

Separate SC secretariat nearing completion

Says chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed yesterday said the long-awaited move to establish a separate Supreme Court secretariat is nearing completion to ensure judicial autonomy.

"We are now moving towards ending dual administration over postings, transfers, and discipline of lower court judges. This will enshrine true autonomy, a long overdue structural correction," he said while addressing a regional seminar on "Judicial Independence and Efficiency in Bangladesh" in Barishal.

Marking the first anniversary of his reform roadmap, the chief justice

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Multiple slow-moving vans plying the Dhaka-Aricha highway in direct violation of traffic rules. One van is carrying bags of grain, while the other two are loaded with steel rods protruding from the front and back, posing risk of an accident at any moment. The photo was taken recently in the Hemayetpur area of Savar upazila.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'A guiding light for business and economy'

Speakers pay tribute to Samson H Chowdhury on his 100th birth anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business leaders, economists, academics and civil society members yesterday paid tribute to late industrialist and Square Group founder Samson H Chowdhury on his 100th birth anniversary, hailing him as a pioneer of Bangladesh's industrial sector, a builder of institutions and a role model for future generations.

At a memorial service at St Mary's Cathedral in Dhaka, speakers remembered him as a man of honesty, perseverance and inclusiveness whose contributions to pharmaceuticals, healthcare and social causes remain significant in Bangladesh's history.

Samson H Chowdhury was not just an example but an ideal. If we follow his values, we can take Bangladesh forward.

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN
President of International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh



"Samson Chowdhury was not just an example but an ideal. If we follow his values, we can take Bangladesh forward," said Mahbubur Rahman, president of International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh.

"Chowdhury, along with his family, built Square into one of the country's leading conglomerates, setting high standards in pharmaceuticals, textiles and other industries," he added.

Abdul Muktaadir, chairman of Incepta Pharmaceuticals, described him as a guiding force in the industry and a mentor known for his problem-solving approach.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Ensure women, youth participation in politics

Speakers urge parties at CGS discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties must ensure greater participation of women and youths in the political process, including nominations in the upcoming national election, for the country's progress, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

They noted that although women and youths have been active in various movements, their decision-making roles within parties remain minimal.

The discussion, "Inclusive Politics: Women and Youth's Pathways to Leadership," was organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) in partnership with the Netherlands Embassy at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies in Dhaka.

Speakers said youth involvement is vital for building future leadership, while women's involvement is essential for their political empowerment.

Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said, "The ball is in the court of political parties to ensure inclusivity."

Investing more in women, ending their deprivation, and creating more opportunities for them are imperative for the country's progress, said Badiul, also a member of National Consensus Commission.

Netherlands Ambassador to Bangladesh Joris van Bommel

said, "Inclusive politics is part of a mature democracy."

Saying Bangladesh is passing through a "time of transition", he called for inclusivity, genuine dialogue, and removing barriers to youth participation.

He said genuine dialogue that incorporates diverse voices -- including youths, women, and marginalised groups -- will help Bangladesh move forward.

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BADIUL ALAM MAJUMDAR
Member, National Consensus Commission

BNP Media Cell Convener Zahir Uddin Swapon said combining the courage of youths with the wisdom of senior politicians could make parties more inclusive.

CGS President Zillur Rahman said the July uprising opened a new opportunity for youth, though few have yet seized it.

Former ambassador Nasim Ferdous said political parties must not only include more women but also uphold their dignity, which is crucial for their advancement.

She suggested strengthening various leadership training programmes for the youth to create future leaders.

Prof Tania Haque of Women and Gender Studies at Dhaka University said a "hegemonic muscular power" is creating a barrier to women's political participation.

Hema Chakma, a member of Dhaka University Central Students' Union, said character assassination and cyberbullying are obstacles for women to get involved in politics.

National Citizen Party Joint Convener Khaled Saifullah echoed her, saying there has been a "smear campaign" against young political leaders and activists to belittle them.

Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Rashna Imam said bullying and character assassination against women continue due to a lack of strict law enforcement.

She said the lack of family support is also holding women back from political participation.

Former lawmaker Nazmul Haque Prodhan, Jatiya Party General Secretary Shameem Haider Patwary, Gonoforum Acting President Subrata Chowdhury, and Gono Odhikar Parishad General Secretary Rashid Khan also spoke, among others.

Tarique to return within weeks to lead BNP: Zahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member AZM Zahid Hossain yesterday said Tarique Rahman, the party's acting chairman, will return to Bangladesh within weeks to lead BNP's election process and the "final stage of restoring democracy".

He was speaking to reporters after placing wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Responding to a question on the party's election strategy, Zahid said BNP leaders and activists are actively campaigning across the country with Tarique Rahman's 31-point programme.



TIB slams govt's 'unusually large' UNGA delegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed deep disappointment over the interim government's continuation of the practice of the fallen authoritarian regime of sending "unusually large delegation" to the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The anti-graft watchdog termed the practice an "embarrassing record", usually followed either by major powers such as the United States, Russia, or China to ensure broad diplomatic influence, or by countries like Nigeria where good governance is lacking.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Seek Interpol red notices against S Alam, 2 brothers

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to issue a red alert through Interpol against S Alam Group Chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam and his two brothers in a case filed over acquiring Tk 104.20 crore by corrupt means. The two brothers are Abdus Samad and Mohammad Abdullah Hasan.

ACC Deputy Director Tahasin Munabil Haq submitted an application to Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in this regard.

He said S Alam and his two brothers created a fake company named AM Trading, through which they prepared and used forged documents. They allegedly misappropriated Tk 104.20 crore in the name of loans. They also laundered and transferred this amount, converting it into Tk 340 crore, in favour of S Alam Super Edible Oil.



While children play inside Kalabagan Shishu Park, trash collectors dump and sort waste on the street outside before moving it to a garbage depot next to the field, exposing them to foul odour and pollution in one of the capital's few leisure spaces.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Akhter files case in New York

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossen has filed a case following the egg attack on him in New York, allegedly by individuals affiliated with the Awami League.

Akhter confirmed the information in a video message posted on his Facebook profile yesterday.

He said the case was lodged at a police station near the airport in New York. The decision to file the case was made following consultations with New York police, he added.

The incident occurred at the John F Kennedy International Airport on Monday, when NCP leaders Akhter and Dr Tasnim Jara reached the US to attend the United Nations General Assembly.

Akhter said those involved in the attack are linked to a political organisation accused of committing genocide and crimes against humanity in Bangladesh.

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