

Controversial posts stay

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in delivering speeches as "special speakers" at training programmes ahead of the national polls in 2018 and the fifth upazila elections.

They sent the first letter to the president in December last year and the second one in January this year.

Besides, the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General has raised audit objections, saying government allowances were given against positions, including "special speakers" and "course advisers", though the finance ministry did not approve such positions for the training programmes.

Newly appointed EC Secretary Humayun Kabir said he will be able to comment on the guideline only after learning about it in details.

Md Alamgir, the immediate past senior secretary of the EC, said EC officials have prepared a draft guideline which was placed before the commission.

He further said the commission has asked the officials concerned to review the guideline. It is yet to be finalised.

THE GUIDELINE
The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the draft guideline prepared by the four-member committee for imparting planning and management training under the Electoral Training Institute and Budget Standardization Policy 2020.

The CEC and election commissioners will be "special speakers" and "extended speakers" in training programmes, while the EC secretary and additional secretary will attend those as "guest speaker" and "course adviser".

The DG of ETI will carry out the responsibility of "course director" for "less important" training programmes, according to the draft.

It has proposed raising the allowance for a "special speaker" to Tk 7,500 from Tk 5,000 for a training session.

"The course adviser will get Tk 8,000 for the entire course having several sessions. He or she will get the money only once," said one of the committee members seeking anonymity.

A course adviser used to get between Tk 2,500 and Tk 5,000 for each session.

Allowance hike has been suggested for election commissioners and EC secretariat officials for attending a session lasting one and a half hours. At present, the duration of each session is one hour, the committee member mentioned.

Once the guideline is finalised, it might be sent to the finance ministry for approval, added the member.

Asked, committee chief and EC Joint Secretary Abul Kasem refused to make any comments.

ALLEGATIONS
Forty-two eminent citizens on December 14 last year urged the president to constitute Supreme Judicial Council to probe allegations of corruption and other misconduct by the EC.

In its letter to the president, they said the current EC indulged in misconduct and irregularities, including expenditure of Tk 2 crore for delivering speeches as "special speakers" in training programmes ahead of the 11th national election and fifth upazila polls.

In reply, the CEC on December 24 said the allegations over the Tk 2-crore expenditure were made on false grounds.

The eminent citizens in their second letter on January 17 again raised allegations of irregularities in the EC's expenditure on training programmes. They cited a media report that some of the EC officials embezzled at least Tk 11 crore from the training budget.

The report also made mentions of allegations against 18 people, including the CEC, commissioners and top EC officials that they took at least Tk 3 crore of the Tk 11 crore.



Supporters of a faction of the ruling Nepal Communist Party take part in a rally during mass gathering against the dissolution of parliament, in Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

No headway in nine years

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of February 11, 2012, at their rented flat in the capital's West Rajabazar.

The couple's only child Mahir Sarowar Megh, only five at the time, was in the apartment when his parents were murdered. He is now 14.

Speaking to this newspaper over phone yesterday, Sagar's 69-year-old mother, Saleha Munir, said no matter how long it takes, she will keep seeking justice for her son and daughter-in-law.

"Everyone remembers them when the [death] anniversary comes. And then, they forget. But I am the mother. I remember my son every moment. I know, I would not get him back. But can we expect justice, at least? It is disappointing that this horrific murder has not been brought to justice even after 9 long years."

Addressing the Prime Minister, she said, "I would request the Prime Minister to complete the trial of Sagar-Runi murder case in the year of Mujib Borsho. It will be a milestone," she said.

In the last nine years, seven officers from different agencies have investigated the case.

After Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police and the Detective Branch of police, Rab was tasked with the probe on April 18, 2012.

In the past, police officials had claimed to have made "significant progress" in the investigation. Investigation officers, however, did nothing but file time petitions with the court for submitting the probe report.

The slow pace of investigation questions the integrity of the investigators, while relatives, who are seeking justice for the couple,

people for DNA test and other evidence to a forensic lab in the US.

"We already got the report," the official said without disclosing further details.

Through DNA testing, a facial structure of a person can be drawn. The IO is working on that, he added.

Meanwhile, after six long years Sagar-Runi's West Razabazar residence, where they had been murdered, was opened again on Tuesday when Rab visited the scene of crime.

Runi's brother Nawsher Roman and Sagar and Runi's son Megh also visited the place.

Roman said that they don't usually use the road in front of the house as it's very uncomfortable for them.

"But Rab's investigating officer came to the house and informed me over the phone so that Megh and I don't miss the chance to see the house again."

After six years, I went to the house and looked around the rooms. I thought of some memories, I prayed... If emotions were part of the body, we could have cut it off long ago."

About the visit, Rab said it is routine work of the IO to visit the place of occurrence to compare the situation with that time.

It is hopeful to submit a report in this regard soon.

A Rab official, preferring anonymity, said they got the investigation charge of the case after three months of the incident.

"The evidence we [Rab] got from police and from the place of occurrence had weakened by the time."

Most legal experts have said it is constitutional to have an impeachment trial after an official has left office.

"Presidents can't inflame insurrection in their final weeks and then walk away like nothing happened. And yet that is the rule that President Trump asks you to adopt," Democratic Representative Joe Neguse told the senators.

Most of the senators at the trial were present in the Capitol on January 6, when many lawmakers said they feared for their own safety.

Several Republican senators said they found Trump's defense, particularly Castor's argument, disjointed and unclear.

"The House managers made a compelling, cogent case. And the president's team did not," said Republican Senator Bill Cassidy, who voted to advance the trial.

Cassidy had voted to block the trial on constitutional grounds last month, a Republican effort that failed 55-45. He was the only Republican to switch sides on Tuesday, a move that prompted the Republican Party in his home state, Louisiana, to issue a statement repudiating his decision.

Watching the proceedings on TV at his Florida resort, Trump was unhappy with Castor's performance, said a person familiar with the situation.

AL leader's lesson

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meeting, organised by AL mayor candidate Hasan Qadir Goni, at the office of Alamdanga Motor Workers Union last Friday.

AL nominee Hasan Qadir, also the president of Alamdanga upazila AL, Yakub Ali, acting general secretary of the same unit, and Riyad Hossain, president of Alamdanga Motor Workers Union, were present.

Speaking in local dialect at the meeting, Delwar said, "Those who belong to BNP or Jamaat will not be allowed to leave their homes... They have to be told you are a razzakar; you are a Jamaat man. Don't leave your home. Otherwise, something will happen to you."

"If we can put them in such a situation, then our 500 votes will be ensured. There are many strategies to contest an election. If we move ahead following a strategy, we will win by a huge margin," he added.

The AL leader said polling has to be completed beforehand. "Voting is not possible by going to polling centres."

Asked about the footage, Delwar said, "It's right that I am the person seen speaking in the video clip. But my statement has been replaced with a new one. I didn't say anything like that. Someone else has done this out of enmity."

BNP candidate Mir Mohiuddin, a former senior vice president of Chuadanga BNP, said people are now much aware of what is happening around them and they will not stay indoors in the face of any threat.

Independent mayoral candidate Sabed Ali, president of Chuadanga district Jatya Samajtantrik Dal president, said he was not afraid of the Awami League leader's threats. "People of Alamdanga will vote for me on the Valentine's Day with love."

Returning Officer Tareq Ahmed said they were yet to receive any complaint in this regard. Preparations have been completed to hold the municipality polls in a free manner and make it acceptable to all, he added.

Three mayor and 43 councillor candidates are contesting the municipality polls.

HC seeks six legal experts'

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Hossain Mollah passed the order while hearing the petition.

The court also asked whether it was of any necessity to issue an order banning the broadcast of Al Jazeera TV in Bangladesh.

The question over acceptability arose as the petitioner had not issued any legal notice to the authorities concerned of the government.

The court asked petitioner Anamul why he was personally aggrieved at the report broadcast by Al Jazeera on February 1 and whether this court could direct the government to stop the broadcasting of an international TV channel.

Crores of people have already watched the video documentary, the HC bench observed. Removing the content would make little difference at this point, Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah said.

It is true that the sentiment of the nation has been hurt as the image of the president, prime minister and army chief was tarnished by the Al Jazeera report, the judge said.

There are specific provisions in the Digital Security Act for arresting the people involved in making derogatory comments about the president and prime minister, the judge said.

The HC bench asked what the respondents (government officials concerned), particularly the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), have done

to this effect so far.

Write petitioner Anamul could not give any satisfactory reply to the questions and told the court that as a citizen, he was aggrieved at the documentary because it hurt the integrity, solidarity and sovereignty of the country.

BTRC lawyer Khandker Reza-E Raquib told the HC bench that BTRC could not stop the broadcasting of Al Jazeera in Bangladesh even if the HC ordered it to do so.

The BTRC can issue the authorities a notice to delete the contents of the Al Jazeera report from the social media, he added.

Deputy Attorney General Nawroz MR Chowdhury told the HC that the BTRC should have removed the contents from the online platforms.

Al Jazeera may broadcast more such derogatory reports in future, he added.

Supreme Court lawyer Anamul in the public interest litigation also requested the HC to order the government to remove the report from Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram and other social media sites.

The documentary titled "All the Prime Minister's Men" damaged the image of Bangladesh at home and abroad and hurt the sovereignty of Bangladesh, Anamul said in the petition, adding that contents of the report were not authentic and Al Jazeera had earlier broadcast reports damaging the image of Bangladesh, but no action had been taken against the people involved.

Senate votes to proceed with trial

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earlier urging them to "fight like hell" to overturn his November 3 election defeat.

Senators, serving as jurors, watched as screens showed Trump's followers throwing down barriers and hitting police officers at the Capitol. The video included the moment when police guarding the House of Representatives chamber fatally shot protester Ashli Babbitt, one of five people including a police officer who died in the rampage.

The mob attacked police, sent lawmakers scrambling for safety and interrupted the formal congressional certification of President Joe Biden's victory after Trump had spent two months challenging the election results based on false claims of widespread voting fraud.

"If that's not an impeachment offense, then there is no such thing," Democratic Representative Jamie Raskin, who led a team of nine House members prosecuting the case, told the assembled senators after showing the video.

He wept as he recounted how relatives he brought to the Capitol that day to witness the election certification had to shelter in an office near the House floor, saying: "They thought they were going to die."

In contrast to the Democrats' emotional presentation, Trump's lawyers attacked the process,

arguing that the proceeding was an unconstitutional, partisan effort to close off Trump's political future even after he had already departed the White House.

"What they really want to accomplish here in the name of the Constitution is to bar Donald Trump from ever running for political office again, but this is an affront to the Constitution no matter who they target today," David Schoen, one of Trump's lawyers, told senators.

He denounced the "insatiable lust for impeachment" among Democrats before airing his own video, which stitched together clips of various Democratic lawmakers calling for Trump's impeachment going back to 2017.

"COMPELLING, COGENT" Trump, who was impeached by the Democratic-led House on January 13, is only the third president in US history to be impeached, and the only one to be impeached twice.

His defense argued he was exercising his right to free speech under the Constitution's First Amendment when he addressed supporters before the Capitol attack.

Bruce Castor, one of Trump's lawyers, said the storming of the Capitol by hundreds of people "should be denounced in the most vigorous terms," but argued that "a small group of criminals," not Trump, were responsible for the violence.

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Court orders

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The charges against them included "tarnishing the image of the nation".

On February 4, Sub-Inspector Md Mohsin Sardar of Ramna Police Station, also the investigation officer in the case, pressed charges against three of the accused, dropping the names of the eight others. The three are Kishore, Mushtaq and Didarul.

The Dhaka tribunal yesterday, however, ordered the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit to further investigate all the 11 accused.

Judge Ash Sams Joglul Hossain of the Dhaka Cyber Tribunal passed the order after the prosecutors submitted a petition seeking further probe in the case.

The tribunal also directed the CTTC to submit a probe report to it by March 23.

In the petition, Public Prosecutor Nazrul Islam Shamim said if the seized documents, Facebook links, and WhatsApp, Viber and Messenger messages of the 11 accused were analysed, correct information about them, including their names, addresses and whereabouts, would be unearthed.

The public prosecutor claimed that the accused made objectionable posts on social media against the state, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and several important people of the country.

The public prosecutor further claimed that the investigation officer failed to identify the real culprits and their involvement in the incident, even though there were specific allegations against them. So, further investigation into the case should be conducted, the PP added.

The IO said he dropped the names of eight accused as he did not find their correct names and addresses. If their full names and addresses are found, a supplementary charge sheet will be submitted, the IO added.

The others charged in the case include US-based journalist Shahed Alam; Germany-based blogger Asif Mohiuddin; Minhaj Mannan Emon, managing director of BLE securities and shareholder-director of Dhaka Stock Exchange; Ashik Imran; Shapan Wahed; and Philip Schuhmacher.

During yesterday's hearing, Kishore and Mushtaq were produced before the court while the rest were not present.

Kishore and Mushtaq have been behind bars for nine months, while Minhaj and Didarul were granted bail by court in September last year.

Kishore and Mushtaq's bail petitions have been rejected six times, said their lawyers.

On a wicket that saw the hosts struggling at 223 for eight before they declared their second innings on the fourth day in Chattogram, Tigers' spinners -- supposed to be their strong suit against teams like West Indies -- appeared toothless on the last day as the spirited visitors ached the chase of a mammoth 395.

The picture becomes bleaker in the Mirpur Test as Bangladesh will be without premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and left-handed opener Shadman Islam as both are sitting out due to injuries.

Shakib's thigh injury, sustained during the second day of the first Test, ruled him out of this Test while Shadman's hip injury, which occurred due to an awkward fall while fielding in Chattogram, saw him joining Shakib on the sidelines. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had announced Soumya Sarkar as Shakib's replacement for the game but has not included anyone in the squad in place of Shadman.

Mominul Haque's troops were subject to heavy criticism for their lack of energy and assertiveness on the final day of the Chattogram Test as they allowed the visitors to achieve a record 395-run target.

And it will be interesting to see if Mominul and Co -- now without the talismanic Shakib and regular Test opener Shadman -- can turn things around with a much-needed change in approach in Mirpur today.

Tigers seek
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UAE's Hope
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complete," said the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, where the ruler of Dubai and the crown prince of Abu Dhabi were present to receive the news.

The attempt had a 50% chance of failing, Dubai's ruler and UAE Vice President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum had said. To enter Mars' orbit, the probe needed to burn around half its 800 kg (1,760 lbs) of onboard fuel to slow down enough not to overshoot, the most dangerous part of the journey.

"Today is the start of a new chapter in Arab history ... of trust in our capability to compete with other nations and people," Sheikh Mohammed tweeted after the probe entered orbit. "The UAE will celebrate its Golden Jubilee with science, culture and inspiration because we aim to build a model of development."

This year marks 50 years since independence from Britain and the founding of the UAE federation, which groups seven emirates, including Dubai. Mars probes launched by China and NASA just after the UAE's lift-off in July are also set to reach the planet this month.

The Emirates Mars Mission, which has cost around \$200 million, launched the Hope Probe from a Japanese space centre. It aims to provide a complete picture of the Martian atmosphere for the first time, studying daily and seasonal changes.

Minister of State for Advanced Technology and chair of the UAE Space Agency Sarah al-Amiri told Reuters it would take a few weeks to start collecting a mixture of data and images, which could be made publicly available as early as September.

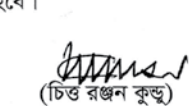
বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
হেড অফিস, ঢাকা।

সেন্ট্রাল একাউন্টস ডিপার্টমেন্ট

আয়কর উপদেষ্টা ফর্ম নিয়োগের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড কর্তৃক আয়কর উপদেষ্টা হিসেবে অভিজ্ঞ চার্টার্ড একাউন্ট্যান্ট ফর্ম অথবা অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রফেশনাল ইনকাম ট্যাক্স এ্যাডভাইজার ফর্ম এর নিকট হতে ফর্মের প্যাকেজ সীল প্যাকেজ খামে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আয়কর উপদেষ্টা ফর্মের বয়সসীমা, নিয়োগের শর্তাবলী ও বিভিন্ন কাজের আর্থিক প্রস্তাবনা সম্বলিত ব্যাংকের সিডিউল নগদে ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা জমা দিয়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী অফিস হতে সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।

আবেদনকারী ফর্মকে অবশ্যই আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান ও ব্যাংকের আয়কর উপদেষ্টা হিসেবে ন্যূনতম তিন বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে; বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক সর্বশেষ তালিকাভুক্ত সিএ ফর্ম হতে হবে এবং অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রফেশনাল ইনকাম ট্যাক্স এ্যাডভাইজার হতে হবে। আয়কর উপদেষ্টা হিসেবে সম্পাদিত উল্লেখযোগ্য ক্লায়েন্ট লিস্ট এর তালিকা এবং প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে এ কাজের জন্য নিয়োজিত পারদর্শী ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন সোকবলের তালিকাসহ এতদসংক্রান্ত ব্যাপারে Short Brief আকারে একটি প্রোফাইল আবেদন পত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে ২৫-০২-২০২১ তারিখ বেলা ০৩:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ডিপার্টমেন্ট হেড, সেন্ট্রাল একাউন্টস ডিপার্টমেন্ট, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, হেড অফিস, ৮, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০ (বিডিবিএল ভবনের লেভেল-৮) এ রক্ষিত বাক্সে জমা দিতে হবে। আবেদন পত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ সময়সীমার অব্যবহিত পরেই দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে।


(সিও রঞ্জন কুমার)
ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার
ফোনঃ ৯৫৫৮০০১

GD-287

Bus-truck collision

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half due to the accident

Jhenidah's deputy commissioner (DC) Saroj Kumar Nath announced that family members of each dead person would be given Tk 20 thousand for funeral.

Meanwhile in Cox's Bazar, four people were killed after a minibus collided with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road yesterday morning.

One of the dead was identified as Salamat Ullah, 65, from Howaikang area. Identities of the others could not be known

immediately.

Police said the minibus hit the three-wheeler on Shaheed ATM Zafar Alam Arakan Road around 9:30am, leaving three auto-rickshaw passengers dead and another injured.

Afterwards, the injured was taken to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital where he was declared dead, said Md Noor-e-Alam, in-charge of Howaikang police outpost.

In Pabna, a worker of Ishwardi EPZ (export processing zone) died while another was injured as a truck hit a motorbike carrying them on

the Pabna-Pakshey road in Pabna Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Kamrul Islam, 35, said police.

In Lalmonirhat, a school girl was killed when a truck hit a rickshaw at Durakuti Bhatapora area in Lalmonirhat sadar upazila yesterday noon.

The victim was identified as Nuri Khatun, 12, from Aditmaru upazila. Her grandfather and the rickshaw puller were injured in the accident, said police.

(Our correspondents from each district contributed to the report.)