

What's on today....

BUET seminar: Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association will hold a seminar on 'Higher Education and Research in Bangladesh in the 21st Century: Role of Universities'. Venue: BUET seminar room. Time: 9:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Clinical meeting: ZH Sikder Cardiac Care and Research Centre will hold a clinical meeting on 'Intra-aortic Balloon Counter Pulsation'. Venue: Conference hall of the centre. Time: 9:00 am.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Moderately heavy to heavy falls are likely at a few places over Rajshahi division during the period. Met Office predicted. Country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded 34.6 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 23.2 degrees at Tangail. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:22 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:36 am. Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.6	25.5	85	78
Chittagong	31.6	25.5	76	93
Rajshahi	30.6	24.2	95	94
Khulna	33.7	26.4	74	83
Barisal	32.4	26.0	79	79
Sylhet	33.8	25.4	92	71
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.0	80	96

Abedul wants to be computer engineer

By Staff Correspondent
Md Abedul Haq of Dhaka College jointly topped the combined merit list of Science Group of this year's HSC examination under Dhaka Board with 953 marks and distinctions in four subjects. Abedul, the youngest son of Abdul Mannan, a government official and Ambia Begum, a house wife, of Comilla, aspires to be a computer engineer. He hopes to study in BUET, but he is also interested to prosecute higher studies abroad. Abedul, who stood sixth in the combined merit list in the SSC examination used to study for six to seven hours a day. Talking to 'The Daily Star', he said that he had been expecting a good result but was not ready for such an amazing one. He said he was grateful to his family members for inspiring him. Abedul is a supporter of fair student politics but expressed dissatisfaction over the present situation of the student politics. He said that he had never been involved in such politics. "Unfair student politics must be banned", he added. About the existing education system in the country he said, "the system should be changed as adoption of unfairness in the examinations is more easy in this system." "Students as well as the teachers also have to change their mentality for sake of proper education", he pointed out. Abedul enjoys reading books in his leisure and Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyaya is his favourite writer.

Edn system needs reform, says Mamun

By Staff Correspondent
Kazi Mohammad Shamim Al-Mamun of Notre Dame College jointly stood first in the HSC combined merit list of Science Group under Dhaka Board securing 953 marks and letters in four subjects. Second son of Sahjahan Kazi, a government official and Jahanaara Khandaker, a teacher of Ideal School, Mamun aspires to be a computer engineer. Expressing satisfaction over his result, he said, "I had been sure of this result all along." Mamun, who also stood first in the SSC examination, used to study for an average of 8 hours a day. In an interview with 'The Daily Star', he said, "my college principal and teachers and especially my mother contributed a lot behind my result." He is interested to study in Australia or Japan if he gets a scholarship, or he prefers BUET. He is not interested in student politics and said students should think about study not politics. He pointed out that the existing education system should be changed and that the syllabus is not adequate either, needs reform. Mamun enjoys reading books during his leisure. He is from Gopalganj.



Santosh Gupta presenting the keynote paper at a seminar on "Development of Free Press in Independent Bangladesh" organised by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) at its auditorium yesterday. Seated at the table are (from right) Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam, Director General of PIB, Prof Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Information, Advocate Gazul Haque and Barrister Moinal Hossain.

GSS gets eight weeks more to pay salary

By SC Correspondent
The High Court yesterday granted Gana Sahajya Sangstha (GSS) an extension its earlier fixed time by eight weeks for payment of salary and outstanding dues of its 6,000 employees. The GSS prayed for an extension. A division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Fazul Karim and Justice Md Ali Asgar Khan had earlier directed the GSS to pay the salary and other dues by August 26.

Khaleda

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weapons through Bangladesh. We can't make our beloved country the target of the north-eastern Indian states which are fighting for their independence. The meetings were also addressed among others by Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, M Saifur Rahman, Oli Ahmed, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Khairul Jahan Haq, Shahjahan Siraj, Abdullah Al Noman, Selima Rahman, party MPs MK Anwar, Sadek Hossain Khoka, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, and Afzal R. Khan.

Vandalism at bank boardroom

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had the directors escorted out of the board room," Khan said. Joint secretary of Finance Ministry Mokbul Hossain, a government representative in the board and SMA Quasem of the Bangladesh Bank were also present in the meeting. The directors said that they had been forced to sign their resignation letters and meeting minutes prepared by Akhteruzzaman's accomplices allegedly at gun point. On a visit to the UCBL head office at the FBCCI building, this correspondent found signs of forced entry into the office. The collapsible gate on the fifth floor of the bank was broken down and was lying on the floor. Police forces were present at the entrance of the building. Police officials said that they belonged to one of the four platoons of police, who came to the building in the afternoon. They denied having witnessed any untoward incident at the building. The correspondent later managed to reach the sixth floor of the bank where a bank official was waiting with press releases, which claimed that Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu had been unanimously elected chairman by the board of directors of the bank in its meeting yesterday. Asked about any untoward incident, he expressed his ignorance but said that he had heard that some 100 people gathered near the collapsible gate during the meeting. He also said that the election of the chairman was on the meeting agenda. Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, who has been recently the chairman of the bank talked with journalists at a corporate office of an industry. Zafar alleged that Babu had broken into the board room. He then accused Zafar of implicating him in the Humayun Zahir murder and removing him from the board of the bank. He also alleged that Babu and his accomplices took away valuables and cash from the directors and officials along with their mobile phones. He said that sensing the violence, two female directors -- Monwara Jahangir and Mokt Maina Begum -- had been shifted to another room. He also said that he had identified some of the hoodlums. Ahmed also said that Babu was a defaulter of some Tk 220 crore in principle and interest as of December last year and that he was also removed from the office of director by an order of the central bank in 1993 on charge of financial irregularities. "Till writing of this report, no police case was filed. When contacted, Akhteruzzaman Babu denied the allegations made by the directors saying that he was elected chairman by the board after Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury resigned at his own will. He also claimed that MA Kalam presided over the meeting, which elected him chairman. He also said that he was removed by a central bank order in 1993, which prohibited him from becoming director for the next three years. "I filed a case against the central bank order and later went abroad. On my return, I tried to move the case but the court told me that it was infructuous since the three-year period had already expired." "So, I went to the board yesterday and informed the members about my desire to be in the board. The board members elected me the chairman," Babu said. He also denied that his son or any other persons were with him carrying arms and also brushed aside allegations of forced entry into the office. He also said he had not forced anyone to resign. "If somebody resigns willingly and then gives some false statement the very next moment, what can you say?" Babu. Babu also denied taking police to the bank, saying that he saw forces when he was leaving the bank at around 7:30 pm. He also challenged Zafar's allegation of his having Tk 220 crore defaulted loans.

Specialised hospital

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Like others, they simply apply basic knowledge on how to treat the patients, but there are great risks particularly while immunising." In reply to a question, one of the doctors said, "There is every chance of wrong treatment because the doctors are not trained in the relevant fields and they have little idea about drug doses." The 110-bed hospital has 16 doctors but none of them have the specialised skill needed here," he added. All the doctors who spoke sought anonymity. The doctors said their "short stay" at the hospital greatly hampers their services. "As per government rules, they are posted here for three years. They thought that they should be allowed to work here for a longer time to acquire the required academic and practical knowledge since there is no other institution of this kind in the country. There is every scope for opening of academic courses here", one of the doctors claimed. The hospital has no microbiology laboratory on which it mainly relies for tests to diagnose the diseases. Sources concerned informed this correspondent that its diagnostic laboratory has no facilities for microbiological investigations. When contacted, a leading microbiologist said, "To detect microbes that cause infections, the first thing you need is a fully equipped microbiology laboratory. Without it you cannot diagnose diseases and hence cannot give proper treatment to patients." He also said, "There are two ways to detect the microscopic organisms that cause the diseases. One way is to isolate the organisms and detect the microbes indirectly by looking for the specific antigens of the microbes or detect the anti bodies against them." Dr SM Bazul Hossain, who is in-charge of the IDH, however, claimed that they were able to carry out the investigations in its biochemistry laboratory and clinical pathology unit. **NAP leader dead** Advocate Mohammad Nurul Alam, general secretary of National Awami Party (Mozaffar), died of a heart attack at a Calcutta clinic on Wednesday night at the age of 56, a party press release said yesterday, reports BSS. Advocate Alam, a freedom fighter, was being treated for cardiac ailments at the Birla Hospital.

DB Merit List (Science, Agri, Science and Home Economics Group)

1. Md Abdul Haque (953), Dhaka College, Kazi Mohammad Shamim-Al-Mamun (953), Notre Dame College; 2. Imranul Hoque (952), Notre Dame College; 3. Md Muhibur Rasheed (946), Notre Dame College, Sonia Jahid (946), Holy Cross College; 4. Dewan Mohammad Khalid (938), Dhaka College; 5. Ashrafuzzaman Hossain (938), Dhaka College; 6. Mehrib Monjur (935), Dhaka College; 7. Mohammad Jahid Hossain (932), Dhaka College, Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Khan (932), Mirzapur Cadet College, NM Muhit Tanveer (932), Mirzapur Cadet College; 8. Mohammad Salim Ahmed (930), Dhaka College; 9. Mohammad Ariful Haque, Russel (929), Dhaka College; 10. Md Saleh Muhammad Ali (926), Dhaka College, Nazia Sharmin (926), Viqarunnisa Noon College, Ishrat Quader (926), Viqarunnisa Noon College.

Kader Siddiqui

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place anytime after the Jatiya Sangsad goes into session on Sunday. I'll seek the floor to speak my mind in the opening day. I hope I'll be allowed to speak," said Siddiqui who recently talked to Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury. He hopes to return to parliament by contesting the by-election to be held in the Tangail JS seat he would vacate. "I'll ask for 'boat' as my election symbol. If boat is not given, I'll prefer gamchha as my election symbol." Meantime, the defiant AL lawmaker is preparing to hold a requisition council of the AL to elect a "legal committee" of the party. For the planned council, Siddiqui will accept the 1981 list of councilors as he feels the latter councilors are councilors illegal. "I'll abandon my plan to retrieve the AL if the required number of councilors do not respond to my call. In that case, I'll float a new party." He said he would contest the bypoll as an independent candidate if he failed to establish a new AL or organise a new party before the hustling. Now campaigning against the present leadership of AL, Siddiqui claimed having contacts with AL men at different tiers, including some top notches in the ruling party. Kader Siddiqui did not rule out Dr. Kamal Hossain's involvement with his move. "May be, we'll work together," he quipped. Having the most bitter relation with the AL leadership, Siddiqui was suspended from the party on July 23 and was issued a show cause notice later asking why he would not be expelled for violating discipline and acting against the interests of the party. But Siddiqui decided to ignore the notice. AL sources, however, said, the party would expel the defiant leader on expiry of the one-month period he was given to reply to the show cause notice. The period expires this month. It is also possible that he will be given a reminder by the party before they finally decide about his expulsion. It is learnt that an AL central committee meeting expected early next month will finally decide on the issue.

DB Merit List (Commerce Group)

1. Md. Wasim-Reza (862), Dhaka City College; 2. Mohammad Rajeeb Hassan (844), Dhaka City College; 3. Noshween Tahsin Hassan (829), Viqarunnisa Noon College; 4. Saddam Hussien Malik (828), Dhaka Commerce College; 5. Niyamul Haq (827), Dhaka Commerce College; 6. Md. Shahidul Islam (825), Notre Dame College; 7. Mostafa Monzur Hasan (819), Notre Dame College; 8. Mohammad Mahmodul Hasan (817), Dhaka Imperial College; 9. Md. Sayeed-Bin-Islam (809), Dhaka City College; 10. Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain, A.K.M. Anisuzzaman (805), Dhaka City College.

DB Merit List (Humanities, Islamic Studies and Music Group)

01. Rasel Zamader (933), D. K. Ideal Sayed Atahar Ali Academy; 02. Sima Biswas (918), D. K. Ideal Sayed Atahar Ali Academy; 03. Mahbub Alam (909), D. K. Ideal Sayed Atahar Ali Academy; 04. Sadia Halim Khan (890) Viqarunnisa Noon College; 05. Roni Mustafa (883), D. K. Ideal Sayed Atahar Ali Academy; 06. Jiniya Afroze (876), Viqarunnisa Noon College; 07. Rahnuna Rahman (870), Viqarunnisa Noon College; Saifur Rahman (870), Dhaka College; 08. Pijush Kanti Ojha (869), D. K. Ideal Sayed Atahar Ali Academy; 09. Mohammad Jobayed Hosen (868), Dhaka College; 10. Israt Sheefa (865), Ideal School and College, Motijheel.

HC orders

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sion, the HC Bench comprising Justice Fazul Karim and Justice Ali Asgar Khan summoned Deputy Attorney General Obaidur Rahman Mostafa and directed that no step regarding the slum dwellers should be taken until the judgement is signed and delivered to the government. The Attorney General was learnt to have communicated yesterday's HC order to the authorities concerned. Mohammadpur police, violating Monday's HC order, asked the residents of BNP Bustee, one of the largest slums in the city, to 'get lost' within seven days. Police, however, admitted that they did not know of any plans for rehabilitation of the slum dwellers. Meanwhile, a group of about 50 men, known to be leaders of the BNP Bustee (slum), was summoned to Mohammadpur thana Wednesday evening. Sources said police asked them to name the terrorists who might have taken shelter in the slums. Some of them were asked to sign on blank papers. As they refused to do so without knowing the reason, police officials told them that they would be required to testify when the terrorists were arrested. Several NGO representatives yesterday had meetings with the slum dwellers in Agargaon area. The squatters were in a state of panic fearing police action.

Soccer fiests

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Malaysia meanwhile may find it more difficult to defend their crown with the arrival of more powerful teams this time. Malaysia won the first edition of the Cup in 1997. The inaugural Bangladesh Cup turned into a sheer disappointment for the organisers, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), in terms of ticket sales and the standard of the tournament. The governing body of local football is however more upbeat this time to draw in more crowds. Tickets for all the matches are already on sale through 10 different branches of the City Bank. But bulk of the gallery tickets will be available at the stadium counters on match days. The tournament has also offered lucrative cash awards for the winners. The champions will receive Tk 3,00,000 apart from the glittering trophy while the runners-up will receive Tk 2,00,000. Besides, man-of-the-match award is worth 200 US dollars while the man-of-the-tournament 200 US dollars. The highest scorer in the tournament will receive 2000 US dollars from Azad Products. **Groupings** Group A: Hungary, Malaysia and Bangladesh. Group B: Brazil, South Korea and Thailand. Group C: Ghana, Uzbekistan and Nepal. Group D: Japan, Kuwait and Indonesia.

Bank rate

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banks. "We don't give any direct instructions to banks regarding interest rate. It is one of the indirect instructions," he said about the interest cut. Weomking the one per cent reduction of bank rate by the central bank, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) president MH Rahman said it would ultimately benefit the creditors. "With this one of our longstanding demands has been met," Rahman said and thanked the Finance Minister for the decision. He said the lowering of bank rate would definitely have a positive impact on overall trade and investment. The cut will encourage banks to lower interest rates on credits, he hoped. If nationalised commercial banks reduce their interest rates, Rahman said, private banks would also charge less to survive the competition.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority
141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000

Tender Notice

Scaled tenders in prescribed form are invited from bonafide printing press for printing and supply of various kinds of printing goods.

1. Tender no : Croy-29/99 dated:16-8-99.
2. Earnest money : $\frac{1}{2}$ of the quoted total amount (refundable) through Pay Order/Call Deposit/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favour of BIWTA to be submitted along with the tender as earnest money.
3. Price of tender schedule : Tk 50/- (fifty only) (non-refundable).
4. Place where tender schedule will be sold : BIWTA, Accounts Deptt, 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
5. Place, date and time of receiving tender : Purchase and Stores Deptt, Regional Office, Ist floor, "BIWTA Bhaban", 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka and Room No-816, (9th floor), Bhaban No: 6, Ministry of Shipping, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka up to 1500 hours on 06-09-99.
6. Opening date and time of tender : At 15-15 hours on 06-09-99 in presence of the tenderer (if any).

No tender schedule will be sold on the opening day and no tender will be received after schedule date and time. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

PR-65/99 **Md Golam Molla Molla** Director
DFP-18421-23/8
G-1570 Purchase and Stores Dept

Nawabganj Pourashava
Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project-II
ADB Loan No. 1376 BAN (SF)
Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
Infrastructure Implementation Section (IIS)

Tender Notice

Notice No. 01/99-2000 **Dated: 18/8/99**

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under ADB Loan No. 1376-BAN (SF) towards the cost of the Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project-II for 22 Pourashava, namely Bagerhat, Barisal, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Chapainawabganj, Comilla, Faridpur, Gaibandha, Gopalganj, Jamalpur, Jessore, Jhenidah, Madanipur, Magura, Munshiganj, Natore, Noakhali, Rajbari, Rangamati, Sirajganj, Tangail and Thakurgaon. The undersigned intends to take up under the said loan different types of works as listed below under the 1998 to 1999 (FY) implementation programme. Sealed tenders for implementation of the works are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No 2911 from the prequalified contractors of Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project-II.

Interested contractors may obtain necessary tender documents during normal office hours on all working days up to 12/09/99 from any of the office (i) the Project Director, Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project-II, LGED Bhaban (Level-7), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, (ii) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi, (iii) Dy. Commissioner, District: Nawabganj, (iv) Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Nawabganj, Head of IIS, PIU, Nawabganj Pourashava, (v) Executive/Assistant Engineer, ESFOS, PIU, Nawabganj Pourashava, (vi) Thana Engineer, LGED, Thana-Nawabganj Sadar, District-Nawabganj on cash payment (non-refundable) each group (amount stated in the tender notice) after obtaining written approval from the respective offices for purchase of tender documents on showing documentary evidence of their prequalification. Tenders will be received by the above-mentioned offices upto 12-00 hours on 13/09/99. No tender will be accepted beyond this time, and tenders will be opened at 12-30 hours on the same day in the receiving offices by the officers-in-charge in the presence of the tenderers, if any.

Interested tenderers may gather necessary information regarding tendered work from the above mentioned offices during normal office hours on all working days. Tenders must be accompanied by all relevant papers and Earnest Money @ 2% (Two per cent) of the estimated cost of the work in favour of the undersigned.

VAT registration certificates must be enclosed along with the tender. Both income Tax & VAT in respect of each payment will have to be paid by the contractor as per prevailing rules and regulations of the government of Bangladesh. Tender without VAT registration certificate will be rejected. Tenderer shall quote rate on overall percentage basis above/at par/below the estimated cost of the tender.

The authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. Tender not complying with the stipulated conditions will be treated as non-responsive and will be rejected.

Package No.	Name of Package	Estimated Cost (Tk)	Earnest Money (Tk)	Cost of Tender Documents (Tk)	Completion Time of Work (Days)
1	2	3	4	5	6
CNG-IS-99001 (Normal Fund)	A) Const. of drain from VTI Mour to Power House Mour. B) Const. of drain from Dariapur Eidgah to Mosque	2288292.90	45766.00	500.00	90 days
CNG-IS-99002 (Normal Fund)	Re-Const. of Coronation road, length=0.748 km.	2064506.00	41291.00	500.00	90 days
CNG-IS-99001 (Flood Rehab. Fund)	A) Rehabilitation of road from Octroy Mour to VTI Mour. B) Rehabilitation of approach of culvert at Chowdhollitola & Link road of LGED Assst. Engineer Quarter.	2263830.00	45277.00	500.00	90 days

Chairman
Head, Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
Nawabganj Pourashava, Nawabganj

DFP-18479-23/8
G-1572

Red tape retards reforms

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length to 20 years. Even a simple decision to set up a counter at the Secretariat to receive letters from public seeking redressal of their various complaints, has also remained in limbo despite approval by the government. This decision based on the existing Secretariat manual provides for a citizen to submit his/her complaint to a designated officer having the rank of a senior assistant secretary. The citizen would receive an acknowledgement receipt from the reception counter which would forward the letter to the concerned ministry, which in turn would provide another acknowledgement receipt within the next working day and a reply to the person in fifteen days. Another decision was made to provide for simple descriptions of service oriented government departments and public utilities about their services, how and where to get them, etc from a service counter to help guide citizens. These two decisions along with another recommendation to facilitate travellers pay air travel tax while buying air tickets is likely to be enforced from September 1, if the decision approved recently by the Cabinet can cut through the red tape. Government sources said the decisions are being implemented, the decision to set up a reception counter at the Secretariat, for receiving complaints and letters from people with a desk manned by a section officer is in its final stage.

IFIC directors

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The objection came up for hearing on August 17 and the respondent sought one month's time. But the court granted one week. The matter finally came up for hearing on Tuesday and the hearing continued till Wednesday. On Wednesday the HC observed that a retiring director did not require any nomination by any quarter or its approval by any director while any other had to satisfy that he is nominated and has been recommended by other directors as qualified for the post of director. The court also observed that there was no record that the letter of nomination was placed before the directors seven days before the AGM and that there was no recommendation from the directors for Khan as a candidate for election as director. The court then disposed of the objection with the view that the election of Khan was not held in compliance with Articles of Association. The court ordered that the four retiring directors would stand re-elected.

The proposal for the creation of an office of the Ombudsman has been finalised. Only the appointment of a suitable person is hindering its implementation. Similarly the proposal for lowering the age of voluntary retirement is also under process. The PARC itself faced hostility from the bureaucracy who it tried to reform since it was set up to fulfil the election pledge by the Awami League in late 1996. Two chairpersons left in anger and frustration after finding the going tough in the face of cold shoulder from their erstwhile colleagues. After the present chairman, also a former civil servant from the ranks of the CSP, took over the PARC office space was given, including necessary support facilities and personnel. ATM Shamsul Huq, chairman of PARC said he is hopeful of completing the assignment within May, 2000, coming up with its string of reports and recommendations. But it is not clear what would happen to the process of reforms or the commission after its mandate runs out next year. He said developing partners want the commission to stay on as an institution and are ready to provide funds for it. But no thought has been given about the continuation of the commission as a permanent body to reform the administration, and act as a watchdog to ensure the reforms are implemented.