

EC talks with broadcast journos today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is going to hold the fourth round of dialogue with senior journalists working with electronic media and online news outlets today.

The commission has invited 38 journalists, said its joint secretary SM Asaduzzaman said.

The commission is holding the talks with representatives from different sections of society to seek advice on how the polls, including the 12th Jatiya Sangsad election, can be held in a free and fair manner.

According to EC officials, the dialogue is aimed at preparing the commission's roadmap for the next general election, due late next year.

The EC plans to sit with civil society members, election experts, media personalities and politicians, among others.

The EC started holding talks on March 13, when they sat with academics. It sat with eminent citizens on March 22 and with senior journalists of newspapers on April 6.



The dialogue is aimed at preparing the commission's roadmap for the next general election, due late next year.



A bus haphazardly stops in the middle of the road to pick up passengers, causing gridlock behind it. This is quite a common scene in the capital and cause for vehicle clogging on the roads. Bus drivers continue to pick up passengers in an extremely risky manner, stopping at almost any empty space they can find. This photo was taken on Mohammadpur Ring Road, in front of Japan Garden City yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ashish Rai denied bail in Sohel Chy murder case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday rejected the bail petition of Ashish Roy Chowdhury, the prime accused in a case filed over the murder of popular film actor Sohel Chowdhury in December, 1998. Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-2 of Dhaka passed the order after his lawyer Kazi Nazibullah moved a petition, seeking bail in the case.

Earlier in the day, Ashish was shown arrested in the case after he was produced before the court. Meanwhile, the tribunal directed Md Farid Uddin, a former inspector of Chawkbaraz Police Station who received the case docket (CD), to produce it before the court within seven days.

The tribunal dismissed his petition submitted for relieving him from the charges of producing a CD before the court.

In the petition, Farid told the tribunal that he had received the CD from Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor's Office on June 2, 2005 and handed it over to the then Deputy Commissioner of DB Md Shahidul Islam the same day. But he knew nothing about it. So, he appealed to the tribunal for relieving him of the charges. Detectives yesterday also produced the evidence, seized by the investigation officer during the investigation in connection with the case, before the tribunal.

On April 5, Rab arrested Ashish from his Gulshan residence and seized 17 bottles of foreign liquor from there.

On December 18, 1998, actor Sohel was shot dead by some miscreants at Trumps Club in Abedin Tower at the city's Banani Road-17.



Use 'eliminate' instead of 'anti'

Speakers tell webinar on proposed anti-discrimination law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Any discriminatory behaviour should be recognised as a "punishable offence" in the proposed anti-discrimination law to eliminate the malpractice in the country, said speakers at a webinar yesterday.

They also said proposed law does not incorporate provisions to redress discriminatory acts through the criminal justice system, which will be a bar to achieving the key objective.

The webinar on the proposed anti-discrimination law was hosted by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

Speakers stressed the reframing of the draft law, saying its title should incorporate the word "elimination" instead of "anti".

Addressing the webinar as chief guest, Shahiduzzaman Sarker, chairperson of the parliamentary committee on law ministry, urged the organisers to submit a set of recommendations generated during the event before the committee. He said he will discuss the recommendations in details with the law minister and other members of the committee.

Moderating the event, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said there will be no benefit by formulating a law if it is not possible to bring change in people's mindset and psyche.

"What's essential in this regard is to ensure respect for each other and establish social harmony," she said.

Shaheen Anam said the trust that ensuring justice for marginalised people through law is possible has to be restored. "Our goal is to see how far the law can go in empowering people."

She said there is a reason to be concerned as to how much the law will protect the rights of the poor and the marginalised if the affected person cannot seek remedy in the court directly.

Otherwise, it is a big obstacle to getting the benefit of the law, she added.

Eminent economist and convener of Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, Debapriya Bhattacharya said the list of types of

discrimination should be broadened and made "generic" in the draft law.

"Many would say law takes its own course. However, a law becomes effective only if there is visible political will in place, skilled administration and judiciary play their due role, and a proactive civil society plays its watchdog role diligently," he said.

The draft law seemed "unprofessional", said Barrister Shameem Haider Patwary, a member of the parliamentary committee on the law ministry.



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DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA

"The monitoring committee does not incorporate representatives from people belonging to all tiers of the society. There is a structural fault in the proposed law which will create sufferings for marginalised people to get remedy," he said.

Chief executive of Nagorik Uddyog Zakir Hossain stressed that the definition under the law should be made "clear".

Welcoming the proposed law, Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Sara Hossain said, there should be scope for addressing "intersectional" discrimination in the proposed law.

Indigenous community leader Sanjeeb Drong stressed the need to form a strong monitoring committee.

Bus helper killed the supervisor over wage Says CID after arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police arrested a helper of a bus on charge of killing the supervisor as he didn't get the wage of his first day at the job.

The arrestee is -- Yusuf Bhuiyan (25), a newly appointed helper of Econo bus service. He was arrested from Madhabadi of Narsingdi on Saturday, CID special superintendent Mukta Dhar told a press briefing in Dhaka yesterday.

On April 9, police recovered the body of the supervisor -- Riyad Hossain alias Liton (37), from a bus at Jhumur intersection in Laxmipur.

Riyad's wife filed a case with Laxmipur Sadar Police Station over the incident.

At the press conference, the CID official said Yusuf was unemployed. As Shipon, the previous helper of the bus, was supposed to go on a leave, a neighbour of Yusuf got him the job after talking to driver Nahid Hossain.

On April 8, Yusuf went to Laxmipur from Dhaka on the bus along with other staffers. On April 9, Nahid, Shipon and Riyad got their wages. Nahid and Shipon then went home. Yusuf wanted a daily

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JMB leader held after 10 years Police say he was a death row convict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti Terrorism Unit of Police claimed to have arrested a member of the banned militant group Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), who was sentenced to death, from Naogaon's Patnitala upazila.

Sanwar Hossain alias Abdur Rouf (44), has been a fugitive -- using the alias Abdullah -- for 10 years in a case filed with Nachol Police Station in Chapainawabganj.

He was arrested on Saturday.

Aslam Khan, superintendent (media and awareness) of ATU, said the arrestee used to work as a mason and rear sheep in Choto Chandpur under Patnitala upazila using a fake name to dodge law enforcers.

The ATU official said Sanwar, a local homeopathic doctor in Nachol, joined JMB after 2000 under the leadership of Shaykh Abdur Rahman.

He became the chief of JMB's Nachol and Gomastapur upazila unit.

On March 29, 2007, after the execution of Shaykh Abdur Rahman in Cumilla Central Jail, Maulana Saidur Rahman became the Ameer of JMB when the militant outfit continued their activities but was embroiled in inner-conflict, said officials.

Sanwar along with others on April 26 in 2012 called self-proclaimed Ameer of JMB, Salman, to a mango orchard and killed him.

Police recovered Salman's head, from the bank of the Mahananda river, based on the confession of two militants arrested then, ATU officials added.

A Chapainawabganj court on November 25 in 2019 sentenced him and two others to death for killing Salman.

Besides, he was accused and wanted in several other cases filed under Anti-terrorism Act, said police.

A Chapainawabganj court on November 25 in 2019 sentenced him and two others to death.



Poet Asad Chowdhury, Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, and The Daily Star's Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, along with the last four years' winners of Abul Mansur Ahmad Book Review Competition yesterday. The prize giving ceremony of this year's competition was held at The Daily Star Centre. Five readers were selected out of more than a hundred competitors for best reviews on two books -- "Atmakatha" and "Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bochor" -- by Abul Mansur Ahmad. PHOTO: STAR

His works should be studied more

Say speakers on Abul Mansur Ahmad at prize-giving event of book review competition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Mansur Ahmad upheld the sorrows and the inherent crises of the common people through his literary works to emancipate them from feudalism and imperialism, Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said yesterday.

"Despite being one of the many, a litterateur is an extraordinary one. They furnish their thoughts and experiences through writings and take them to readers. And Abul Mansur Ahmad has done this exact job," said Serajul Islam Choudhury while speaking at the prize-giving ceremony of the Abul Mansur Ahmad Book Review Competition at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Organised by Abul Mansur Ahmad Smiriti Parishad, writers, litterateurs, and readers from different institutions spoke at the event.

Serajul, also president of the Parishad, said both Abul Mansur Ahmad and Kazi Nazrul Islam were against communalism and believed in reforming the society.

JU gets new VC

JU CORRESPONDENT

Professor Md Nurul Alam was appointed the new vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Education,

President

Abdul

Hamid

-- also

chancellor

of the

university

-- appointed

him as the new

VC. Prof Nurul Alam, a

teacher of the Department

of Physics, has been

appointed temporarily, the

notification cited.

He was the pro

vice-chancellor of the

university.

According to the

notification, he will enjoy

all the benefits related to

the position.

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PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 18

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:16 12:45 4:45 6:25 7:45

JAMAAT 4:26 1:15 5:00 6:35 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN | APRIL | SEHRI | IFTAR

16 | 18 | 6:25

17 | 19 | 4:10 | 6:25

18 | 20 | 4:09 | 6:26