

ACC seeks info on public servants with dual citizenship

Says it found evidence of such employees laundering money

BAHARAM KHAN

The Anti Corruption Commission is seeking information about government officials and staffers, judges and employees of courts, and elected public representatives who have dual citizenship in violation of service rules.

It sought the same information about commissioned officers in the armed forces.

The ACC in a letter on January 12 asked senior secretaries and secretaries of all ministries to provide details of officials and employees of government, autonomous, and semi-autonomous institutions, who have citizenship of another country.

The letter, signed by Md Mozammel Haque, director general (money laundering) of the ACC, also asked for information about any dependents, of officials and employees, with dual citizenship.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The stage is being set for the much awaited Amar Ekushey Book Fair as the construction of stalls is going on in full swing at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan. The annual month-long fair, organised by the Bangla Academy, is held every February.



"Taking strict action against government employees with dual citizenship is a good move... Corrupt officials will not admit to wrongdoings. The government should collect information and dismiss these corrupt individuals from service."

BADIUR RAHMAN, former chairman of NBR

According to section 40 (l) of the Government Service Act, 2018, no government employee is allowed to be a citizen of another country. If a government employee violates this rule, the government may dismiss them after providing a reasonable opportunity to explain. In such cases, a departmental probe is not required.

The ACC's move comes in the wake of complaints that some government employees are involved in money laundering.

An ACC official said allegations of high-ranking officials laundering money and having dual citizenship started surfacing after the fall of the Hasina regime.

ACC probes also found evidence in this regard, said the official preferring anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to the media.

"In many cases, even lower-level employees such as drivers and office assistants have been accused of laundering money. To ensure that no

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CPD paints a bleak picture of economy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The economic measures taken by the government are yet to deliver substantive changes to provide relief to people's lives and businesses, says the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

The private think tank came up with its assessment of the state of Bangladesh's economy for the fiscal year 2024-25 in a paper titled "Navigating Expectations in Turbulent Times".

Presenting the paper in a briefing at its office yesterday, CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun said the interim government formed on

August 8 last year had launched reform initiatives in many sectors, including those related to the economy.

"However, no significant changes to bring relief to the general public and businesses have been observed. Six months have passed in the current 2024-25 fiscal year, yet we have not seen any significant economic vibrancy," she added.

The economist emphasised a coordinated approach to provide relief to the people, protect vulnerable low- and limited-income households, and ensure macroeconomic stability.

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KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Prevention of tax evasion, avoidance
- ➔ Strong monitoring to stop hoarding
- ➔ FTAs, comprehensive economic partnerships to increase export
- ➔ Low-interest credit for SMEs
- ➔ Proper estimation of rice demand
- ➔ Specific plan to end rising debt cycle
- ➔ Freezing of accounts, liquidating assets of wilful defaulters

BNP to hit street in Feb for election by year end

Say party's Standing Committee members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP is set to take to the streets demanding general elections by the end of this year and protesting the rising prices of essentials, said several standing committee members of the party.

Before Ramadan, the party will hold a rally in the capital and in district towns across the country, said sources present at a BNP standing committee meeting held last night.

The BNP will launch public engagement programmes across the country from mid-February to garner support, said several standing committee members.

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman attended last night's meeting through a video link.

Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, a member of the committee, said the BNP would reach the public through its programmes.

Salahuddin Ahmed, another member, at a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday said, "We are planning to launch a movement to correct the interim government's mistakes and pave the way for a democratically elected government."

The party leaders think the government should be brought to the right path, he said, adding that if the

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Passengers boarding a Jamalpur Express train from the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday noon. Train services across the country resumed early yesterday after over 26 hours of suspension. Train drivers and staffers had gone on strike early Tuesday to demand special allowances after retirement.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

1st phase of Biswa Ijtema set to begin tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first phase of the Biswa Ijtema, one of the largest congregations of Muslims, will begin on the bank of Turag tomorrow.

Followers of Maulana Zubair Ahmed will attend the first phase from January 31 to February 5 while those of Maulana Saad Kandhalvi will take part in the Ijtema from February 14 to 16 in the second phase.

Habibullah Rayhan, media coordinator of the Zubair faction of the Tabligh Jamaat, said the followers of Maulana Zubair from 42 districts will have their Akheri Munajat (concluding prayers) on February 2, and those of 22 other districts will have their Akheri Munajat on February 5.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Polls may come sooner than later

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

As speculations swirl around the timing of the next general election, remarks from election commissioners and historical precedents suggest that the highly anticipated 13th national polls may take place this December or next January.

Sources within the Election Commission said they were considering December for the election because holding it between February and June might not be feasible on account of Ramadan, Higher Secondary Certificate exams and monsoon.

National polls are usually not held during the Ramadan – the month of fasting for Muslims. Election dates are also scheduled in a way so the preceding three weeks of campaigning do not coincide with the days of Ramadan.

Electioneering during this time is typically avoided, as it seriously limits campaigning, for which candidates get 21 days.

Polls during Ramadan, which is expected to begin on February 17 or 18 next year, may also lower voters' participation and challenge campaign logistics.

"If we follow the usual practice, we won't be able to hold the election until mid-April. But

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Rail services resume after 26 hours

Train workers call off strike as govt meets almost all demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rail services across the country resumed after more than 26 hours as train staffers called off their strike early yesterday.

Railway officials said many trains were running late and that it would take one more day for everything to normalise.

Meanwhile, the government has issued a circular accepting the major demands of the protesting train workers.

Mojibur Rahman, general secretary of Bangladesh Railway Running Staff and Sramik Karmachari Union, made the announcement for calling off the strike around 2:45am yesterday, after a meeting at the residence of the railways adviser on Minto Road.

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এত্রদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নধীন প্রকল্পের আওতায় Bangladesh Single Window (BSW) System ইতোমধ্যে কার্যকর করা হয়েছে। BSW মূলত একটি অনলাইন প্ল্যাটফর্ম যা ব্যবহার করে একজন আমদানিকারক-রপ্তানিকারক পণ্য খালাসের জন্য প্রয়োজ্য সব ধরনের সার্টিফিকেট, লাইসেন্স ও পারমিট (CLP) এর জন্য অনলাইনে আবেদন করে স্বয়ংক্রিয়ভাবে CLP সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। CLP গ্রহণের পূর্বে Business Identification Number (BIN) ব্যবহার করে BSW সিস্টেমে (Website: bswnbr.gov.bd) নিবন্ধন করতে হবে। এ সিস্টেম ব্যবহারের ফলে আমদানি-রপ্তানি কার্যক্রমে যে সুবিধা সমূহ পাওয়া যাবে সেগুলো হলো:

- একটি কমন প্ল্যাটফর্মে আমদানি-রপ্তানি পণ্যের জন্য প্রয়োজ্য সার্টিফিকেট, লাইসেন্স এবং পারমিট সংক্রান্ত সকল কার্যক্রম সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল সংস্থা কর্তৃক যুগপৎভাবে অনলাইনে সম্পন্ন করা হবে;
- সরকারী কাজে ব্যক্তিগত যোগাযোগ (হিউম্যান ইন্টারেকশন) না থাকায় স্বচ্ছতা ও জবাবদিহিতা নিশ্চিত হবে;
- পণ্য আমদানি-রপ্তানির ক্ষেত্রে সময় ও ব্যয় হ্রাস পাবে;
- দেশি-বিদেশী ব্যবসায়ীদের মধ্যে আস্থা সৃষ্টির মাধ্যমে বিনিয়োগ ও বাণিজ্যের প্রসার ঘটবে।

০২। প্রাথমিক পর্যায়ে সার্টিফিকেট, লাইসেন্স ও পারমিট ইস্যুকারী ১৯টি সংস্থার মধ্যে নিম্নবর্ণিত ৭টি সংস্থার ক্ষেত্রে গত ০২ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখে সরাসরি BSW সিস্টেমের মাধ্যমে CLP এর আবেদন দাখিল ও ইস্যু করার কার্যক্রম শুরু করা হয়েছেঃ

১. ঔষধ প্রশাসন অধিদপ্তর (DGDA);
২. বিশ্বোদক পরিদপ্তর (DoEX);
৩. রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো (EPB);
৪. বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় কর্তৃপক্ষ, রাসায়নিক অস্ত্র কনভেনশন (BNACWC);
৫. বাংলাদেশ অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল কর্তৃপক্ষ (BEZA);
৬. বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানি প্রক্রিয়াকরণ অঞ্চল কর্তৃপক্ষ (BEPZA); এবং
৭. পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর (DoE)।

০৩। জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের পরিপত্র নং: ১(৩৩) NSW প্রকল্প/মন্ত্রণালয়ের সাথে যোগাযোগ/২০১৮/২৪১৮, তারিখ: ১৪ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ অনুযায়ী, ৩১ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখের পর হতে আমদানি ও রপ্তানি পণ্যচালনা শুদ্ধায়নের ক্ষেত্রে উক্ত ০৭টি সংস্থা কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত সার্টিফিকেট, লাইসেন্স ও পারমিট BSW সিস্টেমের মাধ্যমে দাখিল বাধ্যতামূলক করা হলো। উল্লিখিত তারিখের পর কোন ধরনের ম্যানুয়াল সার্টিফিকেট, লাইসেন্স ও পারমিট গ্রহণ করা হবে না। আমদানি-রপ্তানি বাণিজ্যে যুক্ত সকল অংশীজনকে Bangladesh Single Window বাস্তবায়নে সহযোগিতা করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো হলো।

[জুয়েল আহমেদ]
প্রকল্প পরিচালক
ন্যাশনাল সিঙ্গেল উইন্ডো প্রকল্প