

DRAFT CIVIL SERVICE ACT
Accountability
at stake: TIB
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday expressed grave concern over some "controversial" provisions in the draft Bangladesh Civil Service Act 2017.

Issuing a press statement, the anti-corruption watchdog urged the authorities concerned to review the provisions to ensure an accountable, transparent and people friendly administration.

A sub-committee of the cabinet division recently prepared a report on the draft act. It suggested taking approval from the authorities prior to arrest government officials accused of criminal offence, and not terminating such persons instantly for being punished more than one year of imprisonment.

"The provisions are alarming and against ensuring neutral public administration and professionalism of the government officials," said TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman in the statement.

Government permission is recommended to arrest any government employee or official before submitting a charge sheet in a case filed over any offence in discharging their duties, said Iftekharuzzaman.

"This is a discriminatory provision and against the spirit of the country's constitution. Particularly, it is contradictory to the government's pledge in curbing corruption..." he said.

Demanding removal of the provision, he said it will create a possibility of reducing the power of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The other provisions should be revoked so that the administration can work ignoring political influence and pressure, he added.

He called upon the authorities to make the draft act public on a website and include new proposals so that the stakeholders can put forward their opinions.

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Students under the banner of "Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Parishad" bring out a "coffin procession" in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday, demanding that the age ceiling for entering government jobs be raised to 35 from 30.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

No protective clothing for tea workers

MINTU DESHWARA

Tea garden workers in Sylhet are exposed to serious health hazards as they are not given protective clothing while spraying pesticides on the fields.

In the absence of appropriate measures, the workers said they are facing different health complications.

Some of the common symptoms include red eyes, chest irritation, and hand and foot blisters, a worker said seeking anonymity.

Pesticides are mainly used to protect the plants from fungal and bacterial diseases, kill grass around the plants that attract grazing cows, and ward off spiders that feast on leafbuds.

Md Nurul Mohammam Milton, general secretary of the environmental journalists' forum in Moulvibazar, said workers in 156 tea gardens are exposed to dangerous chemicals.

The indiscriminate use of pesticide has gone up in tea agriculture, raising concerns for more than 1.3 lakh permanent workers in the industry, he told The Daily Star.

None of the gardens ensure the controlled use of pesticides or safety equipment, he alleged.

According to Bangladesh Labour Law 2006 (amended), garden authorities need to ensure that workers use safety glasses, hand gloves, masks and



A tea worker spraying pesticides without wearing any protective gear.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

appropriate clothing for personal safety. But the labourers complained that the authorities are not bothered about the law, and the situation is the same in all the gardens across the region.

Makhon Lal Karmokar, president of the Bangladesh tea labour union, said a worker gets Tk 82-85 to spray an acre of land, which is expected to take six to seven hours.

Spraying pesticides on the same amount of land on hilly terrain takes much longer, but workers are not given overtime for the hazardous job, he added.

Dr Satyakam Chakraborty, civil surgeon of Moulvibazar, said protective clothing when handling or applying pesticides can help minimise pesticide exposure and reduce the risk of poisoning.

Pesticides are valuable pest management tools and must be used carefully and responsibly, he added.

None of the gardens ensure the controlled use of pesticides or safety equipment, he alleged.

According to Bangladesh Labour Law 2006 (amended), garden authorities need to ensure that workers use safety glasses, hand gloves, masks and

Dr Md Abul Kalam Azad, deputy civil surgeon of Sylhet, said, "We have raised this issue at several meetings and campaigns with tea workers and garden managers."

Md Yusuf Ali, deputy inspector of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, said tea gardens must provide masks so that workers do not inhale toxic fumes while spraying pesticides.

However, he did not receive any such complaint, he said.

Narayan Saha, former head of Department of Forestry and Environmental Science at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, said the excessive use of pesticides affect land fertility and seeps into the rivers or wetlands with rainwater.

"It impacts aquatic biodiversity as well."

This correspondent tried to contact several tea garden managers, but most of them refused to comment on the matter.

However, Selim Reza, manager of Jerin Tea Garden in Sreemangal upazila of Moulvibazar, said, "We provide glasses, hand gloves, masks and appropriate clothing, but the workers do not wear them for a lack of awareness."

Top Gazipur

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Harun-Ur Rashid, superintendent of police in Gazipur, at a press conference, said the arrestees gathered in the area around 7:30am for conducting subversive activities.

Mayoral candidate Hasan Uddin Sarkar's media cell issued a press release saying that police arrested them from an election meeting organised by Sramik Kalyan Federation in Pubail Vadun area in favour of Hasan Uddin Sarkar.

Meanwhile, police arrested two people with a pistol from Ulukhola Laguna bus stand in Kaliganj upazila of the district on Thursday night.

The arrestees are Abul Basar Kazal, 27, son of Nurul Islam Akond of Kaliganj's Durbati village and Tanin, 29, son of Faruk Khan of Boronagar village.

Police said Abul Basar Kazal is the vice president of the upazila unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

NEWS IN brief

Anwara Khanam passes away

CITY DESK

Anwara Khanam, a social activist, died on Thursday at the age of 85, says a press release.



Wife of late DSP Anwar Hossain, Anwara left behind her five sons, four daughters and many grandchildren to mourn her death.

Her funeral was held at a local mosque on Shris Das Lane in Old Dhaka.

She was buried at Salimabad graveyard in Nagarpur of Tangail after the second funeral prayer.

Chehulum of Rebeka Mohiuddin today

CITY DESK

The chehulum of Rebeka Mohiuddin, a women's rights leader and one of the founders of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, will be held today after Maghrib prayers at her Dhanmondi residence.



She breathed her last on March 19 at a hospital in Dhaka.

Wife of late Awami League veteran leader Mohiuddin Ahmed, she left behind a daughter, two sons, three grandchildren and a host of relatives, admirers and well-wishers to mourn her death.

The family requested the presence of relatives, colleagues and well-wishers at her chehulum.

China to lend \$2.6b

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carries a 2 percent interest rate.

The project will enable a direct rail link between Dhaka and the southern parts of Bangladesh, particularly the Mongla port and the Benapole land port. The rail link project is scheduled to be implemented by 2022. The government plans to open the bridge by December 2018.

Three to scale Tibet peak

FROM PAGE 3

the mission deserves appreciation, as such initiative will help create a positive impression of the country. He also wished the expedition team good luck and success.

Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government, and Enam Ul Haque, a Bangladeshi expeditor to Antarctica and the North Pole, also spoke.

Lhakpa Ri expedition has been planned by Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club and sponsored by Paragon Agro Limited, Arla Foods Bangladesh Limited, Emkay Enterprises Limited and Azim Group.

35 hurt as cops

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while plying the highway. Auto-rickshaw owners and workers yesterday blocked the highway in protest. "When we tried to disperse them, they swooped on us," said Md Jasimuddin, officer-in-charge of Shayestaganj Highway Police Station. "They threw brickbats at us, and burned tyres," he added. At least 15 cops were injured. "We brought the situation under control around 12:30pm," he said.

According to witnesses, police also charged batons on the workers. Around 20 workers were injured. The injured police personnel are being treated at local hospitals, said Delwar Hosain, sub-inspector of Sayestaganj Police Station.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

"গাজীপুর জেলার কালীগঞ্জ উপজেলায় কর্মজীবী মহিলা হোস্টেল নির্মাণ ও শিশু দিবাযাত্র কেন্দ্র স্থাপন" প্রকল্প মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর

০৭০, ইক্টেন গার্ডেন রোড, ঢাকা

তারিখঃ ২৫/০৪/২০১৮

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক বাংলাদেশীয় গাজীপুর জেলার কালীগঞ্জ উপজেলায় কর্মজীবী মহিলা হোস্টেল নির্মাণ ও শিশু দিবাযাত্র কেন্দ্র স্থাপন" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের অধীনে নিম্নর্লিখিত নিয়োগ প্রদান করিব।

স্থারক নং ৩২,০১,০০০০,০৮৫,০২,০১,০৩,১৮-২২

শারক নং ৩২,০১,০০০০,০৮৫,০২,০১,০৩,১৮-২২

তারিখঃ ২৫/০৪/২০১৮

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃপক্ষ দ্বারা নিয়োগ প্রদান করিব।

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ