



BOARDS OF STATE LENDERS Finally, criteria set for directorship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The secretaries of ministries have been barred from serving as chairpersons and directors of the 16 state banks and financial institutions in the latest guideline from the finance ministry as the government looks to enhance corporate governance in the organisations.

Besides, government officials equivalent to the rank of a secretary are also disqualified from the posts, according to the notice on December 22.

The financial institution division of the finance ministry will form a selection committee led by its secretary for the boards of state lenders.

The roles can be assumed by people with knowledge of economics, banking, financial market, monetary policy and financial management, business studies and administration, agriculture, industry, law and information technology.

The board must have at least one chartered accountant, a retired district judge or attorney general and a banker.

While one-third of the boards should be populated with females, the persons must have sufficient experience.

All nominated directors must have at least 10 years of experience in the field of administrative or management-related work.

People involved in illegal activities, including criminal offences and financial corruption, will be disqualified for the posts. No defaulter will be allowed on the board of state lenders.

Once appointed, a director can serve for three terms or nine years in a row.

The guideline is a good initiative as there were no criteria before on who could be appointed as directors to state banks, said Salehuddin Ahmed, a former governor of the Bangladesh Bank.

He suggested the finance ministry take prior suggestions from the central bank before appointing directors such that people with a clean image can be recruited.

"The policy seems good but is inadequate," said Debapriya Bhattacharya, a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

The regulations do not mention anything about the screening

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8 more lives lost on roads At least 10 hurt

STAR REPORT

At least eight people died and 10 others were injured in road crashes that took place in four districts between Friday night and yesterday.

In Kurigram, three people were killed and four others were injured in two separate accidents.

In the town's Trimohini area around 9:30pm on Friday, a bus hit a three-wheeler and a pedestrian, leaving Abdul Mannan, 44, and Biplob Mia, 36, dead and four others injured.

In Phulbari upazila of the same district, a sand-laden tractor lost control and plunged into a roadside ditch in Gabartal area, killing the driver's assistant Shariful Islam, 18, last afternoon.

Kurigram Superintendent of Police Al Asad Md Mahfuzul Islam confirmed the matter to The Daily Star.

In Dhaka's Savar, a man died and another person was injured after a vehicle hit a motorbike in Noyarhar area on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway around 1:00am yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Asadul, and the injured as Ibrahim, said Savar Highway Police Station OC Azizul Haque.

Meanwhile, the death toll from Friday night's collision between a human haulier and a minibus in the upazila rose to four, after its driver succumbed to his injuries yesterday.

Raju Ahmed, 24, died undergoing treatment at Savar Enam Medical College Hospital, said Savar Model Police

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US House approves \$45b aid to Ukraine

Washington asks Putin to keep 'acknowledging reality' after 'war' reference; shelling kills 7 in Kherson

AGENCIES

The US House of Representatives gave final approval to a \$45 billion aid package for Ukraine on Friday, as President Volodymyr Zelenskiy warned his citizens that Russia could launch attacks over Christmas and urged them to heed air raid alarms.

The aid measure passed by the Democratic-controlled house, part of a \$1.66 trillion government funding bill that won Senate approval a day earlier, will now go to US President Joe Biden for signing into law.

In a tweet thanking Congress and leaders of both parties, Zelenskiy said it was "crucial" that Americans are "side-by-side" with Ukrainians "in this struggle".

The new military and economic assistance would come atop some \$50 billion aid to Ukraine this year as well Western sanctions on Russia

that now include a cap on Russian oil prices.

Russia responded to the cap on Friday by threatening to cut oil output by 5 to 7 percent early next year through halting sales



to countries that support the measure.

Zelenskiy returned from Washington -- his first trip outside of Ukraine since Russia invaded on February 24 -- with the pledge by the US of a Patriot surface-to-air missile battery to bolster his hard-

pressed air defenses.

Yesterday, a Russian strike on Ukraine's recently recaptured city of Kherson killed at least seven people, wounded another 58 and left bloodied corpses on the road, authorities said, in what Kyiv condemned as wanton killing for pleasure.

Zelenskiy published photos showing streets strewn with burning cars, smashed windows and bodies.

"Social networks will most likely mark these photos as 'sensitive content'. But this is not sensitive content -- it is the real life of Ukraine and Ukrainians," he wrote.

"These are not military facilities ... It is terror, it is killing for the sake of intimidation and pleasure."

Yuriy Sobolevskiy, deputy chair of the regional council, said a missile landed next to a supermarket by the city's Freedom Square.

Movie fans can sue studio over misleading trailer Rules US judge

AFP, Los Angeles



Movie fans disappointed that their favourite actor was cut from a film after appearing in the trailer can sue the studio for false advertising, a US judge has ruled.

Two film buffs say Universal Pictures tricked them into renting 2019 flick "Yesterday" because the trailer featured actress Ana de Armas.

Peter Michael Rosza, 45, of San Diego, and Conor Woulfe, 39, of Maryland, say they forked over \$3.99 each to watch the Richard Curtis comedy on Amazon Prime, only to discover that de Armas had not made the final cut.

A class action suit filed earlier this year alleges fans had been led to expect the Cuban "No Time To Die" star would feature prominently.

However, they "did not receive a movie with any appearance of Ana de Armas at all," says the suit, reported by US media on Friday.

Accordingly, "such consumers were not provided with any value for their rental or purchase," the suit added.

Universal had asked US District Judge Stephen Wilson to throw out the complaint, arguing that

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85 Jamaat-Shibir men arrested in 7 districts

STAR REPORT

Police arrested at least 85 activists from Jamaat-Shibir processions in different districts yesterday.

In Joypurhat town, a Detective Branch team arrested 12 people in Bamanpur Charnatha area in the morning after what officers said was an attempt to create chaos through explosion of crude bombs by the marching activists.

Police fired bullets into the air to disperse them, said DB Inspector Shahed Al Mamun.

Alam Dewan, nayeb-e-ameer of Joypurhat Jamaat-e-Islam, is among the arrestees, police said, adding that a case was filed against them.

In Noakhali town, police fired teargas shells at a Jamaat-Shibir procession around 9:00am and arrested 10 activists from there.

Officers arrested nine others raiding different

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Mehedi Hasan Miraz (R) jumps in the air to do high-five with Liton Das after dismissing Virat Kohli during the third day of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. A three-wicket burst from the all-rounder saw India four down for 45 at stumps on Day 3 in their second innings, with 100 runs yet to get for them to win the match and series.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

UNSC trying to 'destabilise' Myanmar: junta

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's junta has slammed a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an end to violence and release of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, accusing the body of attempting to "destabilise" the country.

The Security Council adopted its first ever resolution on the situation in the turmoil-ridden Southeast Asian nation on Wednesday, after junta allies China and Russia abstained rather than veto the document.

The 15-member Council has been split on Myanmar for decades and was previously only able to agree on formal statements about the country.

The resolution contained "several intrusive elements on Myanmar's internal affairs that contravene the principles and purposes of the United Nations," the junta's foreign affairs ministry said in a statement on Friday.

"Exerting pressure to destabilise Myanmar rather than supporting the government's efforts does not help the country and Myanmar will not accept such acts."

The text was adopted with 12 votes in favour. Permanent members China and Russia abstained, opting not to wield vetoes following amendments to the wording. India also abstained.

In its Friday statement the junta repeated its claim of alleged widespread voter fraud during the November 2020 election, won resoundingly by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party.

International observers said the election was largely free and fair.

Suu Kyi, 77, has been a prisoner since the army toppled her government almost two years ago.