



Barisal City Corporation Mayor Majibar Rahman Sarwar and other participants at the fourth regional dialogue on 'National Election 2007: Civil Society Initiative for Accountable Development' held at Abdur Rab Serniabat Auditorium of Barisal Bar Association yesterday (left). A section of the audience at the dialogue (right). The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and Channel i jointly organised the dialogue. (Story on Page 1)



PHOTO: STAR

Mystery over 14 children of ex-DIG deepens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mystery has continued to surround a former high police official's 14 children, seven of whom were born at the same time.

The large number of children, particularly the seven children who are all 19 months old, has created widespread suspicion that the former police official might have been involved in child trafficking.

A number of people with pictures of their lost children, curious onlookers and detective agency men were seen around the residence of Anisur Rahman, former deputy inspector general, at Plot - 71, Block - A at Bashundhara in Badda yesterday.

Dismissing the allegation of child trafficking, Anisur Rahman, 55, and his wife Anwara, 41, who happens to be his second wife, said that they are ready to go through DNA test to prove that all of them are their children.

Rahman claimed that those seven children were born to them on October 24, 2004 at the city's Central Hospital. But the hospital authorities rejected the claim when print and electronic media people contacted them.

Rahman said some quarters have been hatching a conspiracy against him. He also threatened to file defamation case against those who are

spreading these "rubbish".

When contacted, Police Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police SMMizanur Rahman said that the local police station has been asked to look into the matter.

Badda police said some people who lost their newborn babies are crowding around that home, but none has so far made any complaint.

SC vacation from tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court goes into summer vacation for a fortnight beginning today, court sources said.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain constituted a vacation bench of the High Court with Justice Anwar-ul-Huq, who will dispose of urgent matters.

During the vacation, the bench will function on May 29, 30 and 31 and June 4, 5 and 6 from 10:30 am to 1:15 pm.

The court will reopen on June 11.

Cirdap-C'wealth workshop on good governance in Asia begins

BSS, Dhaka

A five-day Commonwealth Secretariat-Cirdap Workshop on 'Sharing Successful Experiences on Poverty Focussed Rural Good Governance in Asian Commonwealth Countries' began at the Cirdap Headquarters in the city yesterday.

More than 30 participants and resource persons from Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are taking part in the workshop, said a press release.

Inaugurated by Md Rafiqul Islam, Secretary to Rural Development and Cooperatives Division of Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives, the function was addressed by Dr Durga Prasad Paudyal, Director General, and Dr B Sudhakar Rao, Director (Training), Cirdap.

The workshop is the third such initiative of the Commonwealth Secretariat and Cirdap to highlight the good governance concept, to influence the existing local government structure in the less developed countries, to reform and restructure local government institutions/organisations in the rural areas, to redesign institutional targets of the local government, and to ensure people's participation in the rural development activities.

Govt urged not to amend Absorption Rule 2000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) General Education Association yesterday urged the government not to amend the existing Absorption Rule 2000 to avoid disarray in education cadre.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium, the association leaders said under the rule over 7000 teachers were promoted and 4000 others received selection grade during the period from 2001 to 2006.

If the Absorption Rule 2000 is amended reinstating the Rules of 1981 and 1998, a large number of teachers would lose their seniority, they added.

The association leaders demanded selection grade for lecturers, assistant professors, associate professors and professors.

They said a total of 1000 lecturers and 500 assistant professors are deprived of selection grade in absence of permanent cadre posts.

They also demanded creation of new posts of associate professor and professor.

They also called for upgrading the posts of the teachers in public colleges.

Criticising the conversion of public colleges into universities they said it would reduce the chances of higher education for many students.

The leaders said the association has already taken legal steps against the amendment and submitted memorandum to the prime minister, but the government is yet to pay any heed to their demand.

The association announced to go for work abstention from June 25

if its demands are not met by June 22.

Association Secretary General Masum-e-Rabbani Khan read out a written statement at the press conference.

Presided over by Prof Iftekhar Ahmed Khan the press conference was also attended by Association Vice-president Fahima Khatun, Investigation Secretary Mahfuz Alam, Publicity Secretary Mahfuz Sarfaraj and Publication Secretary SM Bashirullah.

171 RU teachers want CEC to go

RU CORRESPONDENT

One hundred and seventy-one teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) in a joint statement yesterday said the chief election commissioner (CEC) and two other election commissioners have lost their right to stay in office.

They said they should leave their position as soon as possible and relieve the nation.

Referring to the demands of 14-party opposition alliances on reforms in the caretaker government the teachers said those were people's demands and very reasonable too.

While talking about the severe degradation of law and order, price hike of essentials, unprecedented power crisis and labour unrest, they said there is no administration in the country. The teachers suggested the government should handover power to a caretaker government after introducing the necessary reforms in the system.

RU Progressive Teachers' Society Convener Prof M Nurullah, RU former vice-chancellor M Saidur Rahman Khan, Prof Mokhlesur Rahman, Dr Juffiquer Matin, Jahurul Haque, Mizan Uddin, Mozaffar Hossain, Jalal Uddin, Entajul M Haque, Ananda Kumar Saha, Malay Bhoumik, Chittaranjan Misra, Bidhan Chandra Das, Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan Sajal, Hasibul Alam Prodhon, Abu Naser were the signatories to the statement among others.

Trader found dead in city hotel

Youth dies of bullet wound

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a youth was recovered from a residential hotel at Nawabpur in the capital, while another bullet-hit youth of Moghbazar died of his wounds at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Kotwali police recovered the body of Chanchal, 32, from room No 63 of Hotel Faruq on Nawabpur Road at about 11:30am.

As stench was coming out of the room yesterday morning, manager of the hotel Tajul Islam informed the police who found the body in the attached bathroom.

Quoting hotel authorities, police said the youth rented the room on Thursday introducing him as a

trader.

Police arrested the hotel manager, sweeper Ripon Lal and attendants M Aslam and Abdul Matin in this connection.

Meantime, Nazirullah, 23, of Moghbazar, whom extortionists shot in the abdomen on May 14, died at the DMCH at about 12:30pm yesterday.

Three extortionists shot him near Moghbazar Batar Goli when Nazirullah, a welding worker, refused to pay them toll.

In another incident, armed extortionists shot the caretaker of a house in Mirpur yesterday morning.

Moqbul Hossain, caretaker of the house of Dr Emdadul Huq at Bayenertek in Mirpur-2, barred the extortionists from entering the house when they went to demand Tk 1 lakh extortion from the doctor at about 11:30am.

Angered at the interception, the extortionists shot Moqbul in the legs. He was admitted to the DMCH.

DUJ memorial meet on June 5

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will hold a memorial meeting at 11:00am on June 5 at Jatiya Press Club on three eminent journalists who died recently.

The journalists include Mashir Hossain Hiro, Aftabon and Zakaria Milon. DUJ General Secretary Omar Faruque has requested all journalists and admirers to attend the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka city Awami Jubo League, North and South, demonstrate at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday to protest against killing, arrest and repression of their leaders and activists.

Pundra varsity appeals for reopening

DU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Pundra University of Science and Technology, a private university in Bogra, yesterday appealed to the government for its clearance to reopen the university.

A probe committee of education ministry submitted a report to the government on April 18, 2004 recommending the closure of eight private universities in the country including Pundra university for flouting the rules of Private University Reform Act 1998.

The government however did not close those universities as the committee asked them to fulfil the necessary criteria.

At a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday, Pundra university authorities claimed that they have already fulfilled the criteria for reopening the university.

They said the university, having five acres of land, has deposited Tk 5 crore with a bank.

The authorities said they have also appointed adequate number of part time and fulltime teachers, and the university has a good library too.

They said after fulfilling necessary criteria, they informed the President, Prime Minister, Education Minister, University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman and other authorities concerned about their move last month.

Sources said the PM referred the matter to the education ministry which in turn referred it to the UGC. But the UGC did not approve its application for clearance.

Pundra university Vice-chancellor Prof Lutfar Rahman and Pro-VC Prof Abdul Hi Chowdhury were present at the press conference.