

# 'Empower president to ensure check & balance in govt'

## Election of president through electoral college comprising one lakh representatives of local government bodies proposed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To ensure a check and balance in the parliamentary system of government, the office of the president needs to be empowered, breaking the concentration of power in the hands of the prime minister.

Giving this thought at a seminar, former cabinet secretary Mujibul Haq also suggested electing the president through an electoral college comprising about one lakh representatives of local government bodies instead of the current system of election by 300 lawmakers only.

"And the president should be the last resort for civil bureaucracy to appeal against any political interference or pressure for smooth functioning of the administration," he said.

The seminar, Public Administration Reforms in Bangladesh: Exploring Implementable Action Agenda, was held at the Cirdap auditorium in the city under the aegis of non-governmental development organisations -- Manusher Jonno and Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC).

Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, principal secretary to the prime minister, was present as chief guest.

Former advisor to a caretaker government Hafizuddin Khan also agreed to Mujibul Haq's reform proposals and emphasised more brainstorming on this issue.

Both Siddiqui and Haq found a common reason for administrative reforms taking a backseat.

They noted that both the BNP and the Awami League, whoever goes to power, remain engrossed in tackling the opposition rather than making enough efforts for reforms.

Additional Secretary Dr MM



Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, principal secretary to the prime minister, speaks as the chief guest at a seminar on "Public Administration Reforms in Bangladesh: Exploring Implementable Action Agenda" at the Cirdap auditorium yesterday. On his left is Dr Zerina Rahman Khan and on his right are Dr Hussain Zillur Rahman and Dr MM Rahman.

Rahman, chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, presented the keynote paper at the seminar moderated by PPRC Chairman Dr Hussain Zillur Rahman. Steering Committee Member of Manusher Jonno Dr Zerina Rahman Khan delivered the welcome address.

Dr Siddiqui said he was tired of getting extensions in service for three consecutive terms after his retirement from public service but "it is not us who will accelerate the reforms. Rather, the young bureaucrats would push forward the reforms."

"I have long been trying to sell the idea of training up 5,000 young and

talented civil bureaucrats abroad so that they can give leadership to civil bureaucracy in the future. The plan has been lying with the Planning Commission as donors showed no interest in funding it so far," he said.

The discussants, including bureaucrats, academics, NGO activists and civil society members, noted that as many as 28 reform commissions were appointed during the period of 1947-62 and 16 more since 1971 but only a few recommendations were implemented.

The latest in the series, the Public Administration Reform Commission (PARC) 1997, made 30

interim, 70 short-term and 37 long-term recommendations, of which 18 have been implemented so far.

Hafizuddin Khan said that despite endless talks on the reform issues, neither an ombudsman nor an independent anti-corruption commission has so far been established. He also regretted that judiciary has not yet been separated from the executive.

The participants underscored the need for a strong political will to carry forward reform agendas and strengthen the local government system. They also called for financial solvency of local government bodies.

## CPB concerned over Tarkel's visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday expressed concern over the second visit of Tarkel L. Patterson, US deputy assistant secretary for south Asia, to Bangladesh within a span of two months.

CPB President Shahidullah Chowdhury and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, in a joint statement, said during the previous visit Patterson made a speech which was quite threatening for the democracy of the country.

They said the remark of Patterson was a direct interference in the internal affairs of this country.

The CPB leaders urged the countrymen to remain alert about US conspiracy against the democracy in Bangladesh.

The statement also condemned the arrival of a new group of peace corps in Dhaka.

## Non-govt teachers' silent processions tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and employees of non-government schools and colleges will bring out silent processions with black flags across the country tomorrow protesting the government move to pay partial festival allowance before the Eid-ul-Fitr.

"As the government has failed to pay full festival allowance within the stipulated time, we will bring out the processions," said Prof Quazi Faruque Ahmed, chief convener and coordinator of National Front of Teachers and Employees, Bangladesh in a press release.

Quazi Faruque said the education minister assured us to meet our demands including two festival allowances in a year, but he has now broken his previous commitment.

Front leaders urged all teachers and employees of non-government schools and colleges to join the processions.

They also threatened to launch tougher movements including grand rally in December if the government does not meet their 8-point demand.

## Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of MA Jallil, former director of Physical Education, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, says a press release. He was also the president of Gymnastic Federation of Bangladesh.

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his home at 184 Central Basaboo after Asr prayers.

## Alleged robber lynched in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

One alleged robber was beaten to death while another caught red handed by a mob during a robbery in the city yesterday.

The dead could not be identified while the arrested is Aynul Kabir, 26. Police and witnesses said, a group of four robbers stormed the residence of Md Salim at the busy Batamtoli intersection area of Agrabad at around 4:00 pm.

They looted valuables from the

house keeping its residents hostage at gunpoint.

Local people rushed to the spot and caught two robbers with a foreign pistol loaded with five bullets as the inmates of the house raised a hue and cry.

The mob beat one robber dead on the spot. The other, Aynul Kabir, was beaten mercilessly. Later, police rescued Aynul from the wrath of the mob.

He, however, claimed himself to be the driver of the auto-rickshaw used by the robbers.

RECRUITMENT ANOMALIES

## Case against Bogra DC, officials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A case was filed against the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and 14 other Bogra district administration officials accusing them of appointing employees in the DC office through forgery and violating the order of establishment ministry.

Abdul Hamid, a job seeker for the post of process server in the DC office, filed the case seeking compensation of Tk 4 lakh from the district administration.

The petitioner alleged that on July 30 this year, the Bogra DC office advertised for some vacant posts of third and fourth class employees. The advertisement mentioned that the DC office would appoint seven process servers under the existing salary structure.

In his petition, Hamid mentioned that he appeared for the viva-voce on October 25 and viva board members informed him verbally that he was selected for the post.

On October 26 the DC office published the result of viva-voce and later appointed eight persons excluding Hamid.

## Arrest of BCL leader condemned

Bangladesh Chhatra League President Liakat Sikder and General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu in a statement yesterday condemned the arrest of its central committee member, S M Quayum, says a press release.

Protesting the country-wide mass arrest of Awami League and BCL leaders, they demanded unconditional and immediate release of S M Quayum.

The student community will launch tougher movement if Quayum is not released immediately, they added.

## APFEJ hosts Ifar

BSS, Dhaka

Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ) hosted an Ifar party in honour of environmental champions, at the National Press Club yesterday.

Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam, USAID Director Gene George, Press Club President and Daily News Today editor Rezauddin Ahmed, Press Club General Secretary Shaikat Mahmud and CARMA chairperson Hasna Moudud attended the Ifar.

APFEJ Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury received the guests.

A large number of environmentalists, environmental journalists, representatives from development agencies and government officials also attended the Ifar.



## MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN UNDP/DHAKA

UNDP has been actively engaged in support of the socio-economic development process of Bangladesh for more than 30 years. In recent years, UNDP's main activities have been concentrated in the following fields: (a) democratic governance; (b) environment and natural resource development; (c) human development (employment/livelihoods and the advancement of women); (d) poverty reduction; and (e) disaster management.

UNDP is increasingly being entrusted by the Government and by bilateral donor partners with new development tasks that require both specialized knowledge and solid working experience in various fields. As a result, UNDP is now inviting applications from a new generation of Bangladeshi development professionals who want to be part of UNDP's dynamic working environment, where the development aspirations and needs of the people of Bangladesh take centre stage.

**General Information:** All advertised positions are located in UNDP's office in Dhaka. All applicants must be below 62 years of age, possess strong interpersonal skills, and be comfortable with team work. They are expected to have solid experience in providing practical advice to policy makers and be able to work well with counterparts in GoB, civil society, the private sector and the donor community. They must also be fluent in spoken English and Bangla and highly proficient in written English. Finally, all applicants are expected to be fully computer literate and able to work independently with standard word processing and spreadsheet software. Prior working experience abroad or in international institutions in Bangladesh would be an extra asset.

Only short-listed candidates will be notified. They will be expected to appear for a written exam, and those whose exam results are satisfactory will be invited to a personal interview by a panel of UNDP officials. The chosen candidates will receive remuneration commensurate with UNDP's salary scale for national professionals, along with child allowance, health insurance and pension benefits. They will be given an initial 12-month contract - renewable based on consistently satisfactory performance for successive periods of 12 months.

### Vacancy # 5 : Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (Police Reform) (NO-A/NO-B)

UNDP is preparing to create a Programme Support, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (PSMEU) for its new project BGD/04/001 "Strengthening Bangladesh Police" which is expected to start in December 2004, and which will be implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Bangladesh Police. The purpose of PSMEU, which will be located in the IDB Bhaban, is to support UNDP and its cost-sharing partner, DFID, in their efforts to provide good-quality backstopping to project implementation and continuous monitoring and evaluation of the progress of this important US\$13.4 mill. project.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in the PSME Unit will -- under the supervision of the concerned Programme Officer in UNDP's Governance Team -- assume day-to-day responsibility for the planned four-member Unit. His/her main duties will be to (1) assist UNDP and the Project Management Team with day-to-day project monitoring, periodical evaluation and regular reporting on programme progress; (2) prepare special monitoring and evaluation reports as required by UNDP; (3) support UNDP's Programme Officer on a regular basis and maintain functional liaison with different GoB agencies, donor partners, NGOs and other stakeholders; (4) provide advice on ways in which project implementation can be supported better and made more effective; (5) undertake applied research and ensure that lessons learned through the project are disseminated to all stakeholders; and (6) perform other activities aimed at monitoring and evaluating project activities.

**Competencies:** The Monitoring & Evaluation Officer is expected to possess the following competencies: (a) a Masters Degree in management, political science, sociology, public administration or law; (b) working experience for at least 3 years in an environment relevant to good governance, human security, law enforcement or public administration; (c) substantive analytical skills and sound experience in project monitoring and reporting; (d) strong inter-personal skills; (e) leadership and team building skills; (f) strong networking & communication skills; (g) fluency in spoken & written English; and (h) a pro-active, results-oriented and energetic personality.

### Vacancy # 6 : Programme Officer -- Social Protection and Sustainable Livelihoods (NO-B)

The Programme Officer will, under the supervision of the Team Leader of UNDP's Human Development Team, assume day-to-day responsibility for a cluster of social protection, employment promotion and livelihoods support projects (e.g. in favour of low-income population groups, street children, and other disadvantaged individuals) in close cooperation with relevant national governmental institutions. His/her primary objective will be to facilitate provision of technical support to UNDP-funded projects in support of various line ministries and other GoB institutions involved in assisting some of Bangladesh's most disadvantaged population groups. He/she must have a detailed understanding of basic institutional realities and key players within these sectors and must also possess strong project management skills.

The Programme Officer should (1) participate actively in UNDP's upstream policy dialogue on social protection, employment and livelihood sector with government officials, academia, NGOs, private sector, beneficiaries and other partners; (2) actively participate in the donor, government, civil society forums on these sectors, UNDP's practice networks, etc.; learn from Internet forums about the emerging issues and concepts; (3) work closely with other staff within UNDP to ensure that these issues are integrated into the broader strategies of the Country Programme; work closely with all other Human Development Team members, both professionals & support staff, so as to ensure high-quality team effort and efficient support for all UNDP-funded projects in the field of gender; and (4) ensure that this programme is proactively monitored through field visits, & accountability of project implementation, including financial planning/ budget, addresses interest of high-quality substantive results.

**Competencies:** The Programme Officer is expected to possess (a) a Masters Degree in sociology, social welfare or other development fields; (b) working experience for at least 5 years in an institutional environment focused on social protection, employment promotion and livelihoods support; (c) strong conceptual/analytical skills; (d) strong inter-personal skills as well as team building skills; (e) strong networking and communication skills; (f) fluency in spoken and written English; and (f) a pro-active, results-oriented and energetic personality.

### Vacancy # 7 : Programme Officer / Gender and Women's Advancement (NO-B)

The Programme Officer (Gender) will, under the supervision of the Team Leader of UNDP's Human Development Team, assume day-to-day responsibility for a cluster of gender sector projects, to be implemented in cooperation with key governmental institutions. The Programme Officer's primary objective is to facilitate provision of technical support to the concerned line ministries and other key GoB institutions. He/she must have good understanding of basic institutional realities and key players in the gender sector and must also possess strong project management skills.

The Programme Officer will be expected to (1) participate actively in UNDP's upstream policy dialogue on gender issues with GoB officials, academia, NGOs and other partners especially on programme approach; (2) provide support to the Team Leader in the elaboration of a programme approach for the gender sector; (3) participate actively in gender fora with GoB representatives, civil society and donors, UNDP's practice networks and others; (4) assist in ensuring that gender issues are integrated and mainstreamed within all other UNDP-assisted projects in Bangladesh; (6) ensure that the Gender Programme is proactively monitored through field visits and the accountability of project implementation, including financial planning and budgets, complied with in the interest of high-quality substantive results.

**Competencies:** The Programme Officer should possess the following competencies: (a) a Masters Degree in sociology, gender studies, or another relevant discipline; (b) working experience for at least five years in an institutional environment focused on gender and women's advancement; (c) strong conceptual/analytical skills; (d) strong inter-personal skills as well as team building skills; (e) strong networking and communication skills; (f) fluency in spoken and written English; and (g) a pro-active, results-oriented and energetic personality.

### Vacancy # 8 : Programme Officer / Agriculture and Rural Development (NO-B)

The Programme Officer will, under the supervision of the Team Leader of UNDP's Environment Team, assume day-to-day responsibility for UNDP's portfolio of projects related to agriculture, rural development, food security and natural resources. The Programme Officer will be actively involved in planning, sector analysis, and policy development and will also assist in ensuring proper coordination with both GoB, UN System agencies such as FAO, WFP and IFAD, as well as bilateral and multilateral partners plus relevant NGOs.

The Programme Officer will be expected to carry out the following functions (1) participate actively in UNDP's upstream policy dialogue on agriculture and rural development with GoB officials, academia, NGOs and other partners; (2) develop strong specialized knowledge about selected issues in the field of rural development, agriculture, food security, and natural resources; (3) work closely with all other Environment Team members, both professionals and support staff, so as to ensure high-quality team effort and efficient support for all UNDP-funded projects in this field; and (4) ensure that UNDP's portfolio in the field of agriculture and rural development is proactively monitored through field visits, and that the accountability of project implementation, incl. financial planning and budgets, is strictly adhered to in the interest of high-quality substantive results.

**Competencies:** The Programme Officer (Agriculture & Rural Development) will be expected to possess the following competencies: (a) a Masters Degree in rural development, sociology, agricultural economics, or natural resource management; (b) working experience for at least five years in a relevant environment relevant to rural development and natural resource management; (c) substantive analytical skills and sound experience in project monitoring and reporting; (d) strong inter-personal skills; (e) leadership and team building skills; (f) strong networking and communication skills; (g) fluency in spoken and written English; and (h) a pro-active, results-oriented and energetic personality.

### Vacancy # 9 : Programme Officer - Strategic Planning & Programme Management (NO-A)

The Strategic Planning and Programme Management Team assists UNDP/Dhaka in resource planning, financial monitoring and oversight functions; it is also the custodian of UNDP/Dhaka's financial and policy information. The Programme Officer will, under the supervision of the Team Leader, assume day-to-day responsibility for a range of activities related to UNDP's strategic, multi-year planning as well as its programme and resource management. This will involve support for UNDP-funded projects aimed at improving Bangladesh's ability to make optimal use of foreign aid and to assume national ownership of such aid.

The Programme Officer will be expected to (1) keep regular contacts with key GoB organizations, concerned project directors about programme resources, audit follow-up, and project execution/implementation; (2) assume responsibility for evaluation of projects/programmes; (3) participate actively in UNDP's upstream policy dialogue on resource utilization and accountability issues; (4) facilitate quarterly project reviews, provide advisory services during project design, assist in identification of operational and financial problems and recommend workable solutions and monitor follow-ups; (5) develop a detailed understanding and skills in UNDP's corporate software (Atlas), National Execution, management for results, and outcome evaluations; (6) provide active support to UNDP's management in project monitoring, drafting of reports, and production of quality data; and (6) actively support other programme teams through timely and adequate advisory/technical services, & facilitate accountability of project implementation, financial planning and budgets.

**Competencies:** The Programme Officer is expected to have the following competencies: (a) a Masters Degree in Economics, Business Administration or relevant fields, preferably including some management of development assistance and development projects; (b) working experience for at least five years in an institutional environment relevant to management of development assistance; (c) substantive conceptual/analytical skills; (d) strong inter-personal/negotiating and team-building skills; (e) strong networking and communication skills; (f) fluency in spoken and written English; and (g) a pro-active, results-oriented & energetic personality.

**How to apply:** All applications must include a detailed curriculum vitae and information about present salary/benefits. They are to be submitted by **Thursday 18 November 2004** at the latest through post office or courier as follows: Deputy Resident Representative (Operations), UNDP, G.P.O. Box 224, Dhaka-1000, or UNDP, IDB Bhaban, E/8-A Begum Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka. The envelope should be clearly marked with the title and vacancy number of the post being applied for.

UNDP's recruitment process is strictly based on professional qualifications. Unsolicited interventions ("shupareesh") in favour of a particular applicant will automatically result in the immediate disqualification of the recommended applicant. Women candidates are particularly encouraged to apply. UNDP is a non-smoking environment. Further information can be found at the following web site: <http://www.un-bd.org/undp/jobs/>



### Henna festival

A weeklong free henna festival, organised by Elite Cosmetics, will be inaugurated. Venue: Basundhara City, Panthapath. Time: 11:00am.

### Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Iranian film titled 'The Day I became a Woman' (2000). Venue: 21/C Jigatola. Time: 7:00pm.

### Rotary meeting

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 4:30pm.

### Muldharra discussion

Weekly discussion meeting of Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, will be held. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:30pm.

### Cataract campaign

The launching ceremony of 'Bangladesh childhood cataract

campaign' will be held with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahed as chief guest. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali. Time: 10:00am.

### Seminar

Centre for Advanced Research in the Humanities will hold a seminar on Military strategy of British Company in Bengal: A socio-economical analysis. Venue: 434, Lecture Theatre of Dhaka University. Time: 3:00pm.

### Discussion

Bangladesh Oveshad Dokan Karmochari Federation organises a discussion and iftar party to mark its 17th founding anniversary. Venue: 218, Mitford Road. Time: 4:00pm.

### Iftar party

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad organises an iftar party with State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Prof Md Rezaul Karim as chief guest. Venue: 393, New Eskaton Road. Time: 5:19pm.



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur in one or two places over Sylhet division till 6:00pm told.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 31.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and Cox's Bazar and lowest 16.4 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:15pm today and rises at 6:10am 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	30.2	19.8	70	64
Chittagong	31.0	19.0	66	59
Rajshahi	30.5	19.0	71	81
Khulna	31.0	19.8	71	66
Birsa	30.4	19.3	84	93
Sylhet	29.6	19.4	84	74
Cox's Bazar	31.7	19.4	66	69