



Govt, ACC at loggerheads

Circular asks 1,107 Bac staff not to work for the commission

ZAYADUL AHSEN and
JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The government yesterday ordered employees of the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) not to work for the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) until rules and regulations of the newly formed body are formulated.

The Cabinet Division in a circular yesterday formally announced 1,107 Bac staff as government's reserve employees in the wake of boiling conflicts between the government and the ACC.

The Bac officials have been

temporarily working at the anticorruption commission since November 21.

The latest development is going to stall the ACC investigations into the status of 1,028 vehicles purchased for different development projects and allegations of tax dodging by a business house.

A letter has come from the Cabinet Division regarding the status of the staff of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption, ACC Commissioner M. Maniruzzaman Miah told The Daily Star by telephone last night, without elaborating.

The ACC chairman, its two

commissioners and their personal staff, meanwhile, are shifting their offices today from the Segunbagicha Bac office to the Bureau of Statistics building at Agargaon. They were attending their duties at the former Bac office since the ACC started functioning on November 21.

The ACC is supposed to screen out the Bac employees to absorb them in the commission on the basis of a rule that has not yet been framed. The conflict was quietly brewing between the bureaucrats and the ACC since it came into being overassigning some Bac staff.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

The conflict surfaced when an ACC letter, issued by ex-Bac director (administration and establishment) Lt Col Abdul Hannan Mridha, asked 13 secretaries of different ministries to provide information on the whereabouts of 1,028 motor vehicles.

The wording of the letter enraged the secretaries, sources said. Besides, the Bac director is still serving as a 'reserve government employee', which means he cannot issue letter on behalf of the ACC, the bureaucrats argue.

The secretaries feel that the ACC undermined the image of the ACC

undermined the image of the ACC

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

DHAKA-10 BY-POLLS
Judge expresses
embarrassment,
declines to hear
contempt charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The hearing on the High Court (HC) rule on the government and the contempt charge on four government officials over army deployment at polling centres in the Dhaka-10 by-polls was not held yesterday as a judge expressed 'embarrassment'.

The HC division bench comprising Justice Abdul Wahab and Justice Zinnat Ara sent the case to the chief justice to take a decision after the junior judge, Justice Zinnat, declined to hear it without explaining the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Tsunami death toll crosses
144,000

AFP, Jakarta

The confirmed number killed in the massive earthquake and tidal waves that hit Indian Ocean shorelines a week ago passed 144,000 on Monday, as over 14,000 more deaths were confirmed by Indonesian officials.

Indonesia has borne the brunt of the catastrophe, with a health ministry official putting the country's dead at 94,081 with entire coastal villages disappearing under the wall of water. The figure could rise substantially. The health ministry has cautioned that there could be 100,000 deaths in Aceh and North Sumatra.

In Sri Lanka, 29,729 were confirmed killed by the tidal waves, while more than 16,000 people were injured, the president's office said. A further 5,240 are listed as missing.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Plan to link up with global disaster forecasting system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inter-ministerial meeting yesterday decided to link up the country with global forecasting system on natural disasters and include tsunami into its comprehensive disaster management programme (CDMP).

The meeting also decided to buy the equipment necessary to quickly respond to natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis and to start the rescue operations immediately in order to minimise the loss of life and property.

"The country will be a member of

Honolulu and Hawaii-based disaster forecasting centres very soon for getting early warning of earthquake and other natural calamities," Minister for Food and Disaster Management Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf told the reporters after the meeting.

Experts on natural disaster told the meeting that the possibility of a tsunami hitting the country is not likely because of the country's geographic allocation.

Still the government would buy all necessary equipment that the armed forces division has suggested for the country to be better

equipped to deal with such natural disaster, the meeting decided.

State Minister for Energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain, Chief of Army Staff Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, secretaries of different ministries, teachers of Dhaka University, Buet, and representatives from meteorological department and different other bodies attended the meeting held at the conference room of cabinet division.

Sources said the meeting also decided to set up a national institute on disaster management training under the armed forces division and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

1,500 ADP schemes to go under 3yr investment plan

STAR REPORT

The government will place around 1,500 schemes of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) under a three-year rolling investment programme from the next fiscal year for its effective implementation.

Projects under the rolling fund will reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks, which often slow down implementation. This will also eliminate low-quality schemes and lobbying for unnecessary or irrelevant projects, according to a decision of the planning ministry last month.

The decision says while imple-

menting and reviewing the Three Years Investment Programme (TYIP), authorities should hold uninterrupted dialogues with the stakeholders or beneficiaries of the projects.

The government is adopting the TYIP to achieve the goals set by the donors-prescribed Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) set by the United Nations by 2015, the planning ministry says.

The ministry has identified 429 such projects that can be placed under the rolling programme and is now working on identifying up to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Move taken to introduce polythene's alternative

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Environment and Forest yesterday launched a fresh drive to introduce environment-friendly alternatives to polythene to stop permanently the use of this harmful substance and formed a national task force to expedite the process.

The drive follows apparent failure of the ministry to introduce suitable substitutes for polythene shopping bags since they were banned on March 1, 2002.

The taskforce headed by Vice-chancellor of South East University Prof M Shamsher Ali has been asked to report on the state of innovation of alternatives and suggest ways to phase out polythene.

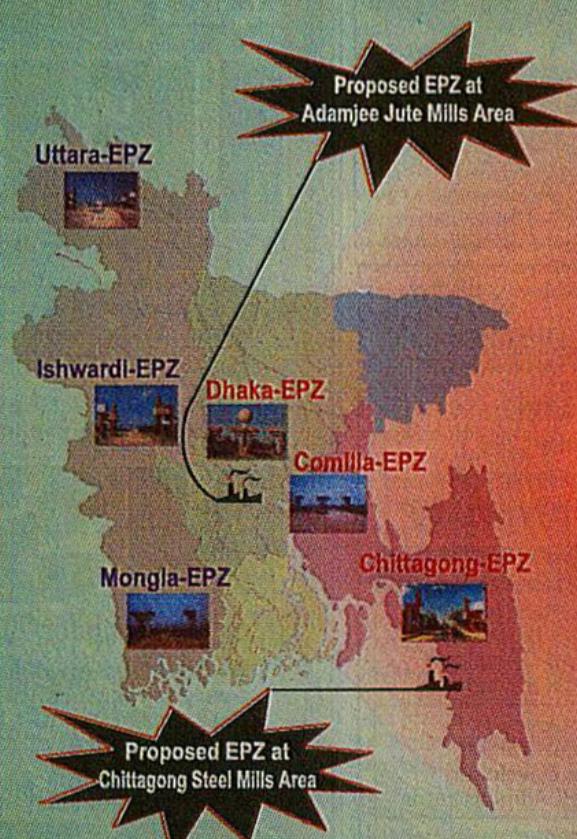
SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

EPZs OF BANGLADESH BONANZA FOR THE INVESTORS

Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority offers a highly competitive package of fiscal & non-fiscal incentives and facilities to the investors. A few of these are :

INCENTIVES

- ★ No ceiling on foreign, joint venture & Bangladeshi investment
- ★ Tax holiday for 10 years
- ★ No dividend tax during tax holiday period
- ★ No double taxation
- ★ Duty free import of machineries and equipments
- ★ Duty free import of raw materials/export of finished goods
- ★ Duty free import of construction materials
- ★ Duty free export to the DTA export oriented industries
- ★ Inter and intra zone exports permitted
- ★ Sub-contracting inside and outside EPZs allowed
- ★ Re-location of existing industries from abroad allowed
- ★ 10% Sale permission to local market
- ★ Expatriates exempted from income tax for three years



* Please visit our website no. WWW.epzbangladesh.org.bd

- ★ Provides plot & factory building with all infrastructural facilities
- ★ Offers one-window same-day service
- ★ All customs formalities are done at the factory gate
- ★ Import/Export and Work permits are issued by BEPZA
- ★ Support services and Banking facilities are available
- ★ Water, gas, electricity and telecommunications are available

SPECIAL OFFER

50% concession on rent of plot and factory building and 30% cash incentives for agro based sector at EPZs of Mongla, Ishwardi & Uttara (Nilphamari).



Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
BEPZA Complex

House # 19/D, Road # 6, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh

Phone : 880-2-9670530, 8650058, 8650061, 8650075 PABX - 8650059, Fax : 880-2-9661849, 8650060
E-mail : info@bepza.org, chairman@bepza.org, member-ip@bepza.org, gm-ip@bepza.org, mgr-pr@bepza.org
Web : www.epzbangladesh.org.bd

BANGLADESH EPZs AUTHORITY LOOKS FORWARD TO YOUR RESPONSES



A Rakhain woman weaving cloth faces an uncertain future.

Kuakata Rakhains pushed out of land

PINAKI ROY, back from Kuakata

Hundreds of families from the Buddhist Rakhain community in Kuakata have been forced from their land as a result of the activities of an influential group of local Bangalis, an investigation by The Daily Star has uncovered.

The situation has become so bad that in the last 30 years the numbers of Rakhain para in Lata Chapali (Kuakata) union of Kalapara upazila in Patuakhali has reduced from 54 to 14.

The number of families living in the paras that do remain has also

decreased," said Emong Talukder, president of the Rakhain Cultural Academy, Kuakata.

The situation is said to have become particularly bad in the last three years.

Some of the Rakhain families have gone to Cox's Bazar and Bandarban and others have been forced to go back to Arakan state of Myanmar, from where their descendants first came.

Much of the agricultural land of the Rakhain community was forcibly grabbed in the years after the 1963 cyclone, which severely

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4