

'Baseless and unwarranted'

Police association on Japanese envoy's remarks about cops' role during polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Police Service Association (BPSA) condemned Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki's comments about police allegedly stuffing ballot boxes during polls and requested that he withdraw the statement.

In a statement issued yesterday, BPSA said the allegation raised by the ambassador is baseless and unwarranted.

"Every member of Bangladesh Police is deeply embarrassed and shocked by his [ambassador] comments. Bangladesh Police Service Association strongly condemns his statement," it read.

The statement was signed by BPSA president and chief of police's special branch Monirul Islam and BPSA general secretary and Dhaka SP Md Asaduzzaman.

"I heard that there were incidents of ballot stuffing in the last election. Police officers were reported to have stuffed ballot boxes the night before election day," said Ambassador Naoki on Monday.

"I have never heard of such a thing in any other country. Such incidents should never be repeated," he remarked while speaking at an event titled "Meet the Ambassador" at a Dhaka hotel.

In yesterday's statement, BPSA said, "Bangladesh Police assists in conducting fair elections as per the instructions of the Election Commission with utmost professionalism. Such a statement by the honourable Japanese ambassador about a professional force like Bangladesh Police is unwelcome and unexpected."



With the football world cup just a few days away, a child sitting in traffic with his parents examines his favourite team's flag before buying one. Just like him, many people buy flags, big and small, to show their support. This photo was taken on Satmasjid Road yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'Research, database crucial for cancer treatment'

Speakers say at Bangladesh Cancer Congress

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The treatment arrangement for cancer patients could not be arranged in a planned way due to the absence of comprehensive research and a database on this fatal disease in the country, speakers at an event said yesterday.

While there is a need for making state-of-the-art treatment for all cancer patients affordable, maintaining a balanced lifestyle should be at the core of cancer prevention, they said at the first day of Bangladesh Cancer Congress, organised by Oncology Club of Bangladesh at Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka.

"However, no accurate statistics regarding the number of cancer patients and cancer-related fatalities in our country are available anywhere. As a result, the medical system cannot develop properly," said Dr Mustafa Aziz Sumon, associate professor of the radio oncology department at Kurmitola General Hospital.

Stating that the majority of cancer patients cannot afford treatment, he said, "Shortage of radiotherapy machines in the country is the biggest problem, which cannot be solved without government intervention."

Speakers at the congress also said around 2.5 lakh people in the country have been diagnosed with cancer.

Speaking at the session, Prof MA Hai, president of Oncology Club of Bangladesh, said the majority of cancer patients do not have access to treatment. "Our main problem is non diagnosis, and Covid-19 has thrown everything into a more critical state."

Terming the government's initiative to establish cancer hospitals in all divisional cities "a very good initiative", he said, "But the implementation is time-consuming. Although some infrastructure has been developed in the last few years, the medical system is still lagging."

He said there are only 24 radiotherapy machines in the country, which needs at least 80 more. "The government cannot arrange all of these alone. There should be a collaboration with the private health sector to reduce the

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Recognise, fulfil needs of older persons

Says UN independent expert

ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS
- Climate change, financial crises - Elders feel like burden to their family, face ageist environment - Safety-net programmes barely cover medical costs - Geriatric healthcare insufficient	- Recognise older persons' experiences, skills, contributions - Increase funding for Old Age Allowance - Mitigate impact of climate change on older persons - Improve healthcare, other infrastructure

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh must take concrete action to combat ingrained and pervasive ageism and follow through on its planned measures to ensure that the rights of older persons are protected, said Claudia Mahler, UN independent expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, yesterday.

She said the National Policy on Older Persons is a commendable step, but lack of a timely action plan to comprehensively implement the policy remains an issue.

"More than nine years after its adoption, most of the priorities remain unattended," Mahler said while concluding an 11-day visit to Bangladesh. She visited Dhaka, Chattogram and Rangpur to assess the situation of the group's human rights.

She met with relevant government authorities at national and local levels,

civil-society members, stakeholders working for the rights of the elderly, and more than 200 older persons.

Her visit, at the invitation of Bangladesh government, comes at a time when the ageing population in the country is growing fast.

As of 2019, more than 13 million people living in Bangladesh were aged over 60, representing 8 percent of the country's total population.

She said climate change and growing economic and financial crises are important factors affecting the group's human rights.

She called on the government to recognise elderly people's experiences, skills and contributions to their families and society at large.

"Such recognition would enhance support and protection for a growing proportion of the population that remains invisible," Mahler said.

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Masih-Ul-Karim passes away

STAR REPORT

Masih Ul-Karim, former managing director of Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited, breathed his last yesterday, at the age of 82.

He left behind his wife, son, daughter, grandchildren, and numerous well-wishers.

He joined the company in 1992 as its MD and served till 2008. He also served as the president of Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) from 2005 to 2007.

Born in 1940, Masih-Ul-Karim completed his master's in political science from Dhaka University and another master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.

PRAYER TIMING					
NOVEMBER 18					
Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 5:05	12:30	3:45	5:21	7:00	
JAMAAT 5:40	1:15	4:00	5:24	7:30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

Another doctor indoctrinated

CTTC claims he is involved with Ansar Al Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A doctor of Bhanga Upazila Health Complex of Faridpur -- who reportedly went missing on November 8 -- has been arrested by Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit in Dhaka.

CTTC claimed to have arrested Md Zakir Hossain (28) -- a medical officer who has been working at the health complex for three years -- from the capital's Jatrabari on Wednesday.

He met a suspect named Abu Samir online and joined Ansar Al Islam through him, according to investigators.

Around 12:30am on November 9, a text was sent to Zakir's wife from Zakir's phone, saying that there was no electricity and his phone might switch off any time.

According to sources at the health complex, Zakir left for home around 2:00pm on November 8, after finishing his duties at the outdoor department.

Another message was sent from his phone to Mohsin Uddin Fakir, Bhanga upazila health and family welfare officer, saying that Zakir's mother-in-law was ill, for which he had to go to Dhaka urgently. He also promised to return the next day (November 10).

Later, Zakir's wife informed Mohsin Uddin that her mother was alright but Zakir did not return home, which prompted his family to file a general diary with Bhanga Police Station.

Yesterday, he was produced before a Dhaka court, and law enforcers sought a seven-day remand. After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Shafi Uddin granted a two-day remand for Zakir for interrogation.

Ahamedul Islam, CTTC's additional deputy commissioner, yesterday said Zakir is an active member of the militant outfit.

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Vehicles that were involved in road accidents or impounded are kept under the open sky at Shahbagh police station's vehicle-dumping ground near Suhrawardy Udyan. Small pickups, private cars, minibuses and auto-rickshaws are stacked on top of larger vehicles to save space. There are claims that parts get stolen from these vehicles due to lack of security measures. This photo was taken recently. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

In Glorious Memory of two Legendary Business Leaders and former Presidents of FICCI



Mr. Mahbub Jamil
President of FICCI (1993-1997 & 2003- 2005)
Former Chairman, MD & CEO of Singer Bangladesh Ltd.



Mr. Masih Ul Karim
President of FICCI (2005-2007)
Former MD of Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd.

Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce & Industry -- (FICCI) is deeply saddened by losing of its two former Presidents and respected Guardians Mr. Mahbub Jamil and Mr. Masih Ul Karim. They are the two notable successful business personalities who grabbed new challenges and opportunities by their wisdom which directed FICCI towards the excellence. On behalf of FICCI Family, we express our wholehearted gratitude for their tremendous contribution and leadership for the development of country's business.

In this hour of irreparable loss, we humbly pray for the eternal salvation of their departed souls and express sympathy to the bereaved family.

