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Constitutional bodies should not be treated like depts: CAG

Staff Correspondent | Published at 12:01am on January 06, 2022

Constitutional bodies should not be treated like departments and directorates under the ministries and divisions, said comptroller and auditor general Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury on Wednesday.

Aims and creativity of constitutional bodies will be hampered if those are treated like departments, said the CAG while delivering a public lecture at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies in Dhaka.

The title of the lecture was 'Schematic View of Bangladesh Constitution.'

Describing different parts and function of the constitution, the CAG said that no one should be blind to the rights and economic views of the constitution.

The conscious section of society should understand the spirit of the country's constitution, he said.

In the two-hour-long interactive session, the CAG also described function and role of legislative, executive, judiciary, parliamentary standing committees, parliament, public service commission, and election commission.

The entities are created to serve the people who are supreme as per the constitution, he said.

Political masters formulating acts decided whether those to be compulsive and persuasive, noted the CAG.

Giving wide range of examples from India, the UK and the US, the CAG also showed fettered and unfettered rights stated in the country's constitution.

BIDS director general Binayak Sen, who presided over the lecture session, asked if any new things were needed for the constitution.

The CAG answered that everybody should wish that institutions would work perfectly as those were designed in the constitution.

Earlier, he said the Judicial Service Commission is not constitutional body, but the Public Service Commission is a constitutional body.

Replying to a comment of former caretaker government M Syeduzzaman, the CAG said that the provision for an ombudsman in the constitution was not mandatory.

The concept of ombudsman has not been flourished here, he commented.

He suggested BIDS researchers to link the constitutional views and aims with their research findings articulately so that their works get ground. He also suggested that parliamentary standing committees should be strengthened to bolster the check and balance under the parliamentary system.



Editor: **Nurul Kabir**, Published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd. 30 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 Phone: 880-2-8170450-56 (PABX), Fax: 880-2-8170457

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