

# BB moves to shrink

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"The move will not help much in reducing inflation, as the current inflationary trend is essentially a cost-pushed one, largely under-written by high global prices of fuel as well as food, fertiliser and steel," observed CPD Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya.

In November 2003, the BB cut the SLR ceiling by 4 percentage points to 16 percent to facilitate banks reduce interest rates. And in February 2005, in line with its tight monetary policy, the central bank increased the CRR by 0.50 percentage points from 4 percent.

The move has been taken to rein in the inflation, said a BB official adding that another objective was to ease the pressure on foreign exchange reserve by reducing import.

Inflation has been on the rise throughout last fiscal year (FY), reaching a 7.35-percent rate in June 2005 from 5.64 percent in June 2004.

The BB step, following its current contractionary fiscal policy, is aimed at shrinking the banks' investment funds by reducing the money supply. The supply increased by 16.79 percent in FY05 and by 13.84 percent in FY04. Side by side, both the government borrowing from banks and the private sector credit have seen a significant rise.

The government borrowing rose by 15.51 percent in FY05 and by 13.84 percent in FY04 while the bank loans taken by various government agencies and institutions rose by 24.44 percent in FY05 and by 18.88 percent in FY04.

FY05 also saw a 17.02 percent hike in private sector credit, which was 14.16 percent in FY04.

On the other hand, the country's forex reserve has been shrinking fast due to increasing pressure on the BOP. Yesterday the reserve stood at \$2.84 billion, compared to \$3.02 billion on June 30 last.

A huge increase in import and a reduced export growth are responsible for the shrinking reserve, a BB source said. The reserve will dip further next month when the BB is scheduled to pay up the import bills to the Asian Clearing Union.

The country's import rose by 20.58 percent in FY05 and by 12.9 percent in FY04, while export grew by 13.83 percent in FY05 and by 16.10 percent in FY04.

Dr Bhattacharya, executive director of the country's leading think-tank, said inflation in Bangladesh is more a structural than a monetary phenomenon. He

however agreed that the BB move will help relieve the BOP pressure, as it will reduce the banks' loanable funds, leading to a lower import finance, which will ultimately decrease the pressure on the forex reserve.

Citing the CPD's post-budget reaction, where it suggested a three-pronged approach to contain the present macro-economic tensions, Bhattacharya said a single measure will not solve the problem, adding more than one and simultaneous steps are required for that. Two of the CPD's suggestions were for a slight downward adjustment of exchange rate of taka and rise in bank interest rates in line with the rise in inflation index.

Another suggestion was for the government to restrain the non-development expenditure. "The first two measures have largely been acted upon, but we are yet to see any strong resolve regarding the third," Bhattacharya said.

He also cautioned that "if the private sector credit is reduced by increasing the SLR and the CRR, while the government continues to borrow through bank and non-bank channels to finance its non-development expenditure, it will only defeat the purpose."

Pubali Bank Managing Director Khandkar Ibrahim Khaled said the central bank's move may reduce the private sector credit but, in all probability, it will raise government borrowing.

"Consequently, I doubt if this measure will help reduce the inflation in any way," he maintained. As there is enough liquidity now in the banking sector so the move will not affect it, Khaled explained, adding instead it will improve the banks' fund management.

Though the government failed to implement 10 percent of the revised Annual Development Programme of FY05 but its bank-borrowing rose by 17 percent. And the trend continues in the current fiscal year, with the borrowing rising by Tk 800 crore until mid-August, which, in contrast, decreased by Tk 500 crore in the corresponding period in FY05.

## Old woman

**FROM PAGE 20**  
rushed to the spot hearing screams. The body bore injury marks of sharp weapon.

They also saw Mosiron's grand-son Kabir and one of his friends going away from the house earlier.

Mosiron had been staying at his son Kamal Hossain Mollah's house for two weeks, though she lived at Moksudpur in Gopalganj.

Police recovered the dead body and sent it to the morgue for autopsy. They picked up Nasrin Akhter Shathi, 16, daughter of another son of Mosiron, for interrogation forshe had also been living there for a few days. She denied knowing anything about the murder.

Sources said that Kabir had a love affair with Shathi to which Mosiron objected. As a result the boy became angry and killed his grandmother.

Rowshan Munshi, cousin of dead Mosiron, however said the killing might be aimed for capturing the village land of her husband.

The victim's son Kamal Hossain Mollah without mentioning any names alleged that several criminals killed his mother in a case filed with the Kafrul police.

Police could not arrest anyone till late in the evening.

## Bearded men

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Those involved in the bomb blasts are enemies of the country, nation and democracy. All efforts are underway to identify them and bring them to trial.

Refuting allegations of indiscriminate harassment of people, especially men with beard and cap, the government made it clear that only those suspected had been taken into custody. But most of them were set free after interrogation found no connection with JMB or the incidents. No innocents are subjected to harassment.

It urged all concerned to refrain from spreading fear, confusion or dish out information that might hamper the investigation process. All sections of people should cooperate with the government in finding out real planners, collaborators and executors of the August 17 bomb blasts.

# Family doubts

**FROM PAGE 1**  
identity only by seeing it."

"We will wait for the DNA testing to be carried out under supervision of Rab. And after that, we on our own will have another testing done from abroad. We will accept the remains to be those of my husband only if the results of those two tests match," Nazma said.

Lt Col Kazi Emdadul Haque, chief of Rab-7, said that they might need some 15 more days to complete the DNA test.

Journalists crowded the Rab office early in the morning for Jamal Uddin's wife Nazma and son Liton to arrive. The mother and son came to the crime-busters' office at 1.00pm. They were straightaway ushered into the chamber of Col Emdad and none other was allowed to be in the room.

"We didn't allow anyone else to make it easy for them to withstand the strain of looking closely at the skeleton which might be Jamal Uddin's," Kazi Emdad said, explaining allowing none inside the office.

Only the cameramen of some television channels were given access to the room when Kala Mahbub, one of the accused in the abduction case, was brought there at around 1.45pm.

Shahid Chairman, a prime accused, was brought to the room at 2.00pm. Nazma and her son talked to Kala Mahbub and Shahid Chairman for over half an hour. They went to see the skeleton kept in another room at 2.42pm.

## FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE ACCUSED

Soon after entering the room where Jamal's wife and son were waiting, Kala Mahbub knelt down on the floor

and begged Nazma to pardon him for 'what he had done to Jamal'.

"I'm guilty of killing your husband," he told Nazma in presence of Rab Chief Col Kazi Emdad and two other officers.

Both Nazma and Liton asked him some questions and recorded the answers in a mini recorder.

Mahbub confessed to Jamal's 'murder' and divulged names of others involved in the abduction and 'killing'. He also narrated before them how and when Jamal was kidnapped, kept in captivity, and killed.

Replying to a query of Liton, he said Maruf Nizam, younger brother of local ruling BNP lawmaker Sarwar Jamal Nizam, had a hand behind the abduction and murder. He had promised them Tk 1 crore for Jamal's abduction.

When Nazma asked why he did not disclose these beforehand, Mahbub said he had kept his mouth shut because he was not feeling secure.

After 15 minutes, Shahid Chairman was brought and Nazma and Liton quizzed him to know the fate of Jamal.

He also confessed to the crime and named Maruf Nizam as one of the masterminds behind the abduction.

"Both Kala Mahbub and Shahid Chairman have confessed to their crime and disclosed names of Maruf Nizam, Kashem Chairman, and a few others," Nazma told journalists after the face-to-face meeting with the two accused.

## Jewellers cheat

**FROM PAGE 1**  
jewellery shops at Chandni Chawk market. The court collected Tk 2,41,000 in fine. It seized 10 faulty digital measurement machines, six measurement scales and measurement stones from the market.

The court also sentenced three traders to one day's jail as they used to cheat people in the measurement of gold, court sources said.

Another mobile court, led by ABM Abdul Fattah, collected Tk 25,000 from three restaurants in Badda area for selling unhygienic food items.

Moreover, a mobile court led by Mizanur Rahman raided the canteens and dining hall at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Medical College. The court raided the doctor's canteen and dining room, and fined the persons concerned Tk 8 thousand.

Later, the court raided Sakura restaurant and bar and fined the owners Tk 20,000 for not maintaining the safety standard.

Another mobile court, led by Mujibul Haq, raided four restaurants in Motijheel area. The restaurants—Mukti, Shoshi, Haq and Café Jheel restaurants — were fined Tk 10,000 each.

A mobile court formed by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) raided seven restaurants in Sahbagha area and collected Tk 39,000 in fine from their owners.

"The drive is yet to bring major changes in the restaurant business. Wherever we raid, we see major flaws in the kitchens and in the preservation system of food items. The authorities should also launch an awareness campaign side by side with the drive," said one of the magistrates. "Otherwise, no major changes will be found in the sectors despite the continuing drive."

## Border fencing

**FROM PAGE 1**  
to ensure development of the region. We cannot play our role if we do not recognise that we not only have a commitment to our own people but also to the neighbourhood," IANS quoted Mukherjee as saying.

Pointing his finger to Bangla-desh, Pranab said "It is a hardcore fact that if there is no economic development in our neighbourhood, no amount of fencing or patrolling will stop (illegal immigration)."

Mukherjee said: "If a state supports terrorism, it is not giving respectability to terrorism but it is the very negation of peace and tranquillity and orderly development of society."

Also speaking on presence of three nuclear powers China, India and Pakistan in Asia, the Indian Defence Minister said it had resulted in apprehensions among other states of the region.

Mukherjee said: "We cannot brush their fears and apprehensions under the carpet. It is absolutely necessary to create a situation where nuclear arsenals will never be used."

"India has a policy of no first use, no use (against) non-nuclear states and a credible minimum deterrence. We have to ensure that we secure peace not only on our frontiers but in the entire neighbourhood," he said.

## Asma Kibria

**FROM PAGE 20**  
justice for the killing of Kibria while addressing the 26th 'Blue for Peace' programme at the Central Shaheed Minar. Nearly 100 people joined the half an hour long programme.

Asma urged the people to join their next programme on the Kemal Ataturk Avenue on Thursday and in Comilla on September 8.

Cultural activist Ramendu Majumder said had the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman been punished, the country would not have faced the dreadful situation and the fundamentalist forces.

The fundamentalist forces are consolidating their position under the patronage of the government keeping the progressive forces at bay, Majumder said. He urged the cultural activists to be united to resist the extremists.

Among others, late Kibria's four sisters and other family members took part in the programme.

Kibria, an Awami League lawmaker, was killed in a grenade attack in his hometown Habiganj on January 27 this year.

## Criminal killed

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Son of Ahmed Hossain of Bhoradeshi village under Savar upazila, Mozammel was accused in a number of cases including the police sub-inspector (SI) Matiur murder case, they said.

According to his confession, the members of the elite anticrime force seized a 9mm pistol and six bullets from his house.

Later, they along with Mozammel went out to recover more firearms. When they reached Turag-Morogakanda road at about 2:00am, Mozammel's accomplices opened fire, forcing the Rab members to retaliate.

Mozammel was caught in the crossfire as he tried to flee and died instantly. His accomplices, however, managed to flee the scene, the sources added.

## Extortion charges

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Shahadat Hossain, Mohammad Jasim and Mohammad Ripon.

The cops and their informers were arrested for snatching silver ornaments and extortion of Tk 28,000 from Sohel Rana alias Shyamal and Habib on July 21. They are employees of City Silver House at Tantiabazar in Old Dhaka. Shyamal filed a case against the eight under Speedy Trial (Law and Order Disruption) Act on July 22. Detective Branch (DB) of police on July 30 pressed charges against the accused, showing 20 people as prosecution witnesses.

# Lobbying on to give

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The Harbin has already bagged two out of three power deals—one in Tongli and another in Fenchuganj—both awarded by the BNP government. But as per the bidding criteria set by the PDB, the Harbin did not qualify in the Fenchuganj bid and presently it does not qualify in the Chandpur bid. But using political connection, underhand dealings with a section of unscrupulous PDB officials and others involved with power project approval, the business lobby pushed ahead Harbin with each of the deals.

The first Harbin deal—the Tongi 80MW plant—came to operation earlier this year, more than a year behind schedule, and its operation is stumbling due to faulty design. The plant has not yet been formally inaugurated.

In the June 28 bid for the Chandpur project, Harbin filed a seemingly attractive but faulty bid beating its nearest competitor CMEC by \$11 million and Indian competitor Bhel by \$24 million.

As per requirement, the Harbin did not submit any technical bid, making its offer invalid and also creating a major legal loophole through which it can eventually push up the project price by 10 to 20 million dollar once awarded. The PDB will not be in a position to

legally challenge such hike, the sources added.

Yet the PDB accepted the offer. To cover up this major flaw, the project's director on July 9 sought Harbin's technical evaluation after the bid had already been closed. Sources said a PDB deputy director for Design I is also playing a major role in pushing the Harbin deal along with its flaws.

The July 9 PDB letter violates Regulation 31, clause (5) of the Public Procurement Regulation 2003 that states that tender clarifications, which may lead to a change in the substance of the tender or in any of the key elements of the tender, shall neither be sought from the tenderers nor the tenderers are permitted to do so.

This prompted the Chinese CMEC to write to the principal secretary at the PMO against PDB's controversial handling of the project. The CMEC noted in its letter that "if this disqualified bidder continues to be favoured by the BPDB in violation of rules and regulations... we will be left with no option other than to take necessary legal actions in a Court of Law."

The PDB officials said they expect a decision of the PMO on this project soon.

# Children at great risk

**FROM PAGE 20**  
added Dr Mobin Khan, Head of the Hepatology Department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

Professor Dr UN Ahmed of the Government Homeopathy Degree College said the rate of liver-related patients in his chamber is 15-20 percent. "The trend of children's indifference to food is a common phenomenon, mainly in the cities," he explained.

According to Shishu Hospital's Hepatology Unit, of the 36 liver-related child patients between July 2004 and June 2005, 27 were diagnosed with viral hepatitis, 20 were carriers of virus-A, 8 of virus-B, and 1 each of virus-C and virus-E.

In a recent seminar, it was revealed that around 40 lakh people in the country are believed to be carriers of Hepatitis-C, which gradually leads to a malfunctioning of the liver and eventually death.

Other chemicals commonly mixed with food have harmful side

effects. If formalin, which is widely used to preserve fish, enters the human body, it breaks down the blood cells, causing lack of blood. It also creates antibodies that react with other blood cells to fasten the human aging process, said Professor Md Zahangir Kabir, director of the National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology.

Coloring agents like indolic acid damage not only the kidneys, but also produce cancer in the urinary tract, while sulfuric acid can damage the stomach and liver system of children, he added.

The use of urea fertiliser in frying puffed rice or normal rice increases the possibility of bladder cancer, the trend of which is going up in the country now, he noted.

About 2 crore people across the country have been suffering from kidney diseases and 40,000 of them die every year, said Professor Dr Harun-Ul-Rashid, Chairman of the Department of Nephrology, BSMMU, referring to a survey.

# Hasina demands

**FROM PAGE 1**  
chief, questioned while addressing a discussion on 'Bangabandhu and Bangladesh'.

"Jamaat has camps in different places in the country where militants get armed training. They also spend a huge amount of money on this purpose," she said.

The opposition leader's comment came when Maulana Fariduddin Masood, arrested recently for alleged involvement in the series of bomb blasts, said Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Ameer and Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami had all information about the blasts.

Hasina said instead of arresting the real culprits, the government has targeted the persons who are against Jamaat-e-Islami and those who left it.

"The government is in fear to attack the base of fundamentalist forces in the country," said the former prime minister.

Peshajibi Samonnoy Parishad, a body of professionals, organised the discussion at the city's Engineer's Institution auditorium as part of a programme on the 34th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hasina said the August 17 grenade attack was well planned to eliminate Awami League leaders and workers.

"Just after the bomb blasts, an instruction was given to all districts from the home ministry to arrest Awami League leaders and workers and implicate them in the blast cases," she said adding, "The instruction, however, withdrawn later... may be due to international pressures."

Expressing deep concern at the series of bomb blasts and the rise of Islamist militants under the rule of BNP-Jamaat-led coalition, Hasina said, "The force which orchestrated the blasts just gave a signal to progressive and secular forces in the country

to show that they have enough ability to kill thousands of people across the country at a time."

"The attack took place at a time when electoral and caretaker government reform proposals given by the mainstream opposition parties got public support," she said.

Hasina alleged that the attack was conspired by the government to shift public attention from the reform agenda of the opposition.

The opposition leader once again raised questions about intelligence failures to alert countrymen about such a 'terrorist' attack. She said the attack could not have taken place without the involvement and patronisation of government high ups.

The AL chief said anti-liberation war forces taking power within the BNP have been destroying the spirit of the Liberation War, which aimed to establish a secular and democratic Bangladesh.

She made a fresh call to progressive and democratic forces to launch a united movement to unseat the present government and install a pro-people one.

"We can't sit idle and let Bangladesh be ruined under the hands of some criminals. We will have to move together to oust them and save the country," she said.

The AL chief also described in detail the plot of killing her father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Presided over by Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud, the discussion was also addressed by Sardar Fazul Karim, Wahidul Haq, prof Shamsul Huda Harun, Barrister Amir-Ul-Islam, Dr Q u a m r u l H u d a, S M Khabiruzzaman and prof AAMS Arfin Siddique.

# Communal forces

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Teachers-Students Centre of Dhaka University, Kamal said, "We want educational institutions free of terrorism."

The collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces in the mass killings went into hiding after their defeat in 1971 but they started raising their heads again in the political arena after 75. Backed and funded by foreign powers, they began to create division among the people in the name of religion, he mentioned.

These collaborators should ask pardon, the eminent jurist stressed.

According to the tenets of Islam, collaborators of killers and supporters of corruption are also blamed for the same crimes, he pointed out. "Allah will punish them for the crimes that they did in the past and are doing now," he said referring to the political parties who use religion for politics.

He also blasted the ruling BNP for sharing power with parties using Islam for political gains.

Turning to student community,

Kamal said, "The students of the country have a glorious tradition of movement for democracy and justice. So, you have to wage a strong movement again to save the nation."

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqi, former vice chancellor of Jahangir Nagar University, blamed the Ershad regime for initiating use of arms in politics that he said led to violence in educational institutions.

Political appointments in the universities destroyed congenial academic environment, he pointed out.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said elimination of terrorism from educational institutions is not possible if the ruling parties shelter criminals.

Jatiya Chhatra Dhara President Mahfuz Akram called for a uniform education system.

Gono Forum leaders Abul Kashem and Shamsuzzoha and Jatiya Oikya Mancha leader Abdur Rouf also spoke at the conference.

## Nizami

**FROM PAGE 20**  
of breaking the alliance." Asked about the terrorist outfit behind orchestrating the blasts across the country, he said it is the task of the investigators to reveal it. Although the so-called JMB has come into focus of law enforcers following the recovery of leaflets from the scenes, "but the investigators must dig it out if they have that potential to stage such a big incident. We hope people will get the result of investigation."

He said no recognised Islamic party in any country of the world believes in establishing their political philosophy through terrorism and revolution. They believe in democratic practice, he said, adding that some militant outfits produced and reared by "enemies of Islam" are engaged in terrorism to undermine the cause of Islam.

"Nowadays, we hear about the names of leaders of so-called militant outfits. Long established and recognised Islamic parties have no relations with these newly spawned organisations," said the ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, who leads the largest Islamic party in the country.

He said the August 17 serial blasts were an eye-opener for many, and instead of engaging in "blame game", all political parties should face it unitedly for the sake of country's sovereignty and economic progress.

The industries minister called it "rubbish" when his comments were sought on Maulana Masud's remarks that Nizami knows everything about the blasts. "I've heard his name, but I did not know him personally. He did not make such remarks before his arrest. Had he not been arrested, he would not have uttered my name. I understand he made the remark on his lawyer's advice."

About his reported statement accusing India's intelligence outfit RAW of being behind the bombings, the Jamaat chief said he did neither name any country nor any agency in his written statement or in his replies to questions at the press conference on August 20.

"I've my written statement as well as record on what I have said in reply to questions from reporters. If necessary, anyone can listen to our record," he said.

## Agency advice

**FROM PAGE 1**  
(JMB). It also mentioned that the organisation [JMB] is very much active in its efforts to turn the country into an Islamic state.

As Galib's name came in the confessions of a good number of militants arrested in connection with bomb attacks on village fairs and NGOs across the country, police arrested Galib on February 23 and for the first time, his name as Ahab chairman came in public.

After the arrest, reports detailing activities of militant groups came flooding in the home ministry and police headquarters from northern districts including Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Joypurhat and Bogra.

The district intelligence attached with reports booklets, leaflets and pamphlets of some of the organisations, exposing their backgrounds, views, objectives, mechanism, activities, funds, arms, training, prospective programme and goals.

"They have already become powerful and are continuing their secret activities," says a report recommending tough action against those organisations.

The 2003 SB report said although the JMB does not have any office in public, they are very much active in the country.

According to the report, members of Ahle Hadith and ruling coalition partner Islami Oikya Jote are predominantly teachers and students of kawni madrasas and involved with JMB. The organisation plans to attack different NGOs, movie theatres, folk-festivals, drama and cultural programmes.

The report also said the publicity and criminal activities of JMB have tarnished Bangladesh's image abroad and characterised the country as a fundamentalist state. Legal steps should be taken to ban JMB for the sake of peace, security and Islam.

It also called for banning Islami Biplobi Parishad (IBP), fearing that IBP might create hindrance to running of the country. It also concluded that if the group is allowed to thrive it might constitute threat to the country's sovereignty.

About Harkatul Jihad, the report said, leaders and activists of Harkatul-Jehad-al-Islam (Huji) went into hiding after the then Awami League government began cracking down on them in 2000. The government had opted to go after Huji after finding that the group planned 76 kg of explosives beside a podium erected for the rally of Sheikh Hasina in Tungipura on July 20, 2000.

Since then, Huji has been continuing its activities under the banners of different militant organisations. The report also included that Huji is presently working secretly and may show up any moment, and therefore, should be banned on security grounds.

About Hijbut Tahir, the 2003 report said the activities of the organisation suggest it may soon graduate to an extremist organisation. The SB proposed round the clock monitoring of the organisation.

Although the reports were submitted in 2003, the government has remained inactive and hesitant until a series of attacks were carried out on a couple of NGOs, and some country fairs in northern districts in February 2004.

In response to the bomb blitz, the government banned JMB, Higma and JMJB but has yet to take notice of the other organisations.

During the attacks in February last year, police arrested 160 militants but except Galib, most of them were released or got out on bail. Police raids localities only if any blast incident takes place, otherwise they remain inactive.

The government never takes any action against the banned organisations.

Though the government arrested Galib, they did not ban his organisation, Ahab. They stopped the anti-militant drive since February last year.

# Civil society role

**FROM PAGE 20**  
The objective of the debate is to influence the manifestos of the political parties so that their proclamations address and reflect short and medium-term development issues, he added.

"Political parties don't show respect to the election manifestos of each other," the CPD executive director said adding that the manifestos must be reviewed scientifically and there should be a comparative analysis of them.

Former advisor to the caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan regretted that the political parties in Bangladesh do not care about the opinion of the civil society, which could play a great role in creating pressure on the political parties to meet their election pledges.

Former chief election commissioner MA Rouf Chowdhury said the civil society group can mobilise public opinion at the grassroots level in order to create mass awareness regarding the development issues and it is not difficult to hold the general elections in a free, fair and credible manner.

Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam proposed forming of a group comprising 100 eminent persons who could play a vital role in creating mass awareness on different issues.

"Discussion could be held at a larger level to create awareness at mass level," said Anam, adding that consultation with the political parties is very vital to the implementation of the thoughts of the civil society.

Executive Director of Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) Dr Iftekharuzzaman said security is now a big concern of the citizens and this might form part of the taskforce report to be prepared on the basis of discussion.

Fema Chairperson Munira Khan said as long as the Election Commission is not truly independent, it

is not possible to hold an election in a free and fair manner.

She proposed to include the issue of fresh voter list for the coming elections as one of the major topics of the civil society as a flawless voter list is vital for a fair election.

Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury of Consumers' Association of Bangladesh suggested incorporating the issues of education and creation of job opportunities in the policy debate.

Managing Director of Media New Age Ltd Shahidullah Khan said young and professional groups should be involved in the policy debate in order to make it effective.

Advocate Tanjib-ul-Alam said there should be a provision for cancelling the election result of a winning candidate if (s)he provides any false information.