



PHOTO: STAR

Hafiz Uddin Khan, a trustee of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), speaks at a roundtable on 'The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC): How it can be made effective?' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is ACC commissioner Maniruzzaman Miah while on his right are Shahiduzzaman of Reporters Against Corruption (RAC) and former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru. TIB and RAC jointly organised the roundtable.

Dhaka signs pledge for patients' safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh signed a pledge for patients' safety as a member state of World Health Organisation (WHO) yesterday to promote the highest standards of practice and behaviour to reduce the risk of health care associated infections in the health care centres.

Health and family welfare minister Khandakar Mosharrar Hossain signed the pledge on Global Patient Safety Challenge 2005-2006 Bangladesh.

Following the meeting of 59th regional committee for WHO South-East Asia Region, the pledge signing ceremony was held at a city hotel with the theme 'clean care is safer care'.

According to the WHO report, every year the treatment and care of hundreds of millions of patients world wide is complicated by infections acquired during health care that makes some patients more seriously ill than they would otherwise have

been.

The World Alliance for Patient Safety launched in 2004 at the WHO and its technical partners have developed low cost strategies to address this global challenge. A core element of the World Alliance for Patient Safety is the Global Patient Safety Challenge and the topic chosen for 2005-2006 is health care associated infection.

The programme would foster and sustain collaboration with research institutions, training schools, educational centres, universities and health care settings of other WHO member states to ensure full utilisation of knowledge and experience in the field of health care associated infection, said the minister.

"Meanwhile, it would encourage senior management support and role modelling from key staff to promote the implementations of interventions to reduce health care associated infection," he added.

The project would also promote blood safety, injection and immunisation safety, safe clinical procedures, safe water and sanitation and waste management along with hand hygiene.

The integrated approach would strengthen the government's commitment to make the effort a success, the speakers hoped.

Director General of Health Services Shahadat Hossain chaired the pledge signing ceremony while State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ministry Mizanur Rahman Sinha, Secretary Zafarullah Khan, Prof AKM Hadi of BSMMU, and Prof AZM Zahid Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

WHO representative to Bangladesh Dr Duang Vadee Sungkhobol was also present at the signing ceremony followed by a technical session.



PHOTO: STAR

Nari Sangram Committee forms a human chain at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday protesting police atrocities on women during the 14-party opposition combine's Prime Minister's Office siege programme.

Yellow, White panels share seats in CU syndicate polls

CU CORRESPONDENT

Opposition-backed Yellow Panel and ruling four-party alliance-backed White Panel won two posts each in the Chittagong University (CU) syndicate polls held yesterday.

Professor Dr Sultan Ahmed and Associate Professor Helal Uddin Nizami from Yellow Panel won in the professor and associate professor categories respectively while Assistant Professor Tanvir Mohammed Haider Arif and Lecturer Mohammed Kamal Uddin won from the White panel in the assistant professor and lecturer categories.

Professor Sultan bagged 116 votes while the white panel candidate Mostafa Kamal Pasha of Botany Department got 89 and Helal Nizami bagged 47 votes while white panel candidate Tayub Chowdhury got 22 votes, sources said.

Tanvir Haider and Kamal Uddin bagged 71 and 74 votes respectively while their yellow panel opponents Dr Abdul Haque of Geography and Environmental Science Department and Md Ashra-fuzzaman of Anthropology Department got 59 and 17 votes, sources said.



PHOTO: STAR

Five Left Party stages a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday protesting price hike of essentials.

ADB to provide \$ 96 m for rural Infrastructure dev

UNB, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will lend US\$ 96.1 million to Bangladesh to help expand economic opportunities for the rural poor by way of improving rural infrastructure and local governance.

An agreement to this effect was signed between the ADB and the government at a simple ceremony at Economic Relations Division (ERD) yesterday.

ERD Secretary Ismail Zabiullah and Country Director of ADB Resident Mission Hua Du signed the deal on behalf of their respective sides.

Jane A Crowder from DFID, Georg Rademacher from the German Embassy in Dhaka, Rainer Kuhnle from GTZ and Christoph Isenmann from KfW were also present.

The project's total cost is estimated at US\$ 260.5 million, with the government funds of US\$ 78.3 million. Co-financing for the balance of US\$ 86.1 million is being considered by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and German Development Cooperation through Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KfW) and Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ).

An ADB press release said the project would upgrade a total of about 9,920 kms of tertiary roads that make up the rural road network, as well as 370 rural markets and the offices and facilities of 190 union councils, to help reduce poverty in 23 districts in northern and central Bangladesh.

The 23 districts, located in Rajshahi, Dhaka, and Chittagong divisions, were selected for their poverty, poorly developed road infrastructure and need for strengthened local governance.

"About 55 per cent of the rural residents in the area covered by the project live below the poverty line, and less than half of its rural roads are in good condition," said the donor agency.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is the executing agency for the project, which is due for completion in 2011.

"Efficient rural transport and supporting infrastructure are indispensable to reducing poverty and achieving rapid economic development in Bangladesh," says Hua Du.

"These improvements will provide local inhabitants with more

efficient transport to markets and trading centres, as well as access to social and welfare services. This should lay the foundation for better economic opportunities."

More than six million people are expected to be benefited from better access to markets and social services, resulting in an estimated 20 per cent increase in a family's average farm income. About 7,000 women are to become self-employed and gain employment opportunities through jobs in the retail areas, and for maintaining sub-district and village roads and roadside plantations.

Under the scheme, extensive need-based training will be provided to increase gender awareness and empower women to play a more effective role in local governance.

NATIONALISATION OF JOBS

Non-govt pry teachers give ultimatum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government primary schools yesterday submitted a memorandum to the prime minister with a 24-hour ultimatum to meet their demand for nationalisation of jobs.

While talking to The Daily Star, Mohammad Shamsul Alam, president of Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers' Association said, "We have given a 24-hour ultimatum to the prime minister that will end at 4:00pm tomorrow (Monday). We will arrange a press conference at 5:00pm where we will announce tougher programmes like hunger strike and self-immolation if our demand is not met within the deadline."

Earlier, hundreds of teachers from 55 districts across the country brought out a procession from Mukhtangan at 2:00pm and marched towards the prime minister's office (PMO) for submitting the memorandum.

The procession was intercepted by police in front of the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University at 3:00pm.

A 10-member delegation of the teachers went to the PMO in a police van to hand over the memorandum.

After a brief rally there, other teachers went to the Central Shaheed Minar to participate in the sit-in programme which began on Saturday.

Verdict in two cases against Sunny, four others Sept 27

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will deliver the verdict in two cases against Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) military commander Aatur Rahman Sunny and four others on September 27.

The cases, one under Arms Act and the other under Explosive Substances Act, were filed with Sabujbagh Police Station on December 14 last year.

After completion of arguments from the prosecution and the defence yesterday, Judge Monzurul Bachhid of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court set the date of verdict.

The other accused are Sunny's friend Fariduzzaman Swapan, JMB regional commander of Gazipur unit Enayet Ullah alias Jewel, Kamrul alias Sumon alias Zahidul and Alamgir alias Bijoy.

Out of the five accused, Sunny, the younger brother of JMB chief Shaekh Abdur Rahman, Swapan and Jewel are now in custody while the remaining two are still on the loose.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on March 14 pressed charges against Sunny and four others in two cases, showing 36 people as prosecution witnesses.

Rab dropped the names of Monir and Abul Khair, Sunny's landlord, from the charge sheet as their involvement with JMB could not be proved.

The investigation officers (IO) said the charges brought against the five were primarily proved and they should be tried. The IOs also prayed for arrest warrants against the absconders and attachment of their moveable properties.

Sunny, member of the JMB top tier Majlish-e-Shura, masterminded the August 17 blasts across the country. He was arrested at the Polytechnic Institute in Tejgaon on December 13 last year.

Leads obtained from Sunny prompted Rab to seize 56 items of arms, ammunition, explosives, bomb-making materials, and books on jihad from the house of Abul Khair at South Manda in Sabujbagh area of the capital.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers of different factories in Shyampur area in the city stage a demonstration on Dhaka-Narayanganj highway yesterday demanding uninterrupted power supply.