

## Minister blames settlement officers for people's sufferings

BSS, Dhaka  
Land Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday urged settlement officers to mitigate the sufferings of people regarding land records.

The minister was addressing the Annual Conference of Settlement Officers at the Land Records and Survey Directorate (LRSD) in the city's Tejgaon area.

Islam said land dispute was one of the main causes of tensions and conflicts in society. Eighty per cent of litigation in the country stem from land disputes, he said.

"I have seen tears in the eyes of at least 100 people in about 300 days in office," he said extempore after reading out his written speech.

"You are one of the main causes of it (the sufferings)," he added.

"Now you have to decide whether you will increase the number of court cases or not," Islam said.

"You know from experience who are the real land owners," the minister said.

"People won't believe your denials, no matter how louder you utter those," the minister reminded them.

People even submit representations to ministers requesting them to suspend land survey in their areas for a particular year showing the cause that the economic condition of the area is not fit for it, the minister said.

"It indicates your role during land settlement," he said.

Islam urged them to prove the allegations of people false through their activities.

Termining the land record process very complicated, he said: "If you show people only the rules, it

will add to their sufferings." He asked the officers to keep in mind that they would not be in the chairs always. "If you leave behind the problems, the complications will be compounded for your children."

The function was also addressed by State Minister for Land Ukil Abdus Sattar, Land Secretary Azad Ruhul Amin and LRSD Director General Golam Murtaja.

In his written speech, Islam said settlement operation was a long-term activity. All the activities of settlement should be completed in 10 years, but the irony is that they do not end in 20 to 25 years, he added.

He said the government took up a big project for conducting modern land survey in the country.

The ownership of lands would be identified and ensured by providing the owners with certificate of land ownership (CLO) under the project, he said.

It will make land selling and handover easier and reduce the number of court cases remarkably, he added.

He said the system would shut the doors to selling lands by persons other than the real owners and selling and buying of the same land for more than once.

The issuance of CLO will increase investment in land and encourage banks and other financial institutions to offer more credits, he said.

"It will play a positive role in the increase of production and in the national economy," he added.

One of the election pledges of the government was to make the land policy timely by updating it, he said.

He said work was underway to reform and modernise the whole system bringing the land administration and registration systems under a single authority.

The land minister urged all to work with honesty, sincerity and skillfulness.

Ukil Abdus Sattar urged the settlement officers to work carefully so that they could rid themselves of the popular allegation that 'land survey makes the poor poorer'.

The inaugural function over, the ministers went round the record rooms of the directorate and expressed dissatisfaction at the deplorable condition of the rooms.

## Lekhok Sangsad executives

A literary meeting and the third election of Bangladesh Lekhok Sangsad were held at Moyuraki Apartment, Dhanmondi in the city recently, said a press release.

The office-bearers are: President -- Tahmina Sayeeda, Vice Presidents -- Selma Doja Panni, Shamsun Nahar Zaman, Nur Hasna Latif, General Secretary -- Sayeeda Zaman, Joint Secretary -- Shahan Ara Swarna, Assistant Secretary -- Afroza Nazneen, Treasurer -- Nasreen Abedin, Office Secretary -- Halima Begum, Publicity Secretary -- Rashida A Karim and Organising Secretary -- Mehbooba Mokhles.

The members are: Badrunessa Abdullah, Jamil Akter Bina, Shamsuzzahan Nur, Anisa Hossain, Rita Ashraf, Monowara Bhuiyan and Sultana Ahmed.

Dr Halima Khatun presided over the meeting. In her presidential speech, she said every writer should work hard for creative writing.

## New scholarship for CA students

A new scholarship under the name of M Masihur Rahman Memorial Scholarship has been introduced in memory of late M Masihur Rahman, FCA, says a press release.

Dr Niaz Rahman, his son and renowned eye specialist, handed over a cheque for Tk 300,000 to M A Barea, FCA, president of ICAB on August 12.

From the income of this fund, deserving CA students will be awarded scholarship every year.

A K Chowdhury, FCA, past president, M G Sobhan, FCA, secretary, Nurul Islam Chowdhury, ACA, deputy director, M Farhad Hussain, senior deputy secretary and Md Fazlul Haque, senior assistant secretary of ICAB were present on the occasion.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina consoled the members of the family of four party alliance leader late Maulana Muslehuddin at his Bangsal residence in the city yesterday.

## 'Half of country's population victim of iodine deficiency'

BSS, Dhaka

Nearly half of the Bangladesh population are suffering from different diseases including cancer caused by iodine deficiency while the country's 14 nuclear medicine centres are treating growing number of patients every year.

More than 47 per cent population or 4.5 crore people are victims of goitre, another 25 lakh are hyperthyroid patients and some 20,000 are suffering from thyroid cancer -- all caused by deficiency of iodine in human body, a seminar of the Society of Nuclear Medicine was told this here yesterday.

Science, Information and Communication Technology Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan attended as chief guest at the daylong seminar on "Management of Thyroid Cancer and Thyrotoxicosis by Nuclear Medicine Technique" held at the Atomic Energy Commission.

Citing a recent study of Food and Nutrition Science Institute of Dhaka University, Professor of Nuclear Medicine Dr M A Karim said around 37.1 per cent people of the country were currently suffering from goitre alone. The percentage, according to a study carried out by Public Health and Nutrition Institute, was only 10.5 in

1981-83, he said.

Prof Karim said the southeastern Chittagong Hill Tracts and northern region were the worst victims of iodine deficiency where nearly 80 per cent people suffered from goitre for at least once in their lifetime.

He termed iodine deficiency as one of the country's major health as well as social problem saying the 14 nuclear centres of the country alone were treating more than one lakh victims of iodine deficiency every year.

Dr Moyeen Khan said the government would extend all-out cooperation to carry out research on nuclear medicine for the benefit of the patients like iodine defi-

ciency victims. "We will have to create treatment facilities for all 20 thousand thyroid cancer patients in the country," he added.

"We believe in peaceful use of nuclear power and its use in the fields of medical sciences is the best way to do that," Dr Moyeen Khan said.

Presided over by Prof M A Karim, the inaugural function was addressed by Secretary of the Science and Information Communication Technology Ministry Mahamudul Hasan, Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission Engineer Habib Uddin, noted scientist Prof Noyeem Chowdhury and General Secretary of the Society Mizanul Hasan.

## Change in food habit suggested

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion in the city yesterday suggested changing food habit of the people for not only to reduce dependence on cereals but also to substitute protein and calorie deficit of the nation.

Besides production of more fruits, vegetables and non-cereal crops, a social movement is also essential for convincing the people to reduce their dependence on rice, wheat and maize, they added.

The discussion on "Attaining Food Autarky: Changing food habit is indispensable" was organised by Jatiyatabadi Peshajibee Parishad (JPP) at the National Press Club.

Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman attended the discussion as chief guest while State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was the special guest.

Prof Yearul Kabir of Pharmacy Department of Dhaka University presented the key-note paper on the subject.

Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman said food security does not depend on mere production and

procurement of sufficient food grains, but also on purchasing capacity of the people. Even in the presence of sufficient stock of food grains in godowns, people would starve unless they have purchasing capacity, he added.

The minister said, though the nation could sustain itself through expansion of garments and other export-oriented industries for the time being but there was no alternative to booming rural economy through agriculture revolution.

"We can achieve this target by growing diversified crops, setting up agro-based and processing plants and ensuring sound transportation and marketing facilities for the growers, he added.

Quoting statistics, the minister said none can deny the fact that the production of rice has significantly increased in the country which is due to hard labour of the country's peasantry.

Presided over by JPP president Abul Kashem Haider, the function was also addressed by agriculturist Javed Iqbal of Maize Cultivation Project, Khumar Bari, Dr M Sayedur Rahman of Rajshahi University, Prof Ferdous Hossain of Dhaka University, Dr Mohammad Abdur Rashid, ex-Prof of Dhaka Medical College, Prof Abu Taleb of Bangladesh Open University, Prof Dr M A Wahab of Model Homeopathic Medical College and A K M Jannatul Karim Khokan, joint secretary of JPP.

## Govt employees asked to rise above all differences

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday called upon government officials and employees to rise above all differences and work unitedly for the welfare of people.

He was speaking at a function organised by Class-III Employees' Welfare Association of the Department of Films and Publications (DFP) in its auditoriums here, an official handout said.

Presided over by president of the association Mohammad Rezaul Karim Sarkar, the function was addressed by president of Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Samannaya Parishad Abdul Man-

nan, secretary general Salahuddin Ahmad Selim, DFP Director General Syed Mahbubur Rahman and Information Secretary Mirza Tassadduq Hossain Beg.

In a democracy, the information minister said, the winners and losers of an election have to work in unison for the betterment of different communities and society as a whole.

He called upon the DFP officials and employees to devote their talent and expertise to helping the department reach its public service goals.

Islam assured the DFP employees that the government would take necessary steps to meet their legitimate demands.

### WEATHER TODAY

## Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded in Sylhet and the lowest 24.0 degree Celsius in Dhaka yesterday.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:32 pm today and rises at 5:34 am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest 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	31.2	24.0	85	88
Chittagong	31.5	25.6	82	85
Rajshahi	30.6	25.7	92	85
Khulna	31.2	25.5	87	97
Barisal	31.0	25.5	89	90
Sylhet	33.0	25.5	81	83
Cox's Bazar	29.6	25.0	90	92



Maple Leaf International School celebrated the graduation ceremony of 2002 at the Russian Cultural Centre on August 10.

### Public Procurement Reform Project

Ministry of Planning  
Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division  
Central Procurement Technical Unit

ILO/ITC (Turin) have been appointed to assist the Ministry of Planning, Bangladesh (Central Procurement Technical Unit of the IMED) in the administration of this project and wish to engage National Technical Experts, the duration of engagement being for the periods shown against each position.

Service agreements for each position will be arranged through the Project Coordinator and the ILO Office in Dhaka. Only those persons having the necessary qualifications and experience, fluent in written/oral English should apply and persons currently in government service may not apply.

**Training/Procurement Specialist - (2-posts each of approximately 34 months input)**

A Masters degree (or equivalent) with at least ten years experience in developing, managing, conducting training of professionals of which at least 5 years experience in public procurement procedures of World Bank or Asian Development Bank or other development partners. The responsibilities will include implementing the training component of the project; planning of courses focusing at different levels for procurement professional, administration and audit staff; assisting in preparation of training manuals (in English & Bangla); training trainers and generally assisting the ITC (Turin) Procurement Training Expert.

Time period Sep 2002-March 2005.

**Procurement Legal Specialist - (2 posts each of approximately 4 months input)**

A Masters degree (or equivalent) with at least ten years experience as a senior lawyer/legal specialist in a developing country, or an international organisation, in the area of procurement, dispute resolution, drafting contract documents. The responsibilities will include a review of any existing procurement laws, regulations and procedures and suggest reforms; assist in drafting legal provisions in standard bidding documents, develop training courses in the legal aspects of procurement and participate in training activities.

Time period Sep-Oct 2002 and early 2003.

**Institutional Development Specialist - (1-post of approximately 6 months input)**

A Masters degree (or equivalent) with at least 10 years experience in the field of institutional development and review of public sector reform/modernisation. The responsibilities will include assisting the CPTU in the institution building aspects of the project; establishment of inter departmental relationships; establishment of internal reporting relationships and teaching of special courses on institution building.

Time period Sep 2002-Mar 2003

Applications must be submitted to the Resident Project Coordinator (ILO/ITC), Block 12 (2nd Floor), Ministry of Planning, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207 and should be accompanied by an up-to-date CV; copies of testimonials and two photographs. The closing date for applications is 22 August 2002. Applicants should advise if they are able to start work on this project within 2/3 weeks of the closing date.

D-693

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### HALF YEARLY ACCOUNTS

In terms of Rule 13 of the Securities & Exchange Rules 1987, the profit & loss account of the company for the half year ended 30 June, 2002 and Balance Sheet (unaudited) as on that date along with cash flow statement, have been sent to Shareholders, Securities & Exchange Commission & Stock Exchanges.

**ABDUL HAQUE FCA**  
Company Secretary

### CORRIGENDUM

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Candidates should not exceed 30 years of age on 1st September 2002. Interested candidates are requested to submit their CV with a passport size photograph and attested copies of all educational qualifications by 20th August, 2002 latest to Advertiser Box No. C-1775, C/o The Daily Star, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka.

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Consulting hours: 4 PM-8 PM (Tuesday closed). Phone: 8622717. C-1773

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### QULKHANI ANNOUNCEMENT

Major General (Dr.) Anis Waiz (Retired) passed away on August 13, 2002 at Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka Cantonment. May Allah rest his soul in peace. Dr. Waiz was suffering from prostrate cancer. We his family mourn his death and invite you to join us at his residence, House # 19, Road # 3, Baridhara area, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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