

UN convention on graft to be sent soon to CA for nod

UNB, Dhaka

A summary on UN convention against corruption will soon be sent for approval of Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed as Bangladesh decided to be a signatory to it.

Talking to reporters yesterday, Foreign Affairs Adviser Ifttekhar Ahmed Chowdhury said Bangladesh's image will enhance to a great extent with the signing of the convention.

According to the UN, the convention adopted in 2003 has so far been signed by 140 countries but ratified only by 80 countries. It came into effect last year.

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ADB lauds CG's commitment to face challenges

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting Director General of ADB's South Asia Department Kunio Senga yesterday said it's a golden opportunity for Bangladesh to address its difficult challenges with a strong commitment so far shown by the present government.

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Rejoinder, our reply

Bangladesh Ansar and VDP protested a news item published in The Daily Star on February 1, 2007 under the headline 'Ansar-VDP occupies land ignoring HC injunction'.

A rejoinder by the public

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# Withdraw discretionary power of taxmen

MCCI asks govt to cut duty on raw materials, intermediary products

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) urged the interim government to withdraw discretionary powers of the tax authorities, cut import duties on raw materials and intermediary products, continuation of tax holiday, and withdrawal of tax concession to whitening of black money.

They also asked the government to take immediate measures for creating additional power generation capacity to meet the country's growing energy needs.

They made the pleas by placing a 13-point proposal to Chief Adviser (CA) to the Caretaker Government (CG) Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, when a 15-member delegation from MCCI led by its President Latifur Rahman met him in his office yesterday.

The delegation also included MCCI Vice-president Feroz Rahim, Secretary General CK Hyder, and its former presidents Samson H Chowdhury and Syed Manzur Elahi.

Their proposal said, "For several years, the chamber has been representing for removal of discretionary powers of the tax authorities.

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PHOTO: STAR

Employees of city bus services sell tickets standing by the roadside railings as the law enforcers evicted them from footpath. The photo was taken from Kakrail in the capital yesterday.

Arrest looters, 'creators' of godfathers

Hasina urges CG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday demanded the caretaker government (CG) arrest those who created godfathers of criminals, looted state property and smuggled wealth out of the country, and bring to trial each case of corruption in the last 25 years.

"We want to firmly ask the caretaker government to take account of the wealth of those who were in power in the last 25 years, not only the last five or 10 years. Let all cases of corruption be properly investigated and tried to bring the

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ORIENTAL BANK HC rejects writ petitions against ACC cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday rejected the writ petitions challenging the legality of the cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) against some current and former officials of the crisis-ridden Oriental Bank.

An HC bench comprising Justice Syed Mohammad Dastagir Hossain and Justice Mamunur Rahman also ordered the government and the police not to arrest or harass the bank's former managing director CM Koyes Sami, current Senior Vice-president Tarikul Islam Khan and Additional Managing director M Shafiuddin until a charge sheet is submitted against them.

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# Asean envoys praise CG move to hold fair polls

UNB, Dhaka

Envoys of the Asean countries here yesterday praised the caretaker government's efforts to establish a role model for the future government in Bangladesh.

They hope the stalled elections will be held as soon as possible.

"We're satisfied with the manner the caretaker government is promoting free, fair and credible elections, which will be acceptable to this country and the international community at large," Malaysian High Commission Abdul Malek bin Abdul Aziz told reporters after a meeting with Foreign Affairs Adviser Ifttekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

Being a member of the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), Bangladesh and Asean have close relationship, he said, adding that they came to express Asean's solidarity with the government.

On a question about Asean investment in Bangladesh, the Malaysian envoy said issues of trade and investment were discussed during the meeting.

Thai Ambassador Suphat Chitranukroh, Vietnam Ambassador Ngo Van Hoa, High Commissioner of Brunei Abd Rahman Abd Hamid, Myanmar Counsellor U Thin Han, Philippines' Consul Alfredo Borlongan and Singaporean Consul Manik Binwani also attended the meeting.

Briefing the reporters, the foreign affairs adviser said the Asean envoys are happy that stability is returning to Bangladesh, which will increase investment here from their countries.

He said the envoys expressed their desire to invest in hotel, real estate and infrastructure sectors.

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# 2 lakh more sacks of fertiliser seized

1500 sacks of rotten rice also recovered

STAR REPORT

The joint forces during separate drives all over the country yesterday seized over 2 lakh sacks of fertiliser including fake ones, 1,500 sacks of adulterated and spoilt rice and arrested at least 22 people.

The forces also seized 280 metric tonnes of salt without BSTI approval and unearthed three fake engine oil (Mobil) factories.

Besides, a mobile court in Gazipur fined Brac Dairy and Food Products Tk 1.5 lakh for not renewing BSTI (Bangladesh Standards Testing Institution) license to produce Aarong Mango Juice and for not maintaining hygienic condition inside the juice factory.

PABNA

The joint forces raided Nagarbari market, the largest fertiliser market in the northern part of the country, for the second consecutive day yesterday and seized more than 2 lakh sacks of adulterated and date expired fertilisers, our Pabna correspondent reports.

They also arrested 13 people -- mostly warehouse labourers.

Earlier on Tuesday, the joint

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CPA relaxes rules as dockers go slow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of dockworkers' go-slow policy in cargo handling, the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday allowed stevedores recruit additional winch men for handling goods at their own costs.

The stevedores alleged the dockworkers were maintaining

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Prayer Timing		
February 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		