

CAMPAIGN AGAINST CORRUPTION



Md Kamal Hossain, a student of political science, Dhaka University, has embarked on a campaign against corruption. He will travel across the country in a rickshaw with the slogan 'We want corruption-free Bangladesh'. He began his journey from the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Ammar Shamsi Murder Case
Govt suggests clearing of charges against accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry recommended withdrawal of charges against an accused in the Ammar Shamsi murder case, although he confessed to his role in the abduction and killing of the 20-year-old student for a ransom of Tk 10 lakh in 2000.

The ministry sent a letter on December 21 last year, asking the public prosecutor to take steps for withdrawal of the charges against Mostafa Almas Bappi, who gave a confessional statement to a magistrate on October 29, 2000. The ministry pegged the case as part of political harassment.

The Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 in Dhaka scheduled the hearing on the recommendation for today.

Bappi told the magistrate that he

and his three friends Zia, Salauddin and Alamgir took Ammar to the National Park in Gazipur a week before the killing.

But they headed back to the capital

Meeting of CPD trustees held

The 21st meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) was held at its dialogue room in the city on Monday, says a press release.

The meeting reviewed the CPD's national, regional and international activities during the last year and the Board expressed its satisfaction over the CPD's performance.

The meeting endorsed the CPD's research and dialogue programmes for 2004. The Board also approved CPD's revised budget for 2003 and annual budget for 2004.

Presided over by CPD Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan, the meeting was attended by Board members M Syeduzzaman, Professor Mohammad Yunus, Syed Manzur Elahi, Laila Rahman Kabir, Fazle Hasan Abed, Professor Anisuzzaman, Khushi Kabir, Nurul Haq and Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya.

Professor Mustafizur Rahman, research director of CPD, was also present at the meeting on invitation.

without carrying out their month-long plot to kill their friend, as they did not find a secluded place, according to the statement.

Zia and Salauddin strangled Ammar with a gamchha (bath towel) on September 16, 2000 and called the victim's father Towsif Shamsi for the ransom, Bappi told the magistrate. Bappi and Ammar attended the same school.

Detectives recovered the decomposed body of Ammar from the National Park on October 26, 2000 and Towsif filed a murder case with Lalbagh Police Station, accusing the four of the murder that sent shock waves through the city.

The Detective Branch of Police pressed charges against them on July 31, 2001.

Siddiqi joins DFID

AYBI Siddiqi, former secretary at the Local Government Division, has joined as local consultant of a technical project on arsenic mitigation and safe water supply, funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), says a press release.

The project, Arsenic Policy Support Unit, will help the Local Government Division address delivery of safe drinking water and other basic services.

Non-govt pry teachers begin hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Non-Government Primary Teachers Association yesterday began a 24-hour hunger strike to press home the demand for nationalisation of their jobs.

The association also submitted a memorandum to the prime minister urging her to allocate necessary fund in the next budget to nationalise all non-government primary schools in the country.

Addressing a rally before the submission of the memorandum,

the association leaders said despite their previous demonstrations, the government remained indifferent to their demand.

They said nationalisation of the jobs of non-government primary teachers was an election-pledge of the BNP.

The leaders threatened to go for bigger movement if their demand is not met within this month.

DU alumni reunion

BSS, Dhaka

Reunion of the students of 1969 batch of Dhaka University will be held on March 5.

Convening committee of the students took the decision at a meeting recently, with convenor Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed in the chair.

The former students have been requested to contact any of the following persons for registration: Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed (9140246), Khaleu Bhuiyan (8611186), Kazi Abdul Mannan (8892838), Rafia Akhter Dolly (8812255), Sultana Akhter (9669124) and MA Rais Khan (7169168).

Resources being wasted due to wrong planning: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday regretted that a large amount of resources were being wasted due to wrong planning of development schemes and irregularities in public works.

"Infrastructure lacks longevity due to negligence and irregularities," she said, calling on the engineers to look into their accountability in this regard.

The administration and the policymakers also cannot avoid their responsibility, the prime minister said while inaugurating the

48th annual convention of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) on the institution premises.

Emphasising proper planning and application of appropriate technology for ensuring progress, Khaleda also reminded the engineers that the overall development activities were yet to attain the desired pace.

Referring to the theme of the convention, 'Poverty Reduction: The Global Challenge', she hoped that the recommendations of the meet would help government's poverty-reduction drive.

The prime minister asked the engineers to evolve effective measures to solve the massive problem of river erosion, acquire the ability to explore and extract mineral resources, and to give more emphasis on supervision and fieldwork.

She also asked the engineers to attain professional excellence and assured them of her government's all-out support in this regard.

She also reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing Tk 15 crore for the construction of IEB Bhaban and Tk 10 crore for setting up Engineering Staff College.

Death anniversary

Today is the seventh death anniversary of eminent physician Dr MA Shikder, says a press release.

Former deputy director of health in the then East Pakistan, Dr Shikder started his career as a teacher in Dhaka Medical College in 1948.

Father of freedom fighter Shaheed Lt. Selim and renowned scientist and freedom fighter MA Hasan, he hailed from Bakerganj.

