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Opposition out to capture power thru' conspiracy: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina dismissed with disdain the allied opposition's 4-point demand as "a signed document of vote thieves, rajakars and autocrats out to capture power through conspiracy," reports UNB.

The trio banded with the lone insidious motive of seizing power sidetracking democracy means," she told a discussion meeting marking the Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu at Engineers Institution yesterday afternoon.

Hasina said their demands, packed in an ultimatum, did not contain anything concerning people's welfare and economic progress, rather they were making a bid to protect the killers and destabilise the situation. The name of so-called movement without any issue.

"They perceive that they won't be able to return to power with people's mandate... They were born in conspiracy, have faith in conspiracy and trying to get back to power through conspiracy," she said criticising the recent joint declaration of the three major opposition parties — BNP, Jatya party and Jamaat, Islamic Oikya Jote also signed it.

The Prime Minister said her party had established people's right to vote through long-drawn struggles and declared that in future government must be changed through ballots only.

She urged the people to remain alert about their voting rights and stand united against any conspiracy designed to snatch the franchise.

Referring to the fall of Ershad and Begum Zia in mass movement, Hasina said both were ousted by the people on charges of vote dacoity, corruption and abuse of power.

Presided over by Awami League president member and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, the function was also addressed by party leaders Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, LGRD Minister

Zillur Rahman, Environment Minister Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Mayor Mohammad Hanif, State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, Maya, former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain and litterateur Syed Shamsul Huq.

The Prime Minister narrated the eventful background of the country's war of liberation and arrest of Bangabandhu soon after his declaration of independence on the night of March 25, 1971.

She said the country's founding father did not compromise independence even after Pakistan President General Yahya Khan had signed the death warrant.

But Yahya's orders could not be implemented as 96,000 Pakistani army troops surrendered to the joint command of the Indian army and freedom fighters on December 16, 1971. The Pakistani junta was forced to set free Bangabandhu under pressure of world opinions.

"Bangladesh's independence was completed with the return of the Father of the Nation," she said but deplored that Bangabandhu was assassinated in the independent Bangladesh when he pronounced the economic programme.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad asked the three opposition parties to seek people's verdict by taking part in local polls and national elections in 2000.

Syeda Zohra Tajuddin said that the opposition's planned movement has no logic or reasons. They trying to fish in troubled waters.

Awami League general secretary and LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman called for unity of democratic and pro-liberation forces under Sheikh Hasina's leadership against evil forces like rajakars and autocrats.

SEC rewrites rules

From Page 1

Business experience of each officer, director and nominee for the last five years, and any family relationship among them should be clearly mentioned.

It should also include a description of any transaction during last two years or any proposed transactions between the company and director or executive officer of the company or their nominee or any member of their immediate family or any person owning 5 (five) per cent or more shares.

Any transaction or arrangement entered into by the company or its subsidiary for a director, who is currently a director or in any way connected with a director of either the issuer company or any of its subsidiaries or sister concerns, or who was a director or connected in any way with a director at any time during the last three years, prior to the publication of the prospectus, should also be mentioned.

All interests and facilities enjoyed by a director, whether pecuniary or non-pecuniary, and any changes in those interests between the date of publication of the prospectus and the time limit should be stated.

Any change in the assets of the company used to pay off any liabilities should also be mentioned.

Any loans taken by the company, either from a subsidiary or associate concern or from any other party or parties should be stated, giving full details of all related parties' transaction.

The new rule requires that a special report from the auditors be furnished regarding any allotment of shares to promoters or sponsor shareholders for any consideration other than cash.

The prospectus should mention any VAT, income tax, customs duty or other tax liability to be paid, including any contingent liability, stating why those were not paid prior to its issuance.

It should also contain all material information about the issuing company's business, its assets and liabilities, financial position, profits and losses, and its future prospects.

The SEC may require disclosure of additional information in the prospectus as it considers appropriate in a particular offering, and the applicant shall comply with the provisions of the new rules.

The prospectus will include all risk factors — no recent receipt of revenues, poor financial conditions, industry risk, currency risks, market and technology-related risks, political or existing government regulations, potential changes in global or national policies and no operating history.

If the company earned revenue from operations in each of the last two years, its financial condition, changes in financial condition and results of operations should be included.

It will also show how the net proceeds of the offering would be used, indicating the amount to be used for each purpose, and a schedule mentioning the stages of project implementation.

Markets for principal products or services of the issuing company should be included in the prospectus.

The company has more than one product or service, the relative contribution to sales and income of each product or service that accounts for more than 10 per cent of the company's total revenues should also be included.

Any issuer may make placement with investors, both foreign and local, and the amount so placed, including the name and addresses of such investors, should be disclosed in details in the prospectus.

The sponsors share capital would continue to be subject to a lock-in of three years from the date of the publication of the prospectus or commercial operation, whichever comes later.

This condition, however, is not applicable for foreign sponsors either in joint venture company or hundred per cent foreign owned company, the new rules prescribed.

Two 'extra-solar' planets discovered

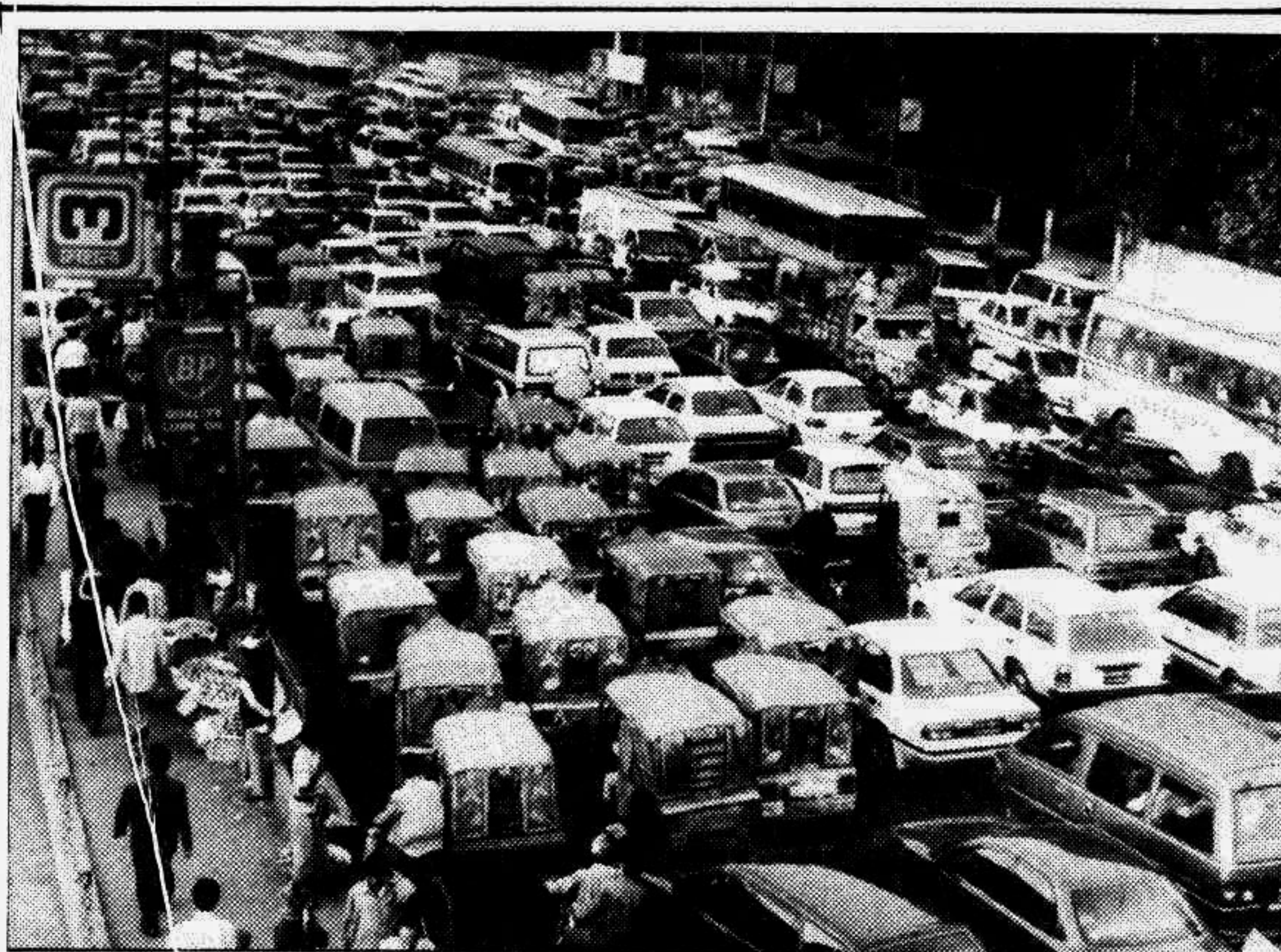
AUSTIN (Texas) Jan 10: Two planets similar in size to Jupiter have been identified around stars similar to the sun, several teams of astronomers announced Saturday, reports AFP.

The latest discoveries bring to 17 the number of so-called 'extra-solar' planets discovered since 1995.

They also confirm that a significant number of stars in the Milky Way — the galaxy that encompasses the Sun and solar system — have gigantic, gaseous planets such as Jupiter within their orbits.

The first planet was identified around star HD-195019 in the Delphinus constellation.

With a mass around 3.5 times that of Jupiter, it is some 21 million kilometers from its sun — less than one fifth of the distance that separates Earth from the Sun — and completes an orbit in just 18 days.



Rickshaws are banned here. But, on the Sonargaon-Sheraton stretch of the 'VIP Road', the situation defies the rickshaw-the-spoiler theory. This picture tells the story — told time and again by this newspaper along with others. But who cares? Traffic management remains the same in this city.

Over 6 lakh illegal rickshaws plying on city streets!

By Morshed Ali Khan

While Army, BDR and the police are frantically trying to control city traffic amid the Eid rush, thousands of unauthorised rickshaws and autorickshaws have taken to the city streets to make quick cash.

City police officials said at present more than six lakh illegal rickshaws are plying on the city streets. At the same time, hundreds of autorickshaws from the city's peripheral townships have come to the city only to make the traffic situation worse, they added.

Traffic police also blamed 'irresponsible motorists' for the worsening traffic congestion. They said most of the private cars found on the city streets carry only one or two passengers. The number of such 'luxury cars' rushing for the shopping centres are also increasing every day as the Eid nears. Most of the shopping centres do not have parking place and these are parked on the roads. A traffic department official advised the citizens to try to use public transports such as taxis, buses and such other vehicles as much as possible.

The authorities now find themselves in a dilemma. They cannot decide whether to divert their limited manpower and resources to crack down on the illegal vehicles or to keep city arteries clear of the gridlock.

In every shift, less than 400 traffic policemen are manning different points in the city.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) officials, however, brushed aside the police claim of six lakh illegal rickshaws. They said in addition to 80,500 licensed rickshaws there are at the most three lakh illegal rickshaws on the city streets.

"As in every year, this is the peak season for rickshaw-pullers," one official said. "Thousands of rural people come to the city to pull rickshaws during this season and no rickshaws are lying idle in any garage," said a Revenue Department official of the DCC.

Another official admitted that DCC did 'never have any firm policy to control rickshaws although it is the sole authority for this.

The DCC caught only a small number of rickshaws when the press started writing but all was mere white wash, said a DCC official. "Every time a clamp down started, a section of rickshawpullers started demonstrating in front of the Nagar Bhaban and the operation was instantly stopped."

In view of the present traffic situation, DCC has given a list of 100 illegal rickshaw makers in the city to the city police.

Police sources said they were trying to control making of rickshaws but were unable to do it 'satisfactorily' due to manpower constraint. So far they caught 100 illegal rickshaws in the city.

While rickshaws were apparently taking most of the blame for the gridlock, in most cases illegal autorickshaws were going unpunished. Apart from one or two points in the city, there is no check point for autorickshaws.

Rajuk officials noted that with the rapid expansion of the city, adequate number of roads were not constructed. Plans for new roads remain shelved because no government implements those fearing that land acquisition at the prime city spots would make it unpopular.

"The volume of traffic in such a big city cannot be accommodated by the existing roads," said one official.

DCC is also fighting a losing battle against different trade unions as many of them are running, "a parallel authority and issuing illegal rickshaw licences against payment of fees," he added.

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The allegations prompted lurid headlines in Sunday's British newspapers, mostly concentrating on the claims over his adultery.

The Cooks separated in 1997. He informed her at London's Heathrow Airport on the eve of a holiday that their marriage was over, after being told that his affair with Gaynor Regan had been discovered by the press.

Cook married Regan last year.

Young man stabbed to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was stabbed to death by a gang of assailants near the Sayedabad bus terminal in the city Saturday night.

The victim was identified as Ali Hossain Bhuiyan, 26, son of Sadek Ali, a resident of Sayedabad area, police and hospital sources said.

According to Demra police, Ali, an alleged phensidyl trader, was murdered by the members of his rival group following a dispute over phensidyl trading in the area.

Meanwhile, our hospital sources quoting relatives of the victim said, Ali was a roadside gasoline seller.

For later arrested two persons, Sohag and Kalam yesterday, who were accused in the murder case lodged by the father of the victim with Demra thana.

Narsingdi

From Page 1

27, son of Abdul Matallib of Rangamati and Hossen Mia, 28, son of Abdus Samad of Uttarpara village died on the spot.

Nine policemen — SI Ayub Ali, havildar Rafiqul Islam, sepoy Mizanur Rahman, Taish Uddin, Abdul Haque, Mainuddin, Giasuddin, Manik Das, Mir Kamal and Abul Kalam were admitted to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

UP member Rajon Mia, was arrested on charge of extortion, police said.

EC reviews

From Page 1

be held on non-party basis. The LGRD and Cooperative Ministry by a gazette notification in June last had announced an L-point code of conduct for the election.

The code of conduct formulated under the Municipality Ordinance, 1997, said that no candidate in the election will be able to use the name of any political party and its symbol.

After the announcement of the election schedules no candidate will be able to announce any donation to any government or private establishments.

Violation of the code of conduct will be a punishable offence under the law, it said.

Dacoits kill 2 in Comilla

COMILLA, Jan 10: Two people were killed and four others injured by dacoits at a village in Chandina thana here Saturday night, reports UNB.

Police said the miscreants stormed into the house of Lal Mia, 50, at village Kashimpur at midnight and chopped him and four of his family members with sharp weapons. Lal Mia died on the spot. Others received serious injuries.

His wife Sanaulah, 15, was also chopped to death as he came out of his house hearing hue and cry.

The dacoits decamped with goods worth about Taka one lakh, police said. A case was filed with Chandina thana in this connection.

Du teacher

From Page 1

committee in the wake of a campaign launched by a section of students under the banner of "Students-Protecting Sexual Harassment."

Meanwhile, several left-leaning student organisations organised processions and rallies on the campus yesterday demanding exemplary punishment to those teachers, found guilty of sexual offences.

Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) staged a sit-in in front of the VC's office at noon to press home its demand.

Evolve coordinated nat'l policy for health, edn sectors

By Staff Correspondent

The structural adjustment policy (SAP) in Bangladesh as recommended by the World Bank for bringing economic reform has caused adverse effects in the health and education sectors.

Participants in a discussion meeting yesterday at Proshika headquarters in the city also observed that because of the SAP, majority of the people, specially the poor, were deprived of getting due facilities in health and education sectors.

The participants identified a number of key barriers which were in the way of development of the sectors. Some of the barriers include low payment of teachers, poor planning, misuse of allocated funds, bureaucratic loopholes and lack of proper monitoring.

A teacher citing student-teacher ratio in most of the schools in the rural areas said, "Despite high attendance of students, we are unable to look after their needs in the classes due to ratio problem," she said.

About the healthcare facilities in the country, one discussant said, "In the thana health complexes we have adequate

number of doctors. But, he asked, are we able to provide the right service to the service buyers?"

The discussion was organised by Structural Adjustment Participatory Initiative (SAPRI) which is a tripartite exercise involving a network of civil society organisations, the governments and the World Bank.

Eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan presided the discussion meeting.

Head of the Institute for Development Policy Analysis and Advocacy (IDPAA) at Proshika and member-secretary of the SAPRI steering committee Md Shahabuddin made the opening remarks while Bangladesh Economic Association secretary Debapriya Bhattacharya acted as coordinator.

The participants stressed the need for evolving coordinated national policy in both health and education sectors so that the government and the voluntary organisations working in these sectors could work together for the welfare of the masses.

The participants also observed that the adjustment policy must be based and formulated taking into active considerations the indigenous circumstances and conditions.

While advocating higher salary and remunerations for the teachers and further enhancement of education budget, the participants viewed that 'corruption' should be eradicated to improve the quality of education. They also suggested formation of 'retired school teachers' pools for improving the standard of education and teaching.

For development of health-care services, they suggested introduction of medical group insurance instead of monthly medical allowances.

Among others, Prof Muzaffar Ahmed and Prof Shahed Hossain of Dhaka University, Dr Keramat Ali of Institution of Nutrition Science, Faruq Ahmed of World Bank, Dr Alamgir of UNDP, Ms. Afroza Nahar Rasheda, editor, Sikkha Barta, Hena Das, vice-president, Bangladesh Teachers Association took part in the discussion.

Ex-wife accuses Cook of 'serial adultery'

LONDON, Jan 10: British foreign secretary Robin Cook was hit by a stinging personal attack late Saturday from his ex-wife, who accused him of serial adultery, heavy drinking and political bitterness, reports AFP.

Margaret Cook, in a book serialised in the Sunday Times, said her husband had affairs with five women before dating his secretary Gaynor Regan, who is now his second wife.

She also claimed he had a habit of drinking heavily, in one 1987 incident he was seen passing out on the floor of a hotel with a bloody bottle.

Her ex-husband thought prime minister Tony Blair had 'sold his soul to the devil' to get Labour into office and was himself racked with 'terrible guilt' that he had sacrificed his left-wing principles for political advancement.

The allegations prompted lurid headlines in Sunday's British newspapers, mostly concentrating on the claims over his adultery.

The Cooks separated in 1997. He informed her at London's Heathrow Airport on the eve of a holiday that their marriage was over, after being told that his affair with Gaynor Regan had been discovered by the press.

Cook married Regan last year.

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Arrest of 'terrorist'

From Page 1

Replying to questions, she blamed Absar's wife for hatching a conspiracy to trap her son.

She said, "Absar's wife Nur Nahar Begum is an indiscipline and unruly type of lady who used to quarrel with her husband frequently. We suspect that Nur Nahar Begum might have link with any other person and created the troubles for my son. Nur Nahar stayed at our house only for 10 days in her 11 years' conjugal life with my son. She always tried to isolate my son from us which is the main cause of discord."

Absar is the eldest among six brothers and nine sisters, she said. She came to the press club wearing veil. She was accompanied by her two daughters, one son and some relatives.

Absar had problems with his wife from the very first week of their marriage. "She is a cruel lady," Absar's mother said.

Even on the night before leaving for London, Nur Nahar had quarrelled with my son and she tactfully took away his passport and return ticket," the mother alleged.

Absar's younger brother Nurul Arif told newsmen that Nur Nahar gave birth to a baby in London this week and it was communicated to them over phone after arrest of Absar.

Absar has another son who is living with his mother in London, they added.

Absar's relatives said Nur Nahar is the daughter of one Badsha Miah, locally known as 'Londoni Badsha'. He has been living in London for long.

Badsha hails from Noapara of Razzan thana while Absar hails from neighbouring Rangunia thana.

Absar comes of a lower middle class family. He married Nur Nahar in 1986 in the hope of going to London because she had British citizenship.

Absar worked as a cashier in a bank in Chittagong and later in a steel mill at Feni before going to London in 1996 with the help of his wife who had gone there one year earlier, relatives said. In London, he worked in a restaurant owned by a Bangladeshi. He came to Bangladesh, accompanied by his wife, son Junaid and his sister-in-law on September 2 last year, they said.

Nur Nahar went back to London on September 19, they added.

Ex-bureaucrats oppose

From Page 1

"The administration should be cleansed of political influence. Once a decision is taken by government, servants should execute it. Promotions, postings and appointment should be on the basis of rules," he said.

PARC should make separate working groups to help its task easier, to improve its recommendations, he added.

Among others Mahbubuz-zaman, Syeduzzaman, AMA Muhith, ABM Golam Mostafa, Mujibul Huq, Hasan Ahmed, Hedayet Ahmed, Salahuddin Ahmed, Mirza A. Jall, SM Hussain, Kazi Azhar, AKM Kamaluddin Chowdhury joined the discussions moderated by PARC Chairman ATM Shamsul Huq, also a former Secretary.