

Concern over Digital Security Bill meaningless

Says law minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the Digital Security Bill has been enacted only to bring offenders under the purview of law. "It is not a law to diminish the freedom of press and freedom of expression," the minister said.

He was addressing journalists prior to inaugurating a new building at the Dinajpur Court compound.

Amid widespread criticism against some of its provisions that have been termed a threat to freedom of speech and expression and the freedom of press as well, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury on Tuesday signed the bill recently passed by parliament.

The much-debated bill was sent to the office of President Abdul Hamid yesterday for his assent, sources at the Parliament Secretariat and Bangabhaban said.

"Concern that press freedom and freedom of expression will be affected by the Digital Security Bill are meaningless," the minister said.

If criminals are not brought under the purview of law, the image of the society and the state is damaged, he said, adding that if anyone does not commit crime, they will remain out of the purview of the law.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is repeatedly saying that the law is not against journalists, he also said. "It is not a law to diminish the freedom of journalists in the country."

Responding to a query, the minister said no decision regarding bringing amendments to the bill has been made yet.

Referring to talks held with the Editors' Council, he said he would raise the council's concerns at the cabinet meeting, and also talk with council members as per directives of the cabinet.

Padma bridge to be named after the river: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the Padma bridge will be named after the river as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has cancelled the proposal of naming the bridge after her.

"Lawmakers and people demanded for naming the bridge after her as she took the challenge of building it with the country's own fund," he said.

He came up with the remarks while replying to a question of newsmen after visiting Likhon, a patient suffering from a rare disease, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Quader, also Awami League general secretary said, on the basis of public opinion, the ministry earlier sent the proposal of naming the bridge as "Sheikh Hasina Padma Setu" to the Prime Minister's Office.

But the premier cancelled it, he added.

About the treatment of Likhon, Quader said he has been suffering from a rare disease for a long time.

"After knowing about him through a newspaper report, I took the responsibility of bearing his treatment cost. Likhon also underwent a surgery. The treatment of the disease is quite expensive," he added.

Muslim countries should resolve disputes through dialogue: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday insisted that the Muslim countries should resolve their disputes through dialogue instead of fighting each other, as the outgoing Iranian ambassador called on her at Gono Bhaban.

"Any kind of dispute among the Muslim states, particularly the OIC member countries, should be settled through discussions," PM's press secretary Ihsanul Karim quoted her as saying when Iranian Ambassador Dr Abbas Vaezi Dehnavi paid a farewell call on her.

The premier also urged the Muslim countries to continue

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ACC seeks travel bar on Amir Khasru

Also against 5 Titas officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has urged the Special Branch of Police to issue an embargo on leaving the country against BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and his wife Tahera Alam.

The ACC wrote to the SB to take necessary steps in this regard.

The Daily Star has obtained copy of the letter, signed by ACC's Deputy Director Farid Ahmed Patwary, from the ACC.

The ACC recently received allegations that Khasru owns a five-star hotel but "did not disclose it on his

tax file".

He is also said to have laundered money abroad and amassed undisclosed wealth.

Khasru was sued under the ICT and Special Powers Acts after a phone conversation between him and allegedly a BNP activist was leaked, during the recent student demonstrations for safe roads.

TRAVEL EMBARGO SOUGHT AGAINST 5 TITAS OFFICIALS

In a separate letter signed by the same officer, ACC asked Special Branch of

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Sitting on a fragile bamboo pole, two workers plaster wall of a high-rise building on Johnson Road near Jagannath University yesterday. Construction workers often have to work without proper safety measures and in hazardous condition leading to frequent accidents.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Two buses emit heavy black smoke forcing a pedestrian to cover his mouth while walking on a road in Kakrail area. Despite the recently-ended traffic awareness campaign, there seems to be little improvement as unfit vehicles continue to ply city roads.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

REPATRIATION OF ROHINGYAS Economic sanctions needed if Myanmar fails to make progress, say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar is imperative if its government fails to make any visible progress in repatriating Rohingyas with dignity and security within a specific time, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Bangladesh organised the meeting on "Durable Solution of Rohingya Crisis" at its conference room in Dhaka.

Speakers called upon the international community to take legal actions against the Myanmar government and army -- accused of genocide -- at International Criminal Court (ICC).

"Economic sanctions can be imposed on Myanmar if we do not see any visible progress regarding the repatriation of Rohingyas within a specific time," said NHRC

Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque.

"We are hopeful that pressure will be created on Myanmar to repatriate Rohingyas, under the leadership of the United Nations," he added.

Former election commissioner Brig (ret) Sakhawat Hussain stressed the need to convince China on the issue of repatriation.

If this crisis lingers for 10-15 years, it may pose security threats for Bangladesh and China, he said.

Former ambassador Muhammad Zamir said that over 42,000 children were born in the camps since Rohingyas started arriving last year.

"The impact of the influx has put tremendous pressure on the host community," said Zamir.

Former ambassador Muhammad Azizul Haque said, "We have to pursue

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Last parliament session likely on Oct 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The current parliament will have its final session on October 21.

President Abdul Hamid yesterday convened the session.

Proceedings of the 23rd session of the 10th parliament will begin at 4:30 on the day, said a release from the parliament secretariat.

Prior to the session, the business advisory committee of parliament will hold a meeting with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair. It will set the duration and businesses of the session.

The last session of parliament is likely to be very brief -- with three to four sittings, sources at the parliament secretariat said.

The present parliament is unlikely to go for any session after October 23, unless the president convenes.

Explore new destinations, better professions

Study on female migrant workers suggests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Skills training and orientation of women should be emphasised to ensure their safe and sustainable migration and in doing so the government may explore new places and better occupation, speakers said yesterday.

A study by UN Women Bangladesh has identified Japan as a potential country where women can find opportunities in caregiving and beauty businesses that offer semi-skilled and higher-value jobs.

It was aimed at moving women migrants from informal domestic work to the formal sector, and from unskilled to semi-skilled labour, speakers said at a knowledge sharing event organised at a city hotel by UN Women in close coordination with the International Labour Organisation.

During the study, conducted between May 2017 and October this year, the total number of Bangladeshi migrant workers in Japan was 1,153 with just 23 of them being women. But the country is opening its door to migrant workers, having seen a high demand for professionals and skilled workers in information technology, and nursing/ caregiving services.

"To avail themselves of these opportunities, they [Bangladeshi women] will need occupation and trade-specific skills, proficiency in Japanese, and comprehension of Japanese work culture and life-style," UN Women said in its summery report of the study, titled "Pathways for empowering employment: Diversity and challenges for women migrant workers in

Bangladesh".

Most Bangladeshi female migrants are now working in Gulf Cooperation Council countries and West Asian countries such as Jordan and Lebanon.

"They face abuse and they come back in despair," said Shoko Ishikawa, country representative of UN Women Bangladesh.

Bangladeshi women have opportunities to diversify their skills and to explore new prospects and destinations. For example, they can work as caregivers and earn higher wages in the countries of the European Union and in the United States because of the aging population there, according to the study report.

Good cooperation and linkage are necessary between the government, civil society and NGOs to ensure proper training of workers before their departure, said Rownaq Jahan, secretary in charge of the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry, who was present at the programme as the chief guest.

"We are thinking how to ensure their security. The ministry has expanded its dissemination of information and awareness programme up to the upazila level. However, the ministry alone cannot ensure security [of women migrants]... We are open to receiving cooperation from every corner of the world," Rownaq added.

A network of NGOs working here and in the destination countries can help protect rights of women migrants, said Tuomo Poutiainen, country director of ILO Bangladesh.

DEATH OF DIA-RAJIB SC rejects Jabal-e-Noor's stay petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that directed Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan to pay Tk 5 lakh to each of the families of two students who were killed in a road crash on Dhaka's Airport Road on July 29 this year.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order, dismissing a petition filed by Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan seeking stay on the HC order.

The apex court dismissed the petition as no lawyer for Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan was present in the courtroom during the proceedings, Barrister Ruhul Quddus Kazal, who moved a writ petition before the HC, told The Daily Star.

The SC order means that the transport company will have to pay the amount of money to meet the immediate needs of the victims' families, he added.

The HC on July 30 directed Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan to pay Tk 5 lakh to each of the families of the two victims Rajib and Mim, students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College -- who were run over by a bus of the transport company the day before.

The HC also asked the transport company to bear expenses for treatment of the nine injured students of the same college who were hit by the bus as it ploughed into a crowd at Kurmitola, within seven days.

The HC on August 12 upheld its order and asked for the sum to be paid without delay, after a lawyer for Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan's owner sought time from the court saying that his client was in Saudi Arabia for performing hajj, and the company would pay the money after its owner returns to the country.

Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan recently submitted the petition to the SC seeking stay on the HC order.

Meanwhile, another writ petition seeking compensation of Tk 1 crore each to the families of the two deceased students is pending at the HC.

Job Circulation

ABS Cables Ltd, the leading electric wires and cables manufacturing company of the country with German Technology is recruiting in the following positions. Applications are expected from enthusiastic, experiential and eligible candidates.

Name of the position: Administrative Officer

Educational requirements : M.A. in English (Academic requirements is slightly negotiable for experienced candidates). Candidates should have individual directing and leadership ability.
Experience : Minimum 5 years experience in an established company. Must be fluent in English.

Name of the position: Senior Accounts Officer/Assistant Manager

Educational requirements : Masters/MBA from Accounting.
Experience : Minimum 5 years relevant experience. Candidate should have experiences in relevant positions (Accounting/Finance) in any commercial/industrial/multinational companies.
Candidate has to look after Finance and Accounting in the head office. In addition he/she has to be responsible for treasury function, financial and accounting management costing, and taxation, auditing and relevant accounts activities.

Name of the position: Assistant Commercial Manager/Manager

Educational requirements : Masters (Commerce) or MBA.
Experience : Minimum 5 years experience in Wires and Cables industries or electrical/electronic product manufacturing companies which include relevant experience in export-import, L.C, Customs, VAT, etc.
Candidate has to be involved in overall planning of commercial department, directing, control and execution. Experience of communicating with foreign companies is a must.

Age range : 40-45 years.
Interested candidates are requested to send their CVs with 3 recent attested copies of passport size photographs, citizenship certificate or NID, photocopy of academic certificates, certificates of experiences and expected salary. Mobile number has to be written in the CV.

Deadline: 15 October, 2018

Mailing Address : To- Managing Director, ABS Cables Ltd, ENA Tower, DE OLIO, Plot # 57/3, 57/4, 57/5, Flat 602, Lake Circus, Kalabagan, West Panthapath, Dhaka.

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