

## Nagorik Committee

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The committee reviewed the decisions of its previous meeting and prepared an outline of the vision paper.

It also discussed other related activities including the regional dialogues in Mymensingh on April 29, Jessore on May 13 and Comilla on May 20.

To promote competent candidates, the citizens group will take a number of measures to put pressure on the Election Commission to fully implement High Court directives regarding the disclosure of relevant information by the candidates, their asset and loan status, sources of income and criminal records, if any.

The committee thinks the candidates should also disclose their tax payment records and records on change of their political affiliation.

The citizens' committee is of the opinion that the RPO (Representation of the People Order) 1972 needs to be amended so that if candidate gives 'misdeclaration' on the required information, his or her seat can be subsequently vacated after the election.

The committee discussed the approach and outline of the vision paper and decided to identify the prerequisite for realisation of an optimistic development possibilities in Bangladesh by 2020-21.

The next meeting of the citizens' group will be held on April 30.

Prof Rehman Sobhan, CPD chairman and convener of the committee, chaired the meeting. It was attended by Dr Anisuzzaman, Samson H Chowdhury, Syed Manzur Elahi, Angela Gomes, M Mujibul Huq, Prof Mohammad Zafar Iqbal, Dr Mahmuda Islam, Mahmudul Islam, Laila Rahman Kabir, Advocate Sultana Kamal, M Hafizuddin Khan, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, Latifur Rahman, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, ASM Shajahan and M Syeduzzaman.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, CPD executive director, attended the meeting as member-secretary of the committee.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, was present on invitation.

## IMF asks Dhaka

**FROM PAGE 1**  
What the government can do is to avoid wasteful expenditures like purchasing fighter planes and can lower taxes on fuel items to tackle the situation, he said.

According to statistics, the country consumes 36 lakh metric tons of fuel annually. Twenty-three lakh metric tons of it is diesel and 6 lakh metric tons is kerosene.

According to energy ministry estimation 48 percent of the total diesel consumption is in the road transport sector, 34 percent in irrigation and about 10 percent by water transports.

About 96 percent of kerosene is consumed for domestic purposes. Bakht said the poor people in remote villages, where there is no electricity, consume a large chunk of the country's total kerosene consumption. So, if kerosene price is raised the poor will be directly hit.

Again if the price of diesel is increased, transportation cost will go up, which in turn will raise food prices further. Besides, since a sizeable amount of diesel is used for irrigation, a price hike of diesel will once again hit the farmers and ultimately raise food prices, he explained.

"I don't see how the government can provide diesel and kerosene to these sectors at low prices after raising the prices," he said.

Since the elections are around the corner and inflation is on the rise, the government should not raise the prices of diesel and kerosene, Bakht said. A government which earns about Tk 3,000 crore in the form of taxes from oil import, can sacrifice some of it by lowering tariffs on oil items, he added.

A Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) source said since 1976-77 it had paid off Tk 34,833 crore in tariff, vat and other taxes, while in the July-October period of the current fiscal it paid about Tk 823 crore.

An energy division source said from July 2005 to February 2006 the government on an average had to

## Student strike

**FROM PAGE 16**  
However, classes continued at most of the primary and high schools in the city.

The BCL called the strike to protest the killing of one of its leader as well as to protest police atrocities on BCL leaders and activists on April 19 during the opposition's sit-in programme at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Abdur Rahim Akash, assistant secretary of Shaheed Suhrawardy College unit BCL died on April 18, after ruling BNP's student front Jayyatabadi Chhtra Dal (JCD) men beat up and wounded him on April 12, Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton, general secretary of the BCL said at a press conference on April 19.

A teacher of the college directed the JCD cadres to beat up Akash as he protested the teacher's claim that late president Ziaur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh on March 26 in 1971, Roton alleged.

BCL brought out a procession on the campus chanting slogans in support of the strike yesterday morning.

Later they held a rally in front of the Arts Building, where Roton spoke and demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the teacher and JCD cadres responsible for killing Akash.

## Deputy secy

**FROM PAGE 16**  
autopsy of Dr Tawfiq Khan Majlish's body that he might have committed suicide.

Another-in-law of Tawfiq filed an Unnatural Death case with Dhanmondi Police Station.

## BAF trainee pilot

**FROM PAGE 1**  
times over the field before crashing.

Locals said they heard a loud sound from the paddy field and ran to the spot and saw the destroyed aircraft.

Ataur Rahman, assistant teacher of Baharampur Secondary School, told our Magura correspondent that he went to the spot immediately after the accident and saw the body of Taniul was still trembling inside the cockpit.

A fire brigade team from Jhenidah rushed to the spot and recovered the body of Taniul.

Hearing the news, Squadron Leader of the Jessore base Abdul Gaffar and Group Captain M Morshed Hasan Siddiqui rushed to the spot.

They suspected that technical faults in the engine might have caused the accident.

Air Force chief Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam also visited the spot in the afternoon.

A three-member investigation committee was formed headed by Group Captain Morshed. The committee was asked to submit its report within 48 hours.

Police were deployed at the spot. Taniul, son of Md Sirajul Islam and Hosne Ara Begum, hailed from Hajiganj of Chandpur district and joined the Air Force as a flight cadet on July 20, 2004.

## Slum dwellers

**FROM PAGE 16**  
workplace in the city's Sholoshahar area. They also arrested a class IV employee of Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI). The arrests were made following a request from Bayezid Bostami PS of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

As the news of arrests reached the slums at Silimpur in Sitakunda, the residents there became agitated and set out for the city to free their leader from police custody.

Equipped with bamboo sticks and lathis over two hundred people of Silimpur Slum arrived in front of Panchlaish PS and laid a siege there. At one stage, they started throwing bricks at the PS breaking a few windows.

The demonstrators were, however, dispersed when police charged batons on them. About 25 persons, five of them women, were injured in the clash.

None was arrested in this connection. Akkas, known as a notorious landgrabber, is an accused in about 15 criminal cases in different police stations in the city and Sitakunda upazila, police said.

Sources said Akkas maintains a close link with a faction of the ruling BNP.

"Using this political leverage, Akkas has long been involved in many criminal activities, especially in grabbing khas lands and establishing slums on those lands. Silimpur Slum is now under his control," said a source.

Akkas was sent to jail by a court yesterday after police produced him before it.

## Fair polls

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Observing that the conflicting politics is one of the main bottlenecks in the country's development process, he said the ruling and opposition parties should work together in the greater interest of the nation.

Asked whether or not the donors will accept the result of the next election if it is held without the reforms demanded by the main opposition, Choudhury said the development partners will closely observe the election process and decide later about recognising it.

The international communities will have their views and NGOs will also have opinion about the election results, he pointed out.

Choudhury regretted the existence of huge corruption in the society that has denied Bangladesh the pace of development Vietnam, Malaysia and South Korea achieved. "You could grow at the rate of at least seven per cent if the corruption is tackled as you tackled extremism," he said.

On the UK-Bangladesh relationship, the British ambassador said the UK has changed its foreign policy and is giving more importance to Bangladesh.

"We have already increased the aid to Bangladesh in the last 18 months and it would be increased substantially in the future," he said. The UK has been providing over \$250 million aid to Bangladesh annually, he noted.

He also pointed out that there are around \$4 billion worth of British investments in Bangladesh and another \$1 billion is waiting to come.

Choudhury appreciated the role played by nearly half a million Bangladeshis living in the UK as they are making 'important contribution' to the British economy. "But Bangladesh should stop exporting politics there," Choudhury said.

DRU President Shaiful Karim and General Secretary Shahed Chowdhury were present at the meeting.

## US has no 'recipe'

**FROM PAGE 1**  
extremist violence, and I believe that the government is indeed committed following up," she said.

She said the government should also try the supporters of JMB and those who financed the network on specific evidence.

Butenis said the US government is providing special training for Bangladesh law enforcement agencies to enhance their counter-terrorism capability and basic skills in probing the terrorist attacks and tactically analysing the blast incidents.

Besides, Bangladesh military officials are being trained in the US.

"We are also providing technical assistance on the drafting of new legislation here on money laundering and terrorist financing," she said, adding that she would work to find new opportunities to expand the US law enforcement assistance programmes in Bangladesh.

Asked if the US' appreciation in combating terrorism and withdrawal of its peace corps are contradictory, she said the decision was taken in Washington considering the safety of US volunteers since they are to work in villages too. Besides, some newspapers here reported that JMB's next target was the US peace volunteers.

When asked if the US authorities would deport the convicts of the Bangabandhu murder case hiding in America following the deportation of US citizen Ehsanul Sadeque, Ambassador Butenis said she does not know whether the killers are staying in USA.

She also could not say anything about the progress in signing an extradition treaty initiated by previous Awami League government for deporting the killers of Bangabandhu.

The Trade Act bill - 2005 that seeks duty-free access of Bangladeshi products to American market, is now pending before the US Senate, she said, adding that it would be difficult to give such preferential treatment outside WTO where the matter is being discussed.

The US is already one of Bangladesh's most important trading and investment partners and the number one buyer of Bangladeshi products, Butenis said, adding, "I would like to expand our trading ties even further, and see that American products and services have the chance to compete here on a level playing field."

She said the relationship between the two countries is already strong and getting stronger.

"So this is an exciting and hopeful time for me to be the American ambassador."

**ON CORRUPTION**  
Ambassador Butenis said Bangladesh must defeat corruption and other obstacles to economic growth while the Bangladeshi people might define their basic needs in many ways - supply of food, water, power, education and economic opportunity for everybody.

"Meeting many of those needs depends on economic development, defeating corruption and the other obstacles to economic growth," she added.

Butenis said the critical issue of corruption has projected a negative

## Iran rejects

**FROM PAGE 16**  
When asked if any incentives could prompt Iran to reinstate a suspension of its nuclear work, he replied: "We don't want anything. Let the Iranians live their lives."

The regime's increasingly defiant stance leaves it exposed to the risk of UN sanctions. The United States has also not ruled out the possibility of taking military action against the oil-rich Islamic republic.

"I see it as unlikely that they would be so unwise to do such a thing," he replied when asked about the impact on Iran's economy if sanctions are imposed.

"Those two or three countries who are so against us have enough sense not to make that mistake. They cannot create limitations for us. They will lose themselves. Our economic infrastructure is strong," Ahmadinejad asserted.

"A military attack does not make sense. Besides, our people are powerful and can defend themselves," he argued, before firing off a stiff warning to Washington.

"If they even talk about it, their situation will be very bad. This is all psychological pressure and propaganda that they use in the form of words in the media to try make us back down."

Iran's defence minister also warned the United States that it risked a "disgraceful defeat" if it took military action.

"If the US chooses the military option, a disgraceful defeat worse than the failure in Tabas desert awaits them," Mostafa Mohammad Najar said, referring to a failed US attempt in 1980 to rescue American hostages in the seized US embassy in Tehran.

Ahmadinejad, who triggered outrage last year with his call for Israel to be "wiped off the map," also continued his verbal barrage against the Jewish state.

## 3 secys apologise

**FROM PAGE 1**  
He claimed to have never attended any official or unofficial meeting in this regard ever since he had joined the prime minister's secretariat in October 2001, adding that he was not in any way involved [either as a member or as a supporting officer] in the cabinet subcommittee on separation of the judiciary from the executive.

According to allocation of Business (Schedule 1 of Rules of Business 1996) of the Government, the respondent-petitioner's job description does not cover issues relating to separation of the judiciary, states the reply.

Citing article 48(3) of the constitution, it says in case of the prime minister tendering any advice to the president on the separation issue, the content is beyond jurisdiction of not only the respondent-petitioner but also of any court. So, except for placing the matter before the prime minister [which he did], the respondent-petitioner has no role to play in this regard.

Saying that he has not shown any willful disregard or disobedience to the court or its orders and directives, the reply adds: "The respondent-petitioner, however, pleads for infinite mercy of this court and begs pardon for his unintentional mistakes and lapses, if there be any, in performing his official duty and undertakes to be more cautious and diligent in all his future dealings."

Briefing reporters about the finance secretary's reply, Barrister Rafiqul Huq said Siddiqur Rahman had no knowledge about the matter (separation of judiciary) before joining the ministry as finance secretary in October 2005.

He submitted that neither a file regarding separation of the judiciary is on his [Siddiqur's] table nor has he received any such file since his joining.

"He received the file of Judicial Service Pay Commission on Saturday and his office sent it to the law ministry the same day for vetting. Still, he apologises [to the court] had he done any unintended mistakes," he said.

Barrister Abdur Razzak said his client Alauddin Sarder joined as the law secretary on June 3, 2004 and he

## Skid-mount plants

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Other than the skid-mount plants, which will sell power to the government on rental basis, a few projects under implementation are also suffering delay or under-performance due to various reasons. The new Barapukuria coal mine power project with an inflated cost is generating only half its 250 MW capacity and is lagging behind schedule by months. The new 70 MW Mymensingh phase-3 plant, being built at a cost four times that of similar plants, is now five months behind schedule.

But even if these plants start generating power in full swing, there will be no respite from load shedding this year or even in the coming years, thanks to the lack of government action in this sector in the last four years, PDB sources said.

The PDB is currently generating a maximum of 3,500 MW power while it is officially claiming that the demand for power is around 4,000 MW to 4,100 MW.

In its latest report to the parliamentary standing committee on power and energy ministry, the PDB said Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa) and Dhaka Electricity Supply Company (Desco) demand 1,600 MW power and Rural Electrification Board (REB) 2,000 MW while it (PDB) needs 1,600 MW.

Desa officials however claim that Dhaka's present demand for power is 1,800 MW.

"The demand for power should be viewed in the context of its rapid

## Kansat, police action

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Talking to reporters at a news briefing, AL lawmaker Mohammad Nasim said he has already submitted ten notices to the parliament secretariat demanding discussions on Kansat killings, police atrocities on journalists and opposition activists, and the present state of militant kingpins.

At the briefing AL lawmakers alleged they are not being able to discuss the irregularities and misuse of the government in parliamentary standing committees as those bodies have been ineffective.

"Law and order related issues could be discussed in the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry. But the chairman of the committee has not convened any meeting since then ignoring the rules of procedure, which say the committee will sit at least once a month."

Committee Chairman Prof Mohammad Shajahan Mia yesterday admitted that the meetings were not convened and said he could not convene the meetings as he was busy. "I will convene a meeting in a couple of days," Shajahan Mia told reporters.

Mohammad Nasim at the news briefing blasted the chairman for not convening the meetings regularly.

"I will seek interference by the speaker if the committee chairman does not convene a meeting immediately," he said. "I wanted to discuss the Kansat issue in the last meeting on February 8. But the committee chairman did not agree. Now it has been proven that the committee chairman, elected from Kansat, is responsible for the Kansat killings," Nasim alleged.

AL lawmaker AKM Jahangir Hossain who is a member of several parliamentary bodies also expressed his dissatisfaction over the ineffectiveness of the committee system.

## Nasreen Huq meets

**FROM PAGE 16**  
a wall as she was waiting for the car at the car park.

She was first taken to Bangladesh Orthopaedic Hospital and later shifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka where she slipped into a coma. She died at 8:00 pm there.

CMH sources said she also had a cardiac arrest while she was at the Orthopaedic Hospital.

She had received severe injuries to her head, legs and hands. She lost a huge amount of blood due to continuous bleeding as arteries and veins of her legs were crushed. The doctors gave her more than 20 bags of blood as they could not stop the bleeding.

Nasreen had her 15-month-old daughter in her arms at the time of the accident but her daughter did not receive any injuries, sources said.

The driver became shell-shocked following the accident and was undergoing psychological treatment; he was also injured in the accident, Action Aid Bangladesh sources said.

Nasreen did her masters degree in nutritional sciences from the University of California at Berkeley.

Before joining Action Aid Bangladesh Nasreen had been an activist and a leader in Naripakkha, a women's rights organisation in Bangladesh, since 1988. She founded and led the Campaign Against Acid Violence, one of her projects in Naripakkha.

Large sections of the ring road were covered with burnt tyres and roadblocks from nearly three weeks of daily protests as the king has struggled to quell the escalating calls for his removal.

## Rab killing

**FROM PAGE 16**  
under Gazipur Sadar upazila at about 11:00am on Saturday.

Following Shaheen's information, Rab men accompanying the criminal went to Polashona of the union at 1:00am yesterday to arrest his two accomplices Humayun and Shamsur and recover illegal arms.

When they reached there, Shaheen's accomplices opened fire at the Rab men who retaliated.

Trying to escape, Shaheen received bullets.

He was sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him dead, Rab said, adding that two Rab members were also injured during the encounter.

Rab recovered a shotgun, a pipe gun, four bullets and an axe.

Hailing from Bakerganj in Barisal district, Shaheen lives in Gachha union where he has been conducting criminal activities for a long time, Rab said.

He is also accused in three robbery and two carjacking cases.

## Nepalis

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The parties said they planned 1,000 marches, mass meetings and effigy burnings Monday as a curtain raiser to the main protest throughout the Kathmandu Valley, the area encompassing the capital and home to 1.7 million people, according to reports.

King Gyanendra, in a bid to thwart new protests, set a new curfew in central Kathmandu from 11:00 am (0515 GMT) until 6:00 pm, state television said, warning anyone who violated the order could be shot on sight.

A United Nations human rights expert on Monday urged the government to halt the policy saying it could be a crime against humanity.

"The government is, in effect, instructing its forces to shoot innocent people, in complete disregard for the right to life," said Philip Alston, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, in Geneva.

Kathmandu was suffering shortages of fuel, food and other essential goods as piles of festering rubbish littered the streets.

Large sections of the ring road were covered with burnt tyres and roadblocks from nearly three weeks of daily protests as the king has struggled to quell the escalating calls for his removal.

## JS body

**FROM PAGE 16**  
without the floating of any tenders.

"Some unscrupulous CDA officials are involved in the irregularities," a member of the House body alleged. "Officials of the CDA and the contractors have shared the money among themselves without completing the work."

Because of this grim power situation, consumption of diesel for power generation at individual level has drastically increased, which is yet to be taken into account by the government. According to an apartment complex owner, spending on diesel for power generation for the apartments last year was Tk 1,4000.

This year the apartment complex already spent Tk 36,000 in the last four months for the same purpose.

"A major cause of the power crisis is the disproportionate and rapid expansion of REB's power network. The REB has doubled its consumer base in the last five years, which could have been a blessing for the country if power generation was adequate. But now it is a curse," said a REB source.

The REB has six million subscribers, serving three crore people. It still has 4,000 kilometres of its distribution network waiting for power supply from the PDB. Despite this the REB continues to provide eight connections a day, for which the PDB is not prepared to provide power.

orders," a senior lawmaker of AL said.

The main opposition AL joined the parliament on February 12 ending a year long House boycott and submitted its proposals for reforms in the system of caretaker government, Election Commission and electoral laws. AL lawmakers are expected to raise the issue of reforms in the parliament as no significant progress was seen in the last two months.

Committee Chairman Prof Mohammad Shajahan Mia yesterday admitted that the meetings were not convened and said he could not convene the meetings as he was busy. "I will convene a meeting in a couple of days," Shajahan Mia told reporters.

Mohammad Nasim at the news briefing blasted the chairman for not convening the meetings regularly.

"I will seek interference by the speaker if the committee chairman does not convene a meeting immediately," he said. "I wanted to discuss the Kansat issue in the last meeting on February 8. But the committee chairman did not agree. Now it has been proven that the committee chairman, elected from Kansat, is responsible for the Kansat killings," Nasim alleged.

AL lawmaker AKM Jahangir Hossain who is a member of several parliamentary bodies also expressed his dissatisfaction over the ineffectiveness of the committee system.

Large sections of the ring road were covered with burnt tyres and roadblocks from nearly three weeks of daily protests as the king has struggled to quell the escalating calls for his removal.

King Gyanendra, in a bid to thwart new protests, set a new curfew in central Kathmandu from 11:00 am (0515 GMT) until 6:00 pm, state television said, warning anyone who violated the order could be shot on sight.

A United Nations human rights expert on Monday urged the government to halt the policy saying it could be a crime against humanity.

"The government is, in effect, instructing its forces to shoot innocent people, in complete disregard for the right to life," said Philip Alston, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, in Geneva.

Kathmandu was suffering shortages of fuel, food and other essential goods as piles of festering rubbish littered the streets.

Large sections of the ring road were covered with burnt tyres and roadblocks from nearly three weeks of daily protests as the king has struggled to quell the escalating calls for his removal.

King Gyanendra, in a bid to thwart new protests, set a new curfew in central Kathmandu from 11:00 am (0515 GMT) until 6:00 pm, state television said, warning anyone who violated the order could be shot on sight.

A United Nations human rights expert on Monday urged the government to halt the policy saying it could be a crime against humanity.

"The government is, in effect, instructing its forces to shoot innocent people, in complete disregard for the right to life," said Philip Alston, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, in Geneva.

Kathmandu was suffering shortages of fuel, food and other essential goods as piles of festering rubbish littered the streets.

Large sections of the ring road were covered with burnt tyres and roadblocks from nearly three weeks of daily protests as the king has struggled to quell the escalating calls for his removal.

King Gyanendra, in a bid to thwart new protests, set a new curfew in central Kathmandu from 11:00 am (0515 GMT) until 6:00 pm, state television said, warning anyone who violated the order could be shot on sight.

A United Nations human rights expert on Monday urged the government to halt the policy saying it could be a crime against humanity.

"The government is, in effect, instructing its forces to shoot innocent people, in complete disregard for the right to life," said Philip Alston, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, in Geneva.

Kathmandu was suffering shortages of fuel, food and other essential goods as piles of festering rubbish littered the streets.

Large sections of the ring road were covered with burnt tyres and roadblocks from nearly three weeks of daily protests as the king has struggled to quell the escalating calls for his removal.

King Gyanendra, in a bid to thwart new protests, set a new curfew in central Kathmandu from 11:00 am (0515 GMT) until 6:00 pm, state television said, warning anyone who violated the order could be shot on sight.

A United Nations human rights expert on Monday urged the government to halt the policy saying it could be a crime against humanity.

"The government is, in effect, instructing its forces to shoot innocent people, in complete disregard for the right to life," said Philip Alston, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, in Geneva.