

# President asks DCs to perform duties impartially

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday asked the Deputy Commissioners to perform their duties impartially following the laws and policies meticulously in order to establish rule of law.

"You'll have to win the confidence of the people by performing duties impartially and lawfully," he told them at a meeting at the Bangabhaban as part of the Deputy Commissioners Conference-2005.

The President suggested them to establish close contact with all officials, local public representatives, social workers, and government and non-government organisations at the district and upazila level to successfully implement the government's development programmes.

It is essential that officials at the field level remain present at their respective duty stations to ensure service to the people and implement the government programmes, he said.

Six divisional commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of 64

districts attended the meeting, conducted by Cabinet Secretary Dr Sadat Hossain.

Addressing the meeting, Iajuddin said the DCs should have transparency and accountability in their works and "your subordinates" should also be cautious about it.

He said there is no alternative to establishing rule of law in the country. "The government has taken some important steps to establish rule of law and free the administration from corruption."

He said that the present government has taken a number of steps for combating crimes. These include enactment of speedy trial law and formation of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

"The Deputy Commissioners as district magistrates have important roles in law-related affairs. The district magistrate should monitor the work of their subordinate magistrates thoroughly to settle the criminal cases without delay," he said.

Iajuddin said that identifying land grabbing as a national problem, the government has taken

some measures to protect the government lands, recover the grabbed lands and bring the land grabbers to book.

Appreciating the government officials for successfully tackling various natural calamities, particularly the last floods, he also urged the DCs to be prepared to face new calamities like tsunami.

LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan asked all the DCs to extend their cooperation in reinvigorating the dormant Gram Sarker or village government to gear up the development activities of grassroots-level.

"They are now a bit frustrated, DCs and TNOs can extend their cooperation by supervising and involving them in the local development activities," he told the administrative officials at a conference in the cabinet division conference room.

The DCs also took part in the discussion and raised various issues, including renovation of district and upazila office buildings and amendment to several laws they are dealing with in their day-to-day work.

Bhuiyan assured that the problems would be solved gradually, saying the government is now examining the Pourashava and Union Parishad rules and regulations.

Meanwhile State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babor yesterday asked the DCs to treat any kind of political influence over the rule of law by local political leaders as an offence.

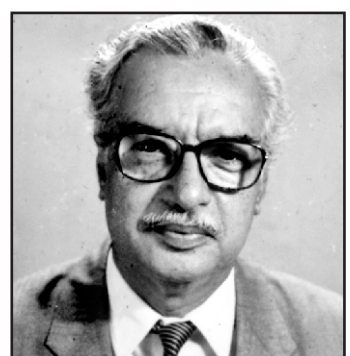
"Our government discourages any kind of political influence by local political leaders over the rule of law, and you will have to treat such influence as an offence," he said while he was addressing the DCs' annual conference on the concluding day.

He said the government has decided to appoint separate investigation officers for investigating cases.

Babor said some 1400 investigation officers in the position of sub-inspector would be appointed who will only investigate the cases. Two such sub-inspectors will be appointed at each police station.



Jaitya Oikya Mancha President Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a roundtable on "Electoral Reforms in Bangladesh: A Preliminary Proposal" jointly organised by The Daily Star, The Prothom Alo and Sujon, a civil society initiative for good governance, at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are former diplomat Abul Ahsan, former advisor to the caretaker government ASM Shahjahan, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, Prof. Muzaffer Ahmed, Bangladesh Economic Association President Quazi Kholiquazzaman Ahmad and former advisor to the caretaker government Hafizuddin Khan.



## Justice BB Roy passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury, a former advisor to a caretaker government, passed away at a hospital in Kolkata yesterday at the age of 70.

Born at village Bakila in Hajiganj, Chandpur, in 1935, Justice Chowdhury was the fifth Mohanta Maharaj of Shree Shree Kaibalyadham Ashram in Chittagong.

He started his law practice in the then Dhaka High Court in 1962 and joined the High Court as an additional judge in 1985. He retired from the appellate division of the Supreme Court in 2000.

Justice Chowdhury was also a member of the Law Commission.

He left behind two brothers, five sisters and a host of relatives and devotees to mourn his death.

His body will be flown to Dhaka at 5:00pm today, says a press release.

The body will be taken to the Shiddeshwari Kali Mandir at 7:00am tomorrow and then to the Supreme Court at 9:30am for the people to pay their last respects.

Later, his body will be taken to his village home and Kaibalyadham Ashram for his funeral.

## Delwarul Islam

Delwarul Islam alias Dilu Bhai, a veteran freedom fighter, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on March 28, says a press release.

He was buried with state honour at his family graveyard at Jigatola in the city.

A condolence meeting in his remembrance was held at Jigatola Staff Quarter Community Centre on April 8.

## PRELIMINARY PROBE SHOWS

### 'Cop tried to blackmail businessman'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police constable along with three others tried to enter the house of a businessman at Haji Abdullah Lane in the city on Saturday night in order to blackmail him, according to preliminary investigation.

The residents of the house beat up Constable Mohammad Shaheen of Rajarbagh Police Lines suspecting him of trying to do anything wrong. But two youths Kader and Rashed managed to flee.

The constable went to the house of Shahedul Hasan in Kotwali and tried to blackmail him accusing him of involvement in hundi business, police said.

Local people also beat him up and later handed him over to Kotwali Police.

The constable was now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) under police guard.

Meanwhile, Shahedul filed a case with the police station accusing the constable and the three local youths of attempting to commit a robbery in his house.

## JET FUEL PRICE HIKE

# No change in Biman fare

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Despite a price hike in jet fuel by Tk 5 a litre from yesterday, Biman Bangladesh Airlines will not increase its passenger fare in any route.

As a result, the loss-making national flag-carrier will incur further loss, sources concerned said.

"We are in a competitive market. So, to survive in the competitive world we have decided not to increase the fare," said State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin yesterday.

However, adjustment for the devaluation of taka against US dollar has raised passenger fare of all airlines, including Biman, operating from Bangladesh by Tk 2.50 per dollar from April 1 on international routes.

Aviation sources said, though the authorities of Biman a few days back had decided to scale up fare by Tk 100 per passenger in domestic routes following the price hike of jet fuel, they later postponed the decision.

The private airlines of the country are also unable to increase their fare as Biman keeps its unchanged.

## HC stays orders on CCC secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday served a rule on the government ordering it to explain why the transfer, stand-release and suspension orders on Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Secretary Mostafa Kamal should not be declared illegal.

The court also stayed the government orders for three months.

The rule came after Chittagong Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury in a writ petition filed with an HC division bench challenged the three government orders. The court ordered the six respondents, including the establishment and LGRD secretaries, to reply to its rule in four weeks.

The establishment ministry issued the transfer orders of Mostafa Kamal on July 14 last year but the mayor did not release him. The ministry later in another order stand-released the secretary on September 5 the same year, but the mayor again refused to release him. The mayor had told the ministry that it was he who could release the CCC secretary and that the ministry had no authority to do this.

The establishment ministry finally suspended the secretary on April 3. The suspension orders that followed the announcement of the CCC election schedule were issued with mala fide intention to harass the petitioner (Chittagong mayor) during the election period, alleged the petitioner.

"How will the corporation run during the election period if they take away CCC staff this way?" the petitioner said.

Talking to reporters, petitioner's counsel Barrister Tanjib-ul Alam said the establishment ministry has no authority to stand-release or suspend the secretary while he is serving the city corporation.

The establishment ministry had transferred CCC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abul Bashar after the mayor asked for this on May 18. The ministry, however, appointed no new CEO although it transferred him nine months ago. The CCC secretary has also been serving as the acting CEO, as the post has been lying vacant since then.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and Advocate Hari Shadhan Dev Barman also moved for the petitioner.

Sources said it means they also have to give up a considerable portion of their earnings.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) increased the price of jet fuel by Tk 5 per litre from yesterday. The airlines of the country now will have to buy jet fuel at Tk 38 instead of Tk 33 a litre. However, the jet fuel price has been set at Tk 37.50 a litre at Chittagong Shah Amanat Airport.

The foreign airlines had to buy jet fuel at 48 cents instead of 43 cents per litre from Sunday. But the newly set price of jet fuel at the Chittagong airport is 47 cents a litre, which previously was 42 cents.

The price of jet fuel had been

increased for five times last year. In the latest one, on December 8, 2004, BPC reset the price of jet fuel at Tk 33.50 increasing it by Tk 2 per litre.

Some airlines of the United Kingdom, the USA and some Asian countries including the Middle East announced to increase their fare following the price rise of jet fuel in world market.

State-owned Indian Airlines also announced Saturday to increase its plane fares by 12 percent.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has six DC-10s, four Airbus-300 and four F-28s in its fleet to operate flights to seven domestic destinations and international and regional flights in 24 countries of three continents.



## Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind are likely at some places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong, and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions till 6:00pm today.

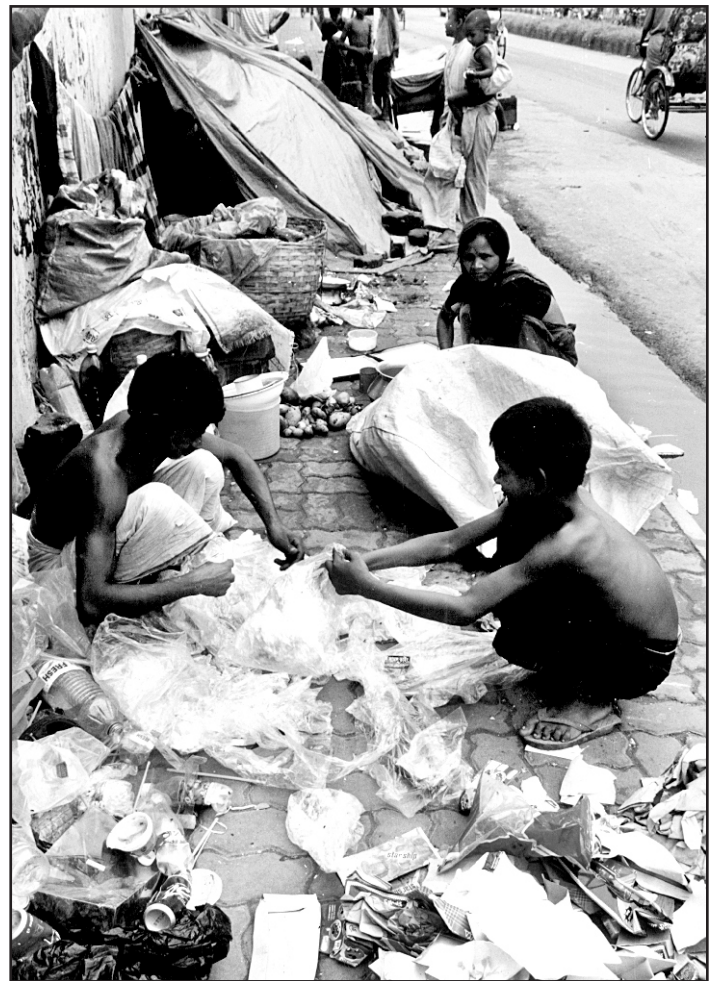
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chaudang and lowest 19.5 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:19pm today and rises at 5:40am 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	34.5	26.4	79	77
Chittagong	32.4	25.6	83	91
Rajshahi	34.7	23.4	67	76
Khulna	34.2	27.2	88	77
Barisal	34.2	25.8	81	77
Sylhet	28.5	19.8	87	73
Cox's Bazar	29.5	24.0	100	82



Neither a good number of manufacturers nor these street people seem to care much about the ban on polybags as the latter organise their collections on a footpath in city's Sayeedabad area.

## AHSANULLAH MURDER

# Sarker was implicated in case as part of conspiracy

Lawyers tell court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The lawyers of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal leader Nurul Islam Sarker, the prime suspect in the Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master murder case, yesterday said their client was implicated as part of a conspiracy to harass him politically.

Advocate ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul told the court that the charges brought against his client on the basis of accused Mahbubur Rahman's confessional statement are false, fabricated and concocted. He said that the lawmaker was killed over an intra-party feud.

After six hours of hearing, the lawyers of Nurul Islam Sarker, Mahbub, Mohammad Ali, Kabir, Pappu Sarker and Ayub completed their arguments yesterday.

Meanwhile, lawyers of fugitives Shipu, Amir, Chhoto Zahangir, Dulal, Kana Hafiz, Bhulu, Faisal, Monir and Mirpuraya Babu yesterday began their arguments.

The arguments of all the accused are likely to be completed today. Special Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdul Latif Talukder said.

Earlier, the prosecution had completed their arguments and sought exemplary punishment for the killers.

## PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY

# Tata happy with progress

UNB, Dhaka

The Indian industrial giant Tata Group is expected to come up with its pre-feasibility study on the proposed billion-dollar investment plan in Bangladesh by the month end.

Executive Director of Tata Power S Ramakrishnan, leader of a four-member delegation of the company, said this after a meeting with State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood yesterday at the Bangladesh Secretariat.

During the meeting, the Tata delegation briefed the state minister on the progress of the study and discussed other aspects of the planned investment.

The Tata Group plans to invest about US\$ 2 billion in the country to set up a giant steel mill, a 1000 mw power plant and a fertiliser factory.

Praising the cooperation from different government quarters in going ahead with their investment plan, Ramakrishnan said, "Our study is proceeding in an appropriate manner and we're quite happy to receive good cooperation from the government agencies."

## 3 joint secys transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday transferred three joint secretaries, according to an official notification.

Abdus Samad Mallik, joint secretary of the Ministry of Local Government Division, has been transferred as director general of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB).

Kazi Mohammad Aminul Islam, director of the Labour Directorate, was transferred as joint secretary at the Ministry of Labour and Employment, replacing ABM Abdus Sattar who was made director of Labour Directorate.

## FIRST NAT'L SEED CONFCE TODAY

# 'Ensure farmers' right to seed'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first national seed conference will be held at the Bangladesh Institute of Management auditorium in the city today.

The participants of the conference will discuss ways to ensure the farmers' right to seed as the multinational companies are trying to bring the seed markets under their control, said the organisers.

The Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK) has organised the conference. Earlier, it held a number of seed conferences at the district level.

Farmers from different districts will join the programme and share experiences and problems in cultivating high yielding varieties.

Haripada Biswas alias Hari Kapali, who initiated Hari rice, a popular local variety in southwestern region of the country, will inaugurate

the conference at 9.30am. A seed fair will also be held there.

At a press conference yesterday, the organisers said as the government does not have a proper seed policy, the multinational companies have been introducing hybrid seeds in the country, resulting in the disappearance of local seeds.

The hybrid seeds have been destroying the bio-diversity of the country as the farmers have to use more pesticide, herbicide and chemical fertilisers while growing crops from such seeds, they said.

Sukanta Sen, director of BARCIK, Pavel Partha, convener of the conference, Ferdousi Akhter, joint convener of the conference, Romaisa Samad, coordinator of the BARCIK, were present at the press conference.



British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury gives away a certificate to a participant of the Leadership Development Course, organised by the Centre for Governance Studies in association with the British High Commission, in the city on Saturday.

## DHAKA TODAY

**Seminar**  
The Campaign for Good Governance organises a seminar on 'Corporate governance: Mobile phone and oil-gas sector'. Venue: WVA Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:00pm.

**Jica seminar**  
The Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) will hold a seminar on 'Challenge for eliminating Filariasis in Bangladesh'. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9:30am.

**Shaplakuri 2005**  
The preliminary round of the National Zia Child Artist Competition, Shaplakuri 2005, will be held. The Zia Shishu Academy has organised the event. Venue: Shishu Academy. Time: 9:30am.

**Roundtable**  
The Alliance of Food Sovereignty Campaigns organises a roundtable on 'Liberalisation of service sector: Perspective GATT'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

**Discussion**

The National Eid-e-Miladunnabi Observance Committee will hold a discussion to mark the holy Miladunnabi. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

**Roundtable**  
Cornilla Jubo Samity, Dhaka organises a roundtable on 'Quota system is an obstacle to promoting talents'. Prof Dr Sayeed-ur Rahman will present the keynote paper. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

**Brac Bank**  
The Brac Bank will open its 13th branch. Bank Chairman Fazle Hasan Abed will inaugurate the branch office. Venue: 766 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 11:00am.

**Dhaka Bank AGM**  
The 10th annual general meeting of the Dhaka Bank Ltd. will be held. Venue: Sonargon Hotel. Time: 3:00pm.

## Charge-framing in Ctg arms haul case deferred

BDNEWS, Chittagong

A court yesterday again deferred framing of charges in the Chittagong arms haul case after it granted a petition of Haji Yakub Ali, one of the prime accused, who sought time for giving his statement.

Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md Anwar Hossain fixed April 23 for the next hearing.

Meanwhile, another accused, Nurul Absar, son of Haji Zafar of Kuttapara, surrendered to court yesterday. He appeared in person before court during the hearing yesterday and prayed for bail. The court, however, rejected his appeal and put him into jail custody.

Of the 43 accused in the case, 15 including Nurul Absar have so far been arrested. Fourteen accused are on bail, while as many others have been absconding.

Sources said six of the accused surrendered to court last month but police are yet to arrest the most wanted Hafizur Rahman Hafiz, Din Mohammad, Abul Kashem Modhu and Haji Mohammad Sobhan.

On Sunday, 13 accused including Nurul Absar submitted a petition seeking exemption from the case but Public Prosecutor Abdus Sattar opposed their appeal. The court rejected the petition.

Those who sought to be exempted are Nurul Absar, Sheikh Mohammad, Mujibur Rahman Bulu, Ejahar Mia, Akbar Ali, Fazal Ahmad, Ataur Rahman, Sanwar Hossain Chowdhury, Dildar Hossain Chowdhury, Badsha Mia, Mohammad Jahangir, Md Aktar and Abdul Aziz.

Police retrieved a huge cache of sophisticated arms and ammunition loaded in 10 trucks on April 1 last year. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) pressed charges on June 13 the same year after an investigation.

## BLAST AT CONFECTIONERY SHOP

# Explosive substance was not used: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Explosive experts yesterday confirmed that the Saturday's blast at a confectionery shop at New Elephant Road in the city was not caused by any explosive substance or device.

"Although we are yet to ascertain the cause of the blast, we are sure that no explosive substance sparked off the blast," said Deputy Commissioner of South Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Mazharul Hoque.

The blast at Rina Confectionery left at least 35 people injured and some 15 shops gutted.

A top police official investigating the blast suspected that the explosion might have occurred in a gas pipeline at the upper portion of the shop and then caused simultaneous blasts of the compressors of an air-conditioner and refrigerators in the shop.

The explosive experts from law enforcement agencies and the Department of Explosives inspected the spot yesterday.

The explosive experts from Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) also talked to the injured employees of the confectionery shop at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday to know the nature of the blast.

Sources in the Fire Service and Civil Defence said they would form a committee today to find out the cause of the blast and the extent of the damage.

Hospital sources said five critically wounded people are now undergoing treatment for their burns and the others were released after treatment.