

## People's participation in budgetary preparations suggested

BSS, Dhaka

Parliament members from both the treasury and opposition benches yesterday recommended holding pre-budget discussions to ensure maximum participation of people in the budgetary preparations.

Taking part in an open discussion at a workshop, they said that pre-budget discussions should be held inside or outside parliament on annual development layout so that the parliament members get opportunity to put forward their recommendations.

The government and the UNDP jointly organised the workshop on 'Procedural Aspects of Budget Debate' under the ongoing 'Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy' project at the Bangladesh Institute of Parliamentary Studies (IPS) on Jatiya Sangsad premises.

Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar inaugurated the workshop joined by 29 lawmakers. Of them, 14 belong to BNP, 11 to Awami League and four to Jamaat-e-Islami.

Abdul Mannan of BNP moderated the second session of the workshop. Advocate Rahmat Ali of Awami League and Abdul Alim of Jamaat-e-Islami addressed it as resource persons.

Most of the lawmakers called for allocating more time for budget discussion in the Jatiya Sangsad, re-fixing annual fiscal period and bringing amendments to the Rules of Procedures.

Describing budget session as the focal point of legislature, Barrister Sircar said the entire session become lively if all parliament members join the Sangsad and take part in general discussion on budget.

"We should make parliament lively by ensuring total participation in the session, which is also needed to consolidate democracy," he said.

Underscoring the presence of opposition MPs in the budget discussion, Barrister Sircar said they could give a guideline to the government with their criticism on the budget allocation.

He urged the parliamentarians specially the newcomers to discharge their responsibilities in the coming budget session.

Chief whip Khondokar Delwar Hossain said a threadbare discussion on annual development budget should be held before placing it in the Jatiya Sangsad.

He hoped that the main opposition Awami League would discharge their responsibilities by joining the budget session of the parliament.

Referring to defence expenditure in the budget, Col (Rtd) Shawkat Ali MP of Awami League said there should be no secret in the annual budget as people have the right to know.

"Discussion on defence expenditure should be open as there is no scope to conceal anything," he added.

Winding up the discussion, BNP lawmaker Abdul Mannan stressed the need for pre-budget discussion to make it more transparent and accountable to the people.



PHOTO: STAR

The Communist Party of Bangladesh staged a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting government move to allow an American company to build a private port in Chittagong.

## Acquire professional integrity

President advises medical students

UNB, Dhaka

President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury has advised the medical students to acquire professional integrity, build up strong character and inculcate empathy towards the patients.

He said this while he was addressing the newly admitted 11<sup>th</sup> batch students in the Women Medical College and Hospital at Uttara yesterday. This is the country's first women medical college, which was established in 1992.

The president said the doctors work with the life of human being and so there is no place of negligence on their part.

President Chowdhury, also a renowned physician of the country, advised the students to feel the sufferings of the patients and treat them with empathy and care as if they are their close relations.

The function was also addressed by Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Jasim Uddin Ahmed, National Professor and Executive Chairman of Medical and Health Welfare

Trust MR Khan, Principal of the Women Medical College Prof AM Mujibul Haq and Director of the hospital Col (Rtd) Hasmat Ali.

## Film festival in aid of Shaon begins today

BSS, Dhaka

A four-day film festival, organised by the students of physics department of Dhaka University, will begin today in aid of the department's 2<sup>nd</sup> year meritorious student Ariful Islam Shaon, a blood cancer patient.

Three shows will take place everyday at the Dhaka University TSC auditorium and tickets will be available at any "Hallmark" cards outlet in Dhaka or at the TSC before the show for Tk 35 only, a press release said.

Persons willing to help urgent medical treatment of Shaon can also contribute to the organisers of the film festival.

## Shihab Murder Case 5 more PWs cross-examined

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Five more prosecution witnesses in the sensational school-boy Khondakar Shihab Ahmed Abduction and Killing Case, were cross-examined in the second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday.

After the cross-examination for about four hours by the defence lawyers Judge Hossain Shahid Ahmed adjourned the hearing till 10.30 am today.

During the cross-examination Dr Nurul Islam, the 18<sup>th</sup> prosecution witness in the case told that at about 12.15 pm on April 2 he and three others, including the chairman of medical board in the forensic department in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) prepared the postmortem report of the victim Shihab's body.

"As per identification of constable Tamiz Uddin, I and other members of the board prepared the postmortem report," the witness added.

Earlier, 17 prosecution witnesses, including complainant of the case, were cross-examined.

Khondakar Shihab Ahmed, 13, a student of class seven of Motijheel Model School and College, was abducted from in front of his school on February 7. Later, the abductors killed and slashed his body into pieces.

Detectives recovered the pieces of his body from three places in Basabo and North Goran areas in the city after 53 days of the incident.

Accused Liton and Syed, now at the Dhaka Central Jail, were produced before the court during the hearing.

Advocate Syeda Abida Sultana Rozi, Helal Uddin Ahmed and Sadequr Rahman appeared in the court on behalf of the accused.

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