

Ruling party has robbed the peace of people: GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman and deputy leader of the opposition GM Quader yesterday said Bangladesh cannot be called a democratic state due to "autocracy" and lack of good governance.

He said it is not possible to practice democracy because of what is happening in the country in the name of parliamentary democracy.

"Anarchic situation like that in Noakhali's Bashurhat has been created all over the country. The imbalance of power has given birth to corruption and misuse in the country," he said while welcoming around 50 leaders and activists of different parties who joined Jatiya Party at a programme at the JP chief's Banani office.

GM Quader said that autocracy is on the rise in the name of parliamentary democracy since the handover of power by late president HM Ershad in 1991.

"The ruling party has robbed the peace of people of the country through tender manipulation, nepotism and extortion. Politics of looting has begun since 1991 and the common people are being tortured by the political activists," he said.

EXTORTION ALLEGATIONS Sylhet city AL leader suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet city unit of Awami League suspended its organising secretary Saleh Ahmed Shalim over an allegation of extortion against him.

The decision came from an emergency meeting of the AL unit on Wednesday night after a case was filed against him, said its president Mashuk Uddin Ahmed.

The city unit AL issued a show-cause notice to Saleh and formed a three-member committee to investigate the matter, he said.

Saleh is also councillor of ward-22 of Sylhet City Corporation and a lawyer of Sylhet District Bar Association.

Recently, voluntary organisation "Trinamul Nari Uddokta Society" was planning a fair on Shahjalal Upasahar field.

Its organiser Anita Das Gupta filed a case with Shahporan Police Station on March 6 saying Saleh demanded a huge sum to hold the fair. As he failed to get the extortion money, he stopped the fair's arrangement.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach Saleh as his phones were found switched off.

Child marriage

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UNFPA Deputy Representative Eiko Narita said for girls who are married off, the pregnancy rate is higher than that of women who got married later. This can lead to adverse health consequences.

Veera Mendonca, Unicef representative of Bangladesh, said poverty has increased substantially in the pandemic, and it is a key driver for child marriage. She urged the government and other organisations to work together to make an impact in stopping child marriages.

Women and Children Affairs Ministry Joint Secretary Md Mohibuzzaman said UNOs are major stakeholders for stopping child marriage. "But, child marriage is a social issue, because people who live in marginal areas consider marrying off their child as one less burden," he said.

The mix method survey was conducted by interviewing 21,258 respondents, including married and unmarried girls aged between 10 and 19 years, parents having at least one daughter aged 10-19 years, local government representatives, UNOs, Department of Women Affairs officials, marriage registrars, local leaders, school/college teachers and police officers.

The highest number of child marriages

took place in Barguna, with 1,512 girls forced into marriage, 1,272 in Kurigram, 1,222 in Nilphamari, 1,041 in Laxmipur and 884 in Kushtia, it mentioned.

A total of 5,089 respondents also mentioned that there were unexpected pregnancies during Covid-19, due to demands of husbands and in-laws, husbands staying home for longer periods, disruption in family planning services, and much more, it found.

Respondents also mentioned witnessing 1.7 incidents of child marriage per day.

Barguna had the highest percentage of respondents (88 percent) who reported at least one child marriage during the Covid-19 period, followed by Laxmipur (63 percent), Khulna (56 percent) and Nilphamari (56 percent).

MJF's violence against women and girls coordinator Arpita Das and senior manager Shaikh Giasuddin Ahmed presented the information at the event.

The webinar came up with some policy recommendations, including monetary support to families with children in case of large scale emergencies such as Covid-19, and a national campaign highlighting negative impacts of child marriage and debunking the perceived positive theories.

Voting ends in SCBA elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day voting for electing new leadership of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) ended yesterday afternoon.

Some 5,676 lawyers out of total 7,722 cast their votes in the election held at the SCBA auditorium in Dhaka, Md Rabiul Hasan, administrative officer of SCBA, told The Daily Star.

He said sorting of ballots will start at 9am and vote counting will begin after the Juma prayers today. The results will be announced once the counting is finished, he added.

SCBA sources said the main contest will be between panels of Awami League-backed Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad and pro-BNP Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Panel.

Former law minister and AL MP Abdul Matin Khasru, and former BNP lawmaker Md Fazlur Rahman have been nominated for president post from the respective panels.

Citizen

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In his keynote presentation, Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow, CPD shared the lessons learnt while implementing this project.

CPD Founder and eminent economist Dr Rehman Sobhan said, "To ensure proper delivery of public services, we need competitive election and we need to find a way to make the elected representatives accountable."

LGRD Minister Tajul Islam said in his speech as chief guest, "There are many forms of democracy in the world. We claim that Bangladesh is a democratic country. But implementing democracy doesn't mean that we will empower people who were against our liberation war, it does not mean our country will be poor and lawless."

"We are exercising democracy by freeing our people from poverty," he added.

Rensje Teerink, ambassador and head of EU Delegation to Bangladesh said, "This project has enjoyed continuous support from EU and it is worthy of support because it operates at the crucial intersection of democratic participation, good governance and development."

Economist Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of CPD; Lilian Mercado, regional director of Oxfam in Asia and Danny Sriskandarajah, CEO of Oxfam Great Britain also spoke at the programme.

ENSURE RELIEF REACHES THE RIGHT PEOPLE

Meanwhile in another session of the conference, grassroots organisations stressed on ensuring proper access to social safety net programme at the root level by strengthening the monitoring system and dissemination of information about the government aid in the community level

During the session on food relief, speakers urged the government to ensure the right people receive the relief and to raise awareness of where to file complaints if irregularities occur in relief distribution.

Sharing an experience, Abdul Halim of Susheel from Satkhira said, "In our area we have 12,000 poor ethnic minorities, but only half of them received the relief."

Wahida Akter from the NGO Lighthouse said, "Many sex workers were deprived of relief during this pandemic. We expect that they get registered properly and the aid reaches them in the right time."

Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam said that during this pandemic, women and children were the worst sufferers, and poor families were harassed while collecting relief.

"We need to think of a way out so that such incongruity doesn't take place in the future," she added.

Bangladesh

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"We tried to tell them that Bangladesh has become a land of opportunities," an official concerned told The Daily Star.

"We said trade and investment is what we need. However, it does not mean we don't want aid at all, but it should be aligned to national development priorities and facilitate trade and investment," he said.

The official said Dhaka and Canberra can develop partnership on human resource development, especially in vocational training, including curriculum development and teachers' training.

Australian High Commissioner Jeremy Bruer said Australia truly looks forward to stronger economic cooperation as Bangladesh graduates from LDC status.

He said both countries enjoy excellent bilateral relations because of historical ties, people to people contacts, shared values and common aspirations for peace, progress and prosperity.

A foreign ministry statement said Australia reaffirmed its commitment to support Bangladesh's Covid-19 recovery.

The talks also involved productive exchange of views on durable solution to the Rohingya crisis and on climate change.

Bangladesh stressed that if the Rohingyas could not be repatriated within a short span of time, it would have regional ramifications.

Officials also acknowledged shared security interests, including cooperation in cyber security, fighting transnational crime, countering terrorism, and human trafficking.

Both countries agreed to commemorate the 50th year of establishing diplomatic relations in 2022.

Two city

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Taposh said DSCC has earmarked a Tk 981 crore project to develop the canals.

For the short-term plan, the DSCC mayor said, "To reduce waterlogging in the next rainy season, we have started cleaning the culverts, canals and have already removed 75,000 tonnes of garbage and silt."

Taposh said they have identified the areas where there was waterlogging last year and have invited tenders for the development works, adding that the work will be finished by May.

"Most of the pumping stations and sluice gates DSCC has got from Wasa are out of order," Taposh informed. "We are now using the city corporation's fund to make them functional."

The DSCC mayor said a project in Dholaikhal, funded by the World Bank, is expected to start after the coming rainy season or early next year. This will solve waterlogging in some areas in the old part of the city, he added.

On the issue of existing workforce, Taposh said they have already prepared a new organogram with a demand for additional workforce which will be sent to the public administration ministry soon.

DEMARCATION, WASTE MANAGEMENT THE KEY: ATIQUIL

DNCC mayor Md Atiqul Islam said they too have laid out short-mid-long term plans to address the waterlogging issue.

Although the plans are almost similar to that of DSCC, disconnecting sewerage connection from storm water drain, encouraging people to set up a safety tank, and plugging in those solid

household waste connections with canals and lakes are some key short and mid-term targets of the DNCC.

About recovering the canals from the encroachers, Atiqul said they have decided to take an innovative approach to demarcate the canals under their jurisdiction.

"We have already completed demarcation work through digital mapping, using drone services on four canals. Now we will take vetting from the DC office on the digital mapping after completing some necessary processes. After this, we will set up boundary pillars based on the demarcation," he said.

The demarcation pillars will be set up so that encroachers move away along with their structures from the canals.

"If they do not do it, the city corporation will evict them," said the DNCC mayor, adding that they will plant trees on the banks of the canals and will set up bicycle lanes.

Atiqul said solid waste is the main barrier to the smooth flow of water in DNCC's canals.

"If we can ensure the desired depth and width of the canals, water will flow throughout the year which will also help prevent the canals from becoming mosquito breeding grounds," he said.

He said the city corporation is also taking initiatives to prevent people from dumping waste into canals. "We are going to appoint additional staffers to conduct cleaning works everyday throughout the year," he added.

The mayor also said a public notice has been issued through newspapers

asking residents of DNCC to disconnect sewerage lines of their own buildings from canals and storm drains and set up their own septic tanks and shock wells by the next 60 days.

"We will conduct mobile court drives starting from Gulshan area. This is because Gulshan lake has become heavily polluted due to the dumping of sewerage water," said the mayor.

The city corporation will form a committee in this regard, he said, incorporating experts who will give proper advice on their plans.

'DSCC, DNCC MUST WORK TOGETHER'

Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, said the two city corporations will have to include solid and liquid waste management under their plan. "Otherwise it will not be possible to protect the canals and maintain the drainage systems," said Habib.

He said the city corporations should involve city residents and their plans must be executed on time.

"The city corporations will have to build awareness among people, especially those living beside the canals, so that they do not dump their solid or liquid waste and they can discourage others from dumping waste into the canals," he said.

He said the two city corporations must work together, under an integrated master plan.

"They will also have to ensure that the canal network covers up to the river and they will have to remove all obstacles to ensure proper connectivity," said Habib.

It's sensitive

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give responsibility to a DNC officer in the National Telecommunication Monitoring Center (NTMC) to monitor and get information of drug traffickers.

Senior secretary of Public Security Division of the home ministry will issue a written order to ensure access of the DNC officer into the NTMC, said meeting sources. The senior secretary, director general (DG) of NTMC and DG of DNC were asked to oversee the directives.

Muhammad Abdur Rauf Miah, deputy secretary of the home ministry, issued the written directives regarding the virtual meeting on February 14.

DNC officials said they often

face difficulties while conducting operations through traditional method of using sources.

In many cases, narcotics masterminds remain untouched and manage to flee before the operations, they said. If a mobile tracking system was available then it would be easier for them to trace their location, they added.

Officials further claimed that DNC has already increased its vigilance and anti-narcotics drives to battle the trading of drugs such as yaba.

According to its database, around 3.18 crore yaba tablets were recovered in 11 months in 2020 while the figure was 346 crore in 2019.

The figure was 2.94 crore in 2016,

4.79 crore in 2017 and around 5.30 crore in 2018.

Md Bazlur Rahman, assistant director (operations) of DNC, said, "We are adopting new techniques every day so that narcotics traders do not get the chance to smuggle yaba."

Asked, Muhammed Ahsanul Jabbar, director general of DNC, told The Daily Star yesterday that the advisory committee has refused their proposal to buy mobile trackers.

"We are trying to submit a proposal again so that we can at least get the facilities to trace location of the narcotics smugglers and where they are hiding under a mobile tower while conducting operations," added the DG.

TOYOTA JEEP SALE

Toyota Land Cruiser Jeep in Good Condition, Sunroof, Model 2000, Engine capacity 4500 c.c. Registration-2021. Price: Tk 26,00,000/- Pls contact: 01782-035118

Flat for Sale

2573sqft. Old flat sale built by renowned developer in Gulshan Niketon. 4 bed, 4 bath, drawing, dining, family room, servant room with toilet, store, 3 veranda and 2 parking. Mob: 01775536690. D-45

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Vacancy Announcement

Closing date: 31 March 2021

The FAO Representation in Bangladesh is inviting applications from qualified national candidates to the following vacant positions under FAO Bangladesh Programme to be filled as soon as possible. The Incumbents will be recruited under service contract as National Project Personnel:

1. Market and Supply Chain Monitor (2100819)
2. National Community Liaison Specialist (2100820)

Interested and qualified candidates will find the post descriptions from our website <http://www.fao.org/employment/recruitment-access/en/> then click access; this gets you to Jobs at FAO. Ensure your profile has all the details as outlined in TALEO profile steps.

No hand delivered applications will be accepted, the Vacancy closes on 31 March 2021.

All recruitment to FAO posts are made on a competitive and transparent basis. Candidates are encouraged to apply directly to FAO and follow the instructions on the above-mentioned website. Please note that no intermediary is allowed to expedite or facilitate such process. All those who represent themselves as such are fraudulent and should be reported to FAO immediately.

Women candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

বারডেম জেনারেল হাসপাতাল
(বাংলাদেশ ডায়ালিসিস সমিতি একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)
ইব্রাহিম মেমোরিয়াল ডায়ালিসিস সেন্টার, ১২২, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এডিনিউ, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি।
বারডেম জেনারেল হাসপাতালের সিডিল ও ইলেকট্রিক্যালের নতুন/মেরামত/সংস্কার কাজের জন্য PWD/LGED/ MES এর ABC লাইসেন্সধারী ঠিকাদারদের মধ্য থেকে এবং বিভিন্ন ধরনের সাইন বোর্ড তৈরীর জন্য অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে বর্তমান থেকে ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছর পর্যন্ত ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি করা হবে। অগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানদের বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য নিম্নোক্ত ওয়েব সাইটে ভিজিট করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে :
www.birdembd.org & www.dab-bd.org
ফুণ্ড-পরিচালক, হাসপাতাল, বারডেম

Bangladesh Folk Art and Crafts Foundation
Ministry of Cultural Affairs
Sonargaon, Narayanganj
www.sonargaonmuseum.gov.bd
Ref: 43.28.0000.112.18.179.21.337 Date: 11 March 2021
Open Design Competition: Landmark Monument for BALOKAFA (Re-Advertisement)
Bangladesh Folk Art and Crafts Foundation-BALOKAFA (Sonargaon Museum) is inviting design proposal from professional Bangladeshi Artist, Architect and student of Architecture or Fine Arts for a proposed monument which will be constructed at **Tipardi** point of Dhaka-Chittagong Highway. The first, second and third prize of the competition will be Tk. 1,50,000, Tk. 75,000 and Tk. 50,000 respectively. Last date of submission 04th April 2021. Detail information about the competition will be available at www.sonargaonmuseum.gov.bd. For further queries please contact: Mr. Azad Sarker, Display Office, BALOKAFA, Mobile: 01819112563. Those who have applied already, need not apply again.
Dr. Ahmed Ullah
Director
GD-512

PUBALI BANK LIMITED
REGISTERED OFFICE
26 Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh

TIME SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE OF CASTING VOTE FOR ELECTION OF DIRECTORS (PHYSICALLY OR VIRTUALLY) UNDER AGENDA NO. 5 OF THE 37TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The information is hereby given to all concerned in continuation of the Notice dated 24 February 2021 for the 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Pubali Bank Limited scheduled to be held on Thursday 18 March 2021 at 10.30 AM virtually by using digital platform and also physically at Pubali Bank Auditorium, Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka to transact remaining agenda no. 5 for election/re-election of Directors as per judgment and order dated 27.08.2020 passed by the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in VC Company Matter No. 33 of 2020. The Notice has already been published on 25 February 2021 in "The Daily Star", "The Dhaka Tribune" "The Daily Prothom Alo" and "The Daily Samakal"

VENUE AND TIME SCHEDULE:

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | Venue of the 37 th AGM | : Pubali Bank Auditorium, 13 th floor, Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka |
| 2 | Time of the 37 th AGM | : Thursday 18 March 2021 at 10.30 AM |
| 3 | Web link for joining the 37 th AGM through virtual platform and e-voting | : www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2020 |
| 4 | Venue for Physical voting | : Registered Office of Pubali Bank Limited, Credit Conference Room, 5 th Floor, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka of the Bank |
| 5 | Time for physical registration | : Thursday 18 March 2021 from 8.00 AM to closure of the Meeting |
| 6 | Time for physical voting | : Thursday 18 March 2021 from 10.30 AM to closure of the Meeting |
| 7 | Time for online registration and e-voting | : Tuesday 16 March 2021 from 2.00 PM to closure of the Meeting on Thursday 18 March 2021 |

PROCEDURE OF REGISTRATION AND CASTING VOTE

1. An entitled member who wants to attend the meeting and cast his/her vote physically has to submit his/her duly filled and signed registration form to the registration counter at Registered Office of Pubali Bank Limited, Credit Conference Room, 5th Floor, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka of the Bank. Then he/she will be able to attend in the meeting physically and exercise his/her voting right through ballot paper.
2. An entitled member who wants to attend the meeting virtually by using digital platform and cast his/her vote through online has to go to the link: www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2020 for login to the system. After putting his./her 16 digit BO ID/folio ID, a OTP (One Time Password) will be sent to his/her registered mobile number (as per CDBL Data) and email address. By using the OTP, he/she will be able to attend and cast his/her vote through online/Physically.
3. A valid proxy holder may attend the meeting virtually through link: www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2020 by using digital platform or physically in the AGM venue (Pubali Bank Auditorium, 13th floor, Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka) and may cast his/her vote through online (link: www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2020) or paper ballot (at Registered Office of Pubali Bank Limited, Credit Conference Room, 5th Floor, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka of the Bank).
4. All the online related activities are available in the link: www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2020

All the honorable members/shareholders of Pubali Bank Ltd. are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting physically or virtually in time.

By order of the Board of Directors
sd/-
Zahid Ahsan
General Manager &
Company Secretary

Dated: 11 March 2021