers like doctors and nurses have to be more cordial with patients.

Abdul Quayum, associate editor of Prothom Alo; Abdul Mannan, chairman of neonatology department of BSMMU; Maya Vanderten, chief of health at Unicef Bangladesh; Kheda Islam, a programme director of the health ministry; and Firoza Begum, general secretary of Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh; also spoke.

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