

Political will a must for improving lives of slum dwellers

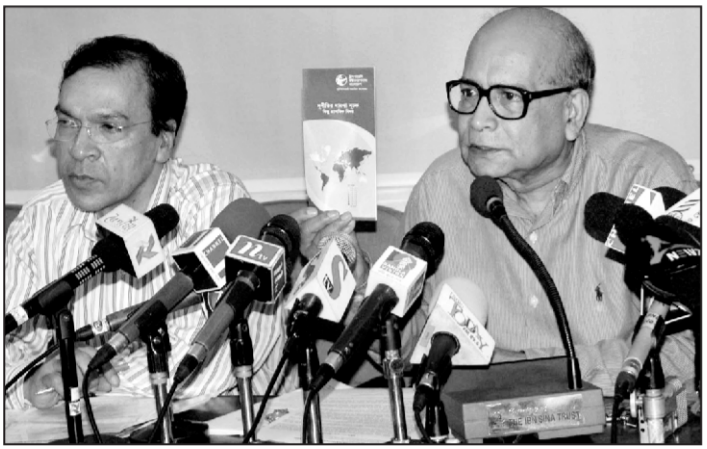
Experts tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a roundtable yesterday underscored the need for political commitment to improving the condition of urban slum dwellers.

Science, Dhaka University, in cooperation with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organised the roundtable on 'Improving slum dwellers' lives: What options do we have?' at a city hotel.

According to official statistics, 37.9 percent of the country's urban population were found living under poverty line at slums and squatters in 2004, said Prof Nazrul, chairman of the Centre for Urban Studies (CUS).



Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a news briefing while releasing the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2006 prepared by Transparency International at National Press Club in the city yesterday.

At present, there are 12 million slum dwellers in the country, he said. According to a CUS survey conducted in six city corporations last year, 55 percent of 9,048 slums are located in Dhaka while 20 percent in Chittagong.

Biman engr among 7 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed in separate road accidents in Savar, Sylhet and Chittagong yesterday. UNB from Savar reports: Two people were killed when a goods-laden truck hit another truck from behind on Nabinagar-Kaliakoir road in Savar early yesterday.



Dry weather likely

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature, Humidity in percentage, and Morning/Evening in Celsius.



Prof ASM Arefin Siddique speaks at a protest rally organised by Joybangla Sanskritik Oikyajote on the occasion of Jail Killing Day at Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday.

RU teachers urge CA to cancel mass recruitment

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Progressive Teachers' Society (PTS), a pro-liberation war teachers' body of Rajshahi University, urged the president and the chief adviser of the caretaker government to cancel the mass recruitment in the university.

Ershad's U-turn not to join 4-party

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decided to take time to finalise the decision. He will take the right decision in time. JP sources said most of the party lawmakers, except Moshir Rahman Ranga and Lili Chowdhury, opposed going with the BNP. Ranga and Lily Chowdhury told Ershad that JP should join the BNP-led combine if they agree to fulfill its demands. But TIM Fazle Rabbi and Golam Habib Dulal said, "It is not the time to go with the alliance as they will face a debacle in the next election. So we should observe the situation more."

ise the matter," meeting sources quoted Ershad as telling his party lawmakers. A source close to JP policymakers however said Ershad could change his position again, and everything will be finalised after the November 12 deadline the Awami League (AL) gave to the chief adviser for meeting its 11-point demand. Ershad would go with the BNP if the AL-led 14-party combine fails to control the situation. Ershad could sit with his party lawmakers on November 15 to take a final decision in this regard.

General Tarique Rahman, told The Daily Star yesterday, "There is no last word in politics and we have come much closer. I hope Jatiya Party will finally join us to save the nation." Terming JP's present decision a 'temporary' one, he hoped JP lawmakers will change their position and ultimately decide to join the BNP-led alliance.

Arrest criminals harboured by mayor, Loby Khulna BNP faction urges police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A faction of Khulna BNP led by former lawmaker M Nurul Islam demanded arrest of criminals harboured by the faction led by Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman. Leaders of Nurul Islam faction at a meeting held with Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) Commissioner Nazmul Huq on Sunday demanded arrest of the criminals harboured by the city mayor and Ali Asgar Lobi as they were trying to flee the country. They urged police commissioner to arrest them immediately for the sake of peace in the city.



80th birth anniversary of Mahbub Ul Alam today

Today is the 80th birth anniversary of veteran poet Mahbub Ul Alam Chowdhury, famed for writing the first poem on the Language Movement, says a press release. He was born in 1926 at Gohira village at Chittagong. He has written lots of poems, stories, plays and essays on different genres during his life.

Obituary

Mohammad Abdul Goni, father of Mohammad Amin Uddin Ahmed, general secretary of Supreme Court Aijnibi Samity, died of old-age complications at the age of 80 at Samorita Hospital here yesterday morning.

Death anniversary

Today is the 10th death anniversary of Abdus Sattar Khan, founder president of the Bangladesh Krishak Federation. On the occasion, different organisations including Bangladesh Krishak Federation, Bangladesh Krishani Shava and Bangladesh Adivasi Samity, chalked out an elaborate programmes. The programmes include hoisting of national and party flags, milad mahfil, discussion and rally.

Copying curbed, quality fell

FROM PAGE 1 and misappropriation of funds.

In most cases, 'business strategy' and tender manipulation of the ruling party men were hampering the progress. In Netrakona, followers of a high-flying state minister grabbed the tender and were caught red-handed by the community-monitoring group. Besides, the government employed NGOs, which were earlier blacklisted for massive anomalies, in exchange of huge bucks. These NGOs were responsible for the failure of Directorate of Non-formal Education Programme (DNFE). There are widespread allegations against appointments of teachers having political affiliation.

batons on teachers leaving seven injured.

Tk 376 crore of the education ministry and Tk 9 crore of the department of primary and mass education were left idle and returned in the last fiscal year. But the non-government teachers were not paid according to their demand, meeting of which was an election pledge of the BNP. EDUCATION BOARDS Secondary and higher secondary education boards became the pasture of crooked fellows. The network of 'procureur nexus' became as strong as ever. A board official said there was not a single day they did not get phone calls for registration of schools and colleges that failed to meet government requirements.

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

The public universities lost credibility for unchecked nepotism. Political affiliation rather than quality has become the norm for appointment at the universities. The BNP-Jamaat coalition started its journey through violating the University Autonomy Act, 1973. All vice chancellors of the public universities were changed overnight. Not even a single university escaped the vile grip of cronyism and politicisation. Without the recommendation of the Coordination and Development (C&D) committee, over a dozen teachers were appointed in several departments including chemistry, sociology, soil, water and environment, law, geography, marketing, pharmaceutical chemistry, computer science, English, population science and in Institute of Fine Arts recently.

UNI-TRACK HOAX

Keeping all the 82 recommendations of Moniruzzaman Miah Education Commission in the moratorium, the government at the fourth year of its tenure played a hoax with the nation behind the placard of 'uni-track' education.

MADRASA EDUCATION

Though people across the country voiced concern over militants' links with madrasa education, the government paid no heed to it. As many as 1,582 madrasas were established across the country during 2001-2005, while the numbers of new schools and colleges are 580 and 619. Newly set up Kammi madrasas was kept out of this list.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Massive change violating regulations: As soon as the BNP-led four-party alliance assumed office, an unprecedented appointment process took place. The education ministry called an interview through which the principals of lucrative colleges were transferred.

ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS & PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

In the last five years, the country experienced a boost in English medium schools and private universities. Forty institutions were established during the period and now the number of English medium schools in the city stands at 60. Of them, 22 are in Dhannoddi Residential Area and six more will be launched here soon.

TIB REPORT

Transparency International, Bangladesh termed it one of the most corrupted sectors. Of the 18 sub-sectors, the TIB found incidence of corruption at 14 sub-sectors. Huge amount of money was drained out through abuse of power, bribe, grabbing money, fraudulence, nepotism, irresponsibility in performing duties, realising money forcefully, threatening, and irregularity in government purchase.

ENSEMBLE OF INSECURITY

Professor Aftab Ahmed of Dhaka University was shot at his Fuller Road house and succumbed to injuries. No-one was arrested in this connection.

HASTY ALLOCATION

The government hastily allocated money in three projects just 12 days before its tenure expired. To upgrade quality and infrastructure of the universities, Tk 194 crore, to develop registered non-government primary school (third phase) Tk 814 crore, and to renovate and reconstruct PEDP-2 project Tk 1,182 crore were allocated.

'Punish those who tried to protect killers of Bangabandhu'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joybangla Sangskritik Oikyajote yesterday demanded removal of and punishment to the government officials who tried to protect the self-confessed killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. At a protest rally on the occasion of Jail Killing Day at Liberation War Museum, Oikyajote leaders also demanded punishment to all involved in the killing of Bangabandhu.

The self-confessed killers, including Col Rashid, who are living abroad, came to the country to carry out their activities and then left the country safely during the tenure of the immediate past government, said Awami League presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury. She wondered how they managed to elude the law enforcement agencies. After the killing of Bangabandhu, the killers also massacred the four national leaders in the jail, thereby destroying democracy in the country, she added.

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