

PARLIAMENT PANORAMA

Are govt, transport leaders in cahoots, asks GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party chief and Deputy Leader of the Opposition GM Quader yesterday in the parliament raised questions over whether the government has “a friendly understanding or informal alliance” with transport sector leaders.

“The reports on charging extra fares, harassing passengers and various irregularities in transport sector have been regularly revealed in the media. Who is actually controlling the transport sector -- the government or the transport owners and workers?” he questioned. “Who are working to protect the interests of people in this important sector?”

Law on EC formation soon, says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law minister Anisul Huq yesterday told the parliament that a bill will be placed in the next or later session to enact a law on formation of the Election Commission.

The minister said this while participating in the discussion on Bangladesh Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) Bill, 2021.

However, Anisul Huq told the House that the next Election Commission will not be formed under this law.

Earlier, BNP MPs Harunur Rashid and Rumeen Farhana, Jatiya Party's Mujibul Haque Chunnun and several other MPs strongly criticised the government for not enacting a law in this regard.

Fix state protocol for MPs, demands Chunnun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party secretary general and MP Mujibul Haque Chunnun yesterday in parliament demanded that the government determines the state protocol for the MPs.

He said while going outside, the UNOs have three to four armed Ansar members with them. “On the other hand, MPs move around without any security...,” added Chunnun. The JP MP said even the DC and secretary have bodyguards, but not MPs.

Territorial waters bill passed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

“The Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2021” was passed at Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen placed it, which was passed by voice vote.

According to the proposed law, maximum three years' imprisonment or a fine between Tk 2 crore and Tk 5 crore will be imposed for maritime pollution.

The punishment was one-year imprisonment and Tk 5,000 fine earlier.

Thirty-five new sections have been incorporated in the proposed law, including the provision of criminal and civil jurisdictions on entry of foreign vessels into Bangladesh maritime boundary.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Sushil makes these wicker baskets along with his family at Jashore. He then brings them to Dhaka, ferries them around in his shoulder, and sells them to customers with a knack for household aesthetics. This photo was taken yesterday from the capital's Shahbagh area.

WAY TOO MUCH CLOUT

Bangladesh highest among 6 South Asian nations for tobacco companies' interference in govt activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh scored 72 out of 100 in the Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2021 -- a four-point downgrade from the previous year's performance in measuring the tobacco industry's influence.

According to the index, the higher a country scores, the worse off it is in controlling industry interference. Bangladesh's score is the highest among six South Asian nations included in this year's index.

As part of the global index, the “Bangladesh Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2021” was published at a programme jointly organised by anti-tobacco platforms Knowledge for Progress (Progga) and Anti-Tobacco Media Alliance at the capital's Cirdap yesterday.

Progga has been releasing the report on Bangladesh since 2018.

The global report evaluates governments' positions and steps taken against tobacco industry interference, in line with the Article 5.3 guidelines of the World Health Organisation's Framework

GLOBAL TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE INDEX 2021

*Higher score denotes worse performance

GLOBAL TOP 5	
Country	Score out of 100
Brunei	15
New Zealand	30
UK	32
France	33
Uganda	34

SOUTH ASIA	
COUNTRY	SCORE OUT OF 100
Nepal	44
Sri Lanka	45
Pakistan	48
Maldives	48
India	57
Bangladesh	72

Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

This year, the global study was conducted across 80 countries. Bangladesh ranked 62nd.

The study found that Bangladesh

has experienced an increase in tobacco industry interference during the study period from January 2020 to March 2021.

Besides, there has been no progress in the implementation of

the FCTC Article 5.3 guidelines.

The period also witnessed a recurrence of the local tobacco industry's attempt to interfere and exert influence in policymaking, the report mentioned.

The report also observed that amid the pandemic, the industry ministry abated two transnational tobacco companies from the obligations of nationwide lockdown and continue production through a government order.

Meanwhile, a local tobacco company was allowed by Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority to establish a cigarette and tobacco processing plant in Ishwardi Export Processing Zone, where the company would enjoy “tax exemption and other lucrative facilities”.

Addressing the event as chief guest, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry, said tobacco is killing more people than Covid-19 in Bangladesh.

However, the government is yet

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

COURT CORNER

Verdict in Abrar murder case rescheduled for Dec 8

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday rescheduled -- for December 8 -- the delivery of verdict in the case filed over murder of Buett student Abrar Fahad.

Judge Abu Zafar Md Kamruzzaman of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka set the fresh date, saying that he needs to scrutinise some arguments from the prosecution and the defence.

The 22 accused were taken to the courtroom as the tribunal was scheduled to deliver the verdict. Relatives of both victim and accused were present at the court.



HC astonished over SI's promotion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday expressed astonishment at the government for promoting Nayan Kumar, former sub-inspector of police, to the post of inspector, given that he had forcibly taken a confessional statement from a minor in Bogura in 2015.

A twelve-year old child was tortured for confession over his eight-year old brother's killing. It is inhumane,” the HC said.

The bench of Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Md Atoar Rahman made the observation.

Why no independent commission: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in three weeks why it should not be directed to constitute a commission titled “independent police complaint investigation commission” to probe allegations against law enforcers for committing crimes. Secretaries concerned of ministries of home and law and IGP have been made respondents to the rule.

Why Bangabandhu's image not in non-judicial stamps: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to take immediate steps to insert the image of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in all kinds of non-judicial stamps, used in writing deeds and signing treaties outside court proceedings.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil came up with the rule following a petition.

Petitioner's counsel Ataulah Nurul Kabir Nayan said there is an obligation for the authorities to display Bangabandhu's image in all governmental, semi-governmental and autonomous bodies under article 4(A) of the constitution.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Jatiyatabadi Swecchasebak Dal demonstrated in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding Khaleda Zia's better treatment abroad.

‘A chronicle of corruption’

10 former councillors unveil Dinajpur municipality mayor's abuse of power

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Dinajpur Municipality earned Tk 151.68 crore since Md Syed Zahangir Alam became the mayor on February 15, 2011.

A good portion of the fund could have been spent for the area's development after disbursing the payments of officials and staffers. The townspeople could have availed better services from the municipality, bringing a positive change in their living standard.

However, the services remained subpar due to corruption and misuse of power by its mayor, alleged 10 former councillors at a press conference at Dinajpur Press Club yesterday. Md Ziaur Rahman Nawshad, a former councillor, read out the keynote paper.

The former councillors claimed that the residents have been suffering from various problems, including horrible road conditions, waste management and lack of maintenance of the drainage system.

Zahangir, a leader of Dinajpur district BNP, who was elected the mayor for the third time in a row, could not bring the entire municipality under an integrated drainage system, they alleged.

The earning of Dinajpur municipality saw a drastic fall because of the corruption,

they further alleged. For example, the toll collection revenue from leased markets dropped due to corruption, causing the municipality a loss worth Tk 1 crore.

To implement various projects, the municipality also got a Tk 3.15 crore allocation from Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 2017. But mayor Zahangir did not float any tender for the implementation, while allegedly spending Tk 15 lakh of the fund for his own benefit.

The mayor allegedly appointed 162 additional staffers, while having more than 100 staffers under contract. In another instance, Dinajpur municipality earned Tk 1.60 crore by issuing licence of battery-run three-wheelers. But this fund was also misused, claimed the former councillors.

The mayor also authorised the purchase of electric bulbs worth Tk 10 lakh without a valid procedure, while power bills are amounting to Tk 17 crore is yet to be paid to the Power Development Board, alleged Shawkat Habib Sumon, another former councillor. All the councillors have demanded that the local government investigate their corruption charges.

Contacted, Mayor Zahangir denied all the allegations and said groups with vested interest are out to tarnish his image.

Career Opportunity

CAPTAIN BOEING-787

Ref no.: 30.34.0000.073.28.000.21/76

Date: 28-11-2021

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited is looking for Type Rated Captain currently flying Boeing-787 aircraft. The appointment will be on contractual basis for 05 (five) years (renewable as required).

1.

To apply for this opportunity candidate must meet the following requirements:

- i) Citizen of Bangladesh.
- ii) A CAAB/ICAO valid ATPL with valid class one medical certificate.
- iii) Minimum flying experience – 5000 Hrs
- iv) Minimum PIC experience - 2500 Hrs
- v) Minimum PIC on Type/Boeing 787 – 700 Hrs with current IR and Pilot's Proficiency check.
- vi) Recent experience – at least three takes-off and landings within the preceding 90 days on the type of aircraft applied for, or in a flight simulator approved for the purpose.
- vii) Fluency in written and spoken English, equivalent to ICAO English level 4 or above.
- viii) Number of posts: 08 (Eight).
- ix) No incident/accident reports in which held responsible within last five years.
- x) No affidavit will be acceptable in case of date of birth.
- xi) Candidates if selected from other airlines must provide NOC before joining.
- xii) Selected candidates will have to undergo training as required.
- xiii) Selected candidates shall have to sign an agreement and a surety bond separately on non-judiciary stamp of taka 1000/- each.
- xiv) Salary and all other benefit: Negotiable.
- xv) All taxes will be borne by themselves.
- xvi) Biman authority reserves all the rights to cancel or modify the advertisement partially or fully without showing any reason.

2.

The following information and documents have to be enclosed along with the application:

- i) Resume/CV (mentioning applied post) ii) 05 copies of recent passport size color photographs iii) Copy of Valid CAAB/ICAO ATPL iv) Copy of NID v) Copy of valid class one medical certificates vi) Other relevant documents/certificates/licenses vii) Last 02 (two) copies of log book page.

Interested candidates are requested to apply mentioning the post to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of the advertisement.

Manager Recruitment & Staffing
Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited
BALAKA Bhaban (2nd floor)
HSIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229.
Email: mgremp@bdbiman.com

Biman

BANGLADESH AIRLINES

Your home in the sky