

ATAB calls for reform in travel sector

STAR REPORT

The Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) today called for a reform in the travel sector, aimed at addressing alleged irregularities with a focus on reducing air fares and ensuring discipline.

ATAB also placed a 9-point demand aimed at addressing the challenges faced by the industry.

"There must be a guideline for group air ticketing to check hoarding and syndication in air ticket sales," said ATAB President Abdus Salam Aref at a press briefing.

The ATAB president raised concerns about the rising cost of air tickets, which he said is partly due to ticket hoarding under the guise of group bookings.

Aref alleged that certain airlines, in collaboration with certain agents, are manipulating the system.

He claimed that many individuals are selling tickets without being registered with the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh. ATAB's 9-point demand includes formulation of proper regulations for online travel agencies, ending hoarding and syndication in air ticket sales, and making it mandatory for ticket information to include the agency's name, contact number, and price.



As the navigability of rivers gets reduced during the winter, the authorities have placed floaters on the Barishal-Bhola waterway of the Tetulia river to increase its navigability in preparation for the upcoming dry season. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Form commission

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financial exploitation and harassment of the board, and moving away from the culture of handing over their responsibilities to PBS and others.

REB suspended two assistant general managers at that time.

"We were in a continuous protest, holding strikes for at least 15 days without interrupting the power supply in two phases. But without any prior notice, our 24 officials were sacked. The officials have been arrested under sedition cases as they spoke out against the corruption of REB and demanded system reform along with reduction of discrimination between the urban and rural power consumers," he added.

Abdulla Al Mamun, assistant general manager of Chattogram PBS-I; Abdullah Al Hadi, deputy general manager of Narshingdi PBS-I; and Muhammad Shariful Islam Bhuiyan, junior engineer of Narshingdi 2, also attended the press conference.

CCOMMITTEE FORMED TO IDENTIFY DISPUTES Consumers Association of Bangladesh yesterday formed a five-member citizens' committee to identify the dispute between REB and other Palli Bidyut Samitis across the country.

In a press release, the rights organisation said the committee, headed by Prof M Shamsul Alam, chief of CAB's national committee for the disposal of consumers' complaints, will place their recommendation within the next 10 working days.

Other members are former Dhaka University professors Badrul Imam and MM Akash, Janangirnagar University Prof Sharmind Neelormi, and CAB law adviser Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua.

Uprising paved way for state reconstruction

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merely as a leadership domain, the opportunities that have emerged cannot be advanced.

"Thinking politically and engaging in politics are two distinct matters. Everyone should think politically," said Zillur, attributing this as a challenge for the civil society.

He also called for abolishing the use of party symbols in local government elections.

Social Welfare Adviser to the interim government Sharmeen Murshid said political parties rule the country and come to power through elections. However, historically, power has not been transferred solely through political parties.

She said political parties have created spaces for caretaker and interim

governments because they have failed to reach a common national vision and lacked partnership among themselves.

She urged political parties to restructure and present themselves anew to the youth. She said democratic institutions have not been adequately protected in the past and that parties have not established democracy within their own structures.

BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said there should be a consensus on key issues that need urgent reform. The remaining issues should be left for an elected government as delaying polls will lead to controversy and fringe elements may use that opportunity to disrupt the nation.

Joining the event virtually, Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan said the struggle for establishing a discrimination-free society and the dream of building a new state will not be smooth.

It is because "everyone has left their footprint and beneficiaries" within the system who are acting as active forces, she said.

She added many events have been taking place while at times, "events are being orchestrated".

She urged everyone to have trust in the interim government.

Former adviser to the caretaker government and Convener of CSO Alliance Rasheda K Chowdhury said since independence, civil society has contributed in various ways to fulfill their responsibilities in nation-

building. She said while there were some limitations in the past, now time has come for civil society groups to move forward.

Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam said while they have protested against violence against women, they have often found themselves without support.

Local government expert Tofail Ahmed said the interim government faces immense challenges and high expectations, and harsh criticism makes it difficult for them to function effectively.

Syed Nasim Manzur, chairman of Landmark Footwear, highlighted the need for investment and growth in the private sector to retain talent, as relying solely on government jobs

is insufficient to prevent brain drain.

BRAC Executive Director Asif Saleh said the event focused on documenting the contributions of civil society over the past 50 years since independence.

At the event, the CSO Alliance launched a research book titled "Fifty Years of Bangladesh's Independence: The Role of Civil Organisations in Socio-Economic Change."

Civil society has played a vital role in various events, including the self-determination movements, the 1952 Language Movement, the 1970 floods, the Liberation War in 1971, and subsequent reconstruction efforts, as per the research conducted by Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

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inclusive thinking we should promote," he said.

Researcher Ifadul Haque emphasised the deep connection shrines have with local culture, explaining that they function as public spaces open to all, regardless of class.

"Shrines maintain ties with local nature, often connected with rivers, animals like crocodiles, or birds like pigeons, fostering a bond between humans and the environment. However, urbanisation is threatening these spaces by increasing the cost of living and forcing people to relocate," he added.

Writer Zakaria Sureshwari raised concerns over the increasing commercialisation of shrines and warned against the trend of demolishing

them for economic gain.

Historian Altaf Parvez criticised the state for prioritising cultural reforms over more pressing infrastructural and economic reforms.

"While commissions for educational and cultural reforms abound, there is little focus on key issues like production systems, agriculture, or wage structures, which are essential for true inclusivity," he said.

The seminar concluded by urging for greater recognition of shrines' historical and cultural roles and emphasised the need for a more inclusive approach to preserving these sites.

Other speakers included poet and activist Tuhin Khan, writer Parsa Sanjana, and Sheikh Fahim Faisal.

Shrines' significance

Writers' group

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where the attackers can be heard saying, "Get them! Catch the Awami League members; all of them are running away!"

After being beaten up, Soumitra Dev, a poet, said, "I came here today to

protest the cancellation of the historic March 7 as a national day. I came here to exercise my freedom of expression, but instead, they beat me." At that moment, a few plainclothes men were seen attempting to calm the situation.

Contractual

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Sajib Rana, a sub-assistant engineer of LGED, told The Daily Star.

"All of a sudden, one day our employer may tell us that our job is no longer required. It cannot go on like this. We want security of our job," he added.

"The salaries of employees in all other government and non-government sectors increase regularly, but not a single taka has been added to the wages of contractual employees even after serving five to 10 years. We cannot support our families like this," said a ward boy at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogura, who arrived in Dhaka to join the protest.

"We do not receive festival bonuses either. The government must nationalise our jobs to ensure fair treatment," he said, preferring anonymity.

According to protesters, around eight lakh contractual employees work at different government offices across the country.

Declare Easter Sunday

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Easter Sunday, on which we celebrate the triumph of Our Lord Jesus Christ over sin and death, is one of the most significant celebrations in the Christendom.

The feast falls on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox, the letter said.

"Unfortunately, this day of immense importance for Christians is not counted as government holiday despite repeated requests to the previous governments of Bangladesh.

"As a result, many Christians cannot attend the Church-services and the Holy Mass and thus fail to fulfill religious obligations and appease spiritual thirst."

The archbishop said moreover, some exams often fall on this day and the Christian students feel distressed not being able to join the feast with the community.

"We beg to have this opportunity, like other religions of our country, to celebrate this significant and solemn celebration with religious mode, joy and festivities."

He said although the Christian population is not big, they are very much part of this country and making significant contributions towards development initiatives through caring and sharing efforts, particularly in the areas of education, medical care, poverty alleviation and other community development programmes.

A forest

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Contacted, workers in these factories said they have no idea who the real owners are.

However, they confirmed that Liton, Poran and Masud oversee the operation.

Gautam Chandra Chand from Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said the operation is a clear violation of environmental laws.

"The environment department, with local administration's support, should have stopped these harmful activities," he added.

Mohammad Mamun of Sagardighi area said he has already sent a written request to the Department of Environment, district commissioner, superintendent of police and UNO to evict these illegal factories that are destroying the environment, but no action has been taken yet.

Mia Mahmudul Haque, deputy director of Tangail DoE, said he has already received a written complaint in this regard. "Necessary action will be taken soon after an investigation," he added.

Ban Chhatra League

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He also claimed that many BCL activists continue to roam freely without facing any consequences.

The participants at the rally issued a 24-hour ultimatum, demanding the arrest of those responsible for bringing out the procession.

Jobaer Alam, another coordinator of the movement, echoed the demand, insisting that

the BCL should be banned immediately.

Later, a group of protesters gathered outside the Chattogram Metropolitan Police headquarters in Dampara.

There, Talat Mahmud addressed the crowd, stating that the CMP commissioner must resign if the BCL members involved in the procession are not arrested within the given 24-hour timeframe.

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ITEM DESCRIPTION: ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAME AGREEMENT(S) FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF- LOT 1: ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LOT 2: SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICINES LOT 3: MEDICAL SUPPLIES
Interested and bona fide vendors are invited to participate in this INVITATION TO BID (ITB) by accessing and downloading the tender documents at the following web link: https://www.unhcr.org/Public/Notice/250084
Bids to be submitted: Bids should be submitted as per the guidance in section 2.6 of the ITB document via the URL: http://etenderbox.unhcr.org
Bid submission deadline: Thursday, 31 October 2024 - 14:00 hrs. BST. Bangladesh time.
Kindly note that no hard copy is acceptable. The offer to be submitted only through link above.

Jubo League

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Later, locals took him to Sitakunda Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, said the police official.

Police sent the body to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for autopsy, he said.

No one has been arrested yet in this connection, added the OC.

PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 20
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-15
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-39 7-45
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স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভিন্ন আদালতে দায়েরকৃত মামলা (পেফে/বিপেফে) পরিচালনা (TOR অনুযায়ী) ও প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা এবং সরকারি স্বার্থ রক্ষার্থে মহামান্য সুপ্রিম কোর্টের মাননীয় আপিল বিভাগ, হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ, বিজ্ঞ প্রশাসনিক ট্রাইব্যুনাল ও প্রশাসনিক আপিল ট্রাইব্যুনাল এর জন্য ০৪ (চার) জন প্যানেল আইনজীবী মনোনয়নের লক্ষ্যে আশ্রয়ী আইনজীবীগণের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। সরকারি মামলা পরিচালনায় অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন আইনজীবীগণকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।
শর্তাবলি:
১. প্যানেল আইনজীবীগণ স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভিন্ন আদালতে দায়েরকৃত মামলা (পেফে/বিপেফে) পরিচালনা (TOR অনুযায়ী) ও প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা করবেন এবং অর্থ বিভাগ কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত ফি/সম্মানী সিডিউল মোতাবেক সম্মানী প্রাপ্য হবেন এবং উক্ত সম্মানী হতে সকল কর্তন (ট্যাক্স+ভ্যাট) নিশ্চিত করা হবে। ফি/সম্মানী ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলির কপি স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগের আইন-১ শাখা হতে ই-মেইলে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।
২. স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগের স্বার্থ আছে এমন মামলায় স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগের বিপক্ষে প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা করতে পারবেন না।
৩. নিয়োজিত মামলার অগ্রগতি প্রতিবেদন প্রতিমাসে নির্দিষ্ট হুকে নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে সচিব, স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ বরাবর দাখিল করতে হবে।
৪. মামলায় স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগের বিপক্ষে রায় হলে জরুরি ভিত্তিতে পরবর্তী করণীয় বিষয়ে লিখিতভাবে সচিব, স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ বরাবর অবহিত করতে হবে।
৫. কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে প্যানেল আইনজীবী হিসেবে নিয়োজিত থাকলে আবেদনে তা উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
৬. মাননীয় হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে আইনজীবী হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা ও সিনিয়র আইনজীবী হলে আপিল বিভাগে এনারোলমেন্ট থাকতে হবে (প্রেমাণক আবশ্যিক)।
৭. আবেদনকারীর বয়স নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির তারিখে ৬৫ (পঁয়ষট্টি) বছরের অধিক হতে পারবে না।
৮. ০৩ বছরের জন্য প্যানেল আইনজীবী নিয়োগ করা হবে।
৯. বিজ্ঞ আইনজীবী দায়িত্ব হতে অব্যাহতি গ্রহণ করতে চাইলে সেক্ষেত্রে ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিন পূর্বে নোটিশ প্রদান করতে হবে।
১০. কোনো প্যানেল আইনজীবীর পেশাগত কার্যক্রম সন্তোষজনক না হলে কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে তঁর মনোনয়ন বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।
১১. কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যেকোনো আবেদনপত্র বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে। প্যানেল আইনজীবী নিয়োগের বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
নিম্নবর্ণিত চাহিদা প্রতিপালনপূর্বক আবেদন করতে হবে:
১. আবেদনকারীর নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ, বয়স, ফোন নম্বর, মোবাইল নম্বর, ই-মেইল আইডি ইত্যাদিসহ পূর্ণাঙ্গা জীবন বৃত্তান্ত আবেদনে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
২. আবেদনকারী আইনজীবীকে ঢাকায় স্থায়ীভাবে বসবাসরত হতে হবে।
৩. আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সদ্য তোলা ২(দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি দিতে হবে।
৪. আবেদনপত্রের সাথে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, এসএসসি, এইচএসসি, স্নাতক এবং আইনের ডিগ্রীসহ শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সকল সনদপত্র এবং বার কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতা/সনদপত্রসমূহের সত্যায়িত কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
৫. আগামী ২৩.১০.২০২৪ হতে ২২.১১.২০২৪ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সচিব, স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ বরাবর লিখিত আবেদনপত্র আইন-১ শাখা, ভবন নম্বর-৯, ৫ম তলা, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকায় পৌঁছাতে হবে। প্রাথমিকভাবে বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদের স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগে সাক্ষাৎকার গ্রহণ করা হবে। বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদের সাক্ষাৎকারের সময় ও তারিখ ই-মেইল/ডাকযোগে জানানো হবে। সাক্ষাৎকারের জন্য কোনো টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
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