

# Probe corruption in PSC, bring culprits to book

## Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called on the caretaker government to bring reforms to the Public Service Commission (PSC) immediately through appointment of honest and competent officials as its chairman and members in order to bring dynamism and ensure transparency in its activities.

They also called for a thorough investigation into massive corruption in the PSC and punishment to the persons responsible.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the roundtable on 'Public Service Commission: Problems and Solutions' in the city with its Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad in the chair.

"The PSC has been politicised to a great extent, putting the future of both the present and next generations at risk," Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said, adding: "We want a thorough investigation into all allegations against the PSC."

Former advisers to the caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan, ASM Shahjahan and Sultana Kamal, former PSC chairman Mostafa Chowdhury, former member Dr Hamida Banu, Justice Golam Rabbani, Advocate Mahbubul Alam, Dr Syed Giasuddin Ahmed and Prof Atiqur Rahman of Dhaka University, former IGP and secretary Nurul Huda and Awami League leader Subhas Singha Roy took part in the discussion.

They emphasised the need to bring changes to the process of appointing PSC chairman and members and to the examination system in order to make the PSC free from all forms of corruption.

The system of recruitment must

be changed so that the elected prime minister cannot appoint the PSC chairman and members on political considerations, Hafizuddin Khan said.

ASM Shahjahan said those who are resorting to corruption in important organisations such as PSC should be given exemplary punishment.

Mostafa Chowdhury urged the caretaker government to launch an anti-corruption drive in the PSC.

Dr Giasuddin said a committee opposing prime minister, leader of the opposition, a member from the civil society and an expert should be formed to recruit PSC chairman and members.

Subhas Singha termed the PSC a place of repression and demanded necessary action to reform it.

Presenting a diagnostic study, the

TIB put forward a 24-point recommendation for reforms of the PSC.

The recommendations are as follows: A special committee should be formed to reform the PSC considering its neutrality, independence and functions. Relevant laws should also be amended or new laws can be enacted.

There should be a system to review the assets of the PSC chairman, members, officials and staffs on a regular basis.

A strong probe body comprising neutral and competent persons should be formed to investigate the allegations of corruption and irregularities in the exams of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) and take necessary action on the basis of the probe body's recommendations.

All officials and employees of the PSC should be brought under a

certain system of transparency and accountability and a committee can be formed in this regard. Allocations for the PSC should be earmarked in the national budget.

An effective fact-finding committee should be formed to appoint PSC chairman and members. Persons who are acceptable to all and have experiences regarding public administration should be given preference during the recruitment.

A committee should be formed to reform and modernise the system of the BCS examination.

At least 75 per cent of appointments should be made on the basis of merit; district quota should be abolished and freedom fighters' quota should be reviewed. A code of conduct for the PSC should also be formulated.

Referring to the widespread corruption, irregularities, nepotism, bribery and BCS question leakage, the speakers demanded immediate formation of a strong probe body to look into these matters for which, what they said, the PSC has lost its credibility.

Three examinees of the 24th, 25th and 27th BCS examinations expressed their grievances, saying that they were deprived of government jobs despite their brilliant academic career.

They also demanded stern action against the PSC officials who ensured jobs for some examinees in exchange for a handsome amount of money.



PHOTO: ISPR

Visiting US Congressman Curt Weldon calls on Army Chief Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed at the army headquarters in the city yesterday.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

# UN bodies stress replication of Bangladesh model in Asian cities

Bss, Dhaka

Officials of UNDP and UNESCOAP yesterday suggested replication of a Bangladesh model of waste management in Asian and African cities to protect environment, create employment and expedite development.

"The model developed by Bangladesh's Waste Concern meets all the criteria under the new approach of solid waste management" under the UN campaign called Trash to Cash, Bangkok-based economic affairs official of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Adnan Hameed Aliani told a press briefing here.

He said UNESCOAP was assisting two cities in Sri Lanka and Vietnam in replicating the Waste Concern model that earned the Bangladeshi research and consultancy organisation the UN Poverty Award in 2002 for suggesting ways to reduce transport costs, improve collection services and provide higher and regular income and better working condition to waste pickers.

His comments came at the flag end of a regional training workshop

for Sri Lankan and Vietnamese waste management officials staged by Waste Concern in Dhaka while UNDP's Assistant Resident Representative Shirin Kamal Sayeed also attended.

"The model ensured every angle of sustainable development by cleaning environment, generating income, addressing gender issues and producing composts from wastes," Shirin Kamal told the function.

UNESCAP assists Sri Lankan town of Matale and Vietnamese city of Quy Nhon in replicating the Bangladesh model that also explored ways to reduce, reuse and recycle solid wastes "as many stages as possible" under an approach involving community in the process of eventually producing environment friendly organic fertilisers.

The model also earned Bangladesh the chance of getting the world's first Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project on waste to turn Dhaka's huge municipal garbage into natural fertilisers and power free of cost and fetch 10 million dollars of foreign investment.

The CDM mechanism, also described as carbon trading,

derived from the 1992 Kyoto Protocol, under which the 30, including Russia, signatory developed nations were obligated to pay for reduction of emission of green house gases in developing countries.

Waste Concern's Executive Director AH Mohammad Maqsood Sinha said the bureaucratic bottlenecks and conflicting municipal laws forced them to apply the model in 26 Bangladeshi towns including parts of Dhaka.

"But mayors from different countries have visited our model in Dhaka while we got requests even from countries in Africa to train them on the model," he said.

Waste Concern now awaits the completion of formalities to launch "partly" a proposed waste management project largely removing the Dhaka City Corporation's responsibility of waste disposal and disposal sites.

Dhaka city currently produces 3,200 tonnes of municipal garbage everyday of which the DCC can collect only 1,200 tonnes in a crude and unhygienic manner at its Matuail site producing bad odour and polluting air and water bodies.

## 'Train ultra-poor people to make self-reliant'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Training rather than doling out money is more effective to make ultra-poor people of the country self-reliant, said the speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They said those who are in dire need of financial support do not have the power to pay back the loan with interest.

The roundtable titled the 'Role of Brac's Targeting the Ultra Poor (TUP) programme in improving the life standard of ultra poor', was organised by Brac Advocacy and Human Rights Unit (BAHRU) and the daily Naya Diganta at CIDRAP Auditorium in the city.

While presenting a keynote paper Wajedul Islam Pahloan, regional manager of TUP, said considering the inability of ultra poor to participate even in the micro-credit programme for different constraints, TUP was formed in 2002 to improve their socio economic condition.

After conducting a base-line survey they were provided with training on poultry and animal farming, cultivation and cottage industry, he added.

The beneficiaries of TUP were also provided with non-repayable financial grant at the primary stage of their business for maintenance until they could have regular income, he explained.

Until December 31 of last year, the number of beneficiaries was one lakh ultra-poor people of 13 districts including Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Sirajganj, Rajbari and Panchagarh.

TUP programme, supported by DFID and EU, targets to increase the number of beneficiaries up to three lakhs by the year 2011, said Ruhul Amin, manager of BAHRU.

Dr Sa'dat Hussain, founding adviser of BAHRU and former cabinet secretary, said as government projects on poverty alleviation cannot be successful due to various constraints, different organisations should come forward to improve the condition of the ultra poor.

Presiding over the discussion Alamgir Mohiuddin, editor of the Naya Diganta, asked for modifying the definition of poverty and not to do business with the poor in the name of development.

Farid Hossain, bureau chief of Associated Press (AP), and poet AI Mujahidi, literary editor of the daily Ittefaq, also spoke.

# EU to celebrate 50th yr of Rome Treaty Mar 25

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union (EU) will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, the groundbreaking treaty that paved the way for today's European Union, on March 25.

There were six signatories to the treaty in 1957- Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands. Half a century later the EU has expanded to encompass 27 member states and almost 500 million people.

European integration has been a key factor in building and consolidating peace, democracy and a prospering economy on the continent.

The EU's achievements include the creation of a common market and a single currency (euro), and the establishment of a European citizenship complementing national citizenship.

With the development of a common foreign and security policy, the EU has also become a significant actor on the international stage.

It is the world's largest donor of official development assistance (ODA) accounting for 60 per cent of the world's total assistance. It speaks with a single voice in international trade negotiations and advocates a fair deal for the Least Developed Countries in the current WTO Doha development round.

On the eve of the 50th anniversary, Dr Stefan Frowein, ambassador and head of the European Commission's delegation to Bangladesh, said, "The EU is unparalleled as a regional entity in terms of the cooperation that it has

achieved."

"For our friends around the world," he said, "The EU is not just a trading bloc today but a strategic partner in addressing challenges such as climate change, poverty, international terrorism and so forth. We look forward to working together with our partners in resolving these challenges over the coming years."

In celebration of the 50th anniversary, the European Commission delegation to Bangladesh will launch a Euro-Bangla fusion recipe competition, according to a EU press release.

The competition has been jointly organised with Tommy Miah's Hospitality Management Institute and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation.

The chef students of these institutes are invited to submit recipes combining European and Bangladeshi cooking traditions. A Jury made up of EU ambassadors, representatives of the news agencies AFP and UNB, Parjatan Corporation and Tommy Miah's Institute, will designate the best fusion dish in a live cooking final.

"I expect this to be an enjoyable opportunity to celebrate the culinary traditions of Europe and Bangladesh while exploring new, innovative fusion recipes. Our intention is to serve the best fusion dish at the traditional Europe Day reception of the delegation on May 9," commented Dr Stefan Frowein.

## Int'l Education Exhibition 2007 begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day International Education Exhibition-2007 organised by SSBCL begins at the Ball Room of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel today.

A number of universities from the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Ireland, France, Italy, South Korea, Poland, Russia, Netherlands, Spain, Hungary and Malaysia will participate at the exhibition.

SNN Media and Eastern Bank are partner and associate partner of the exhibition respectively while The Daily Star, daily Janakantha, ATN Bangla and Radio Today are the media partners.

The American Centre, Russian Cultural Centre, Alliance Francaise de Dacca and Democracywatch will also present their activities at the exhibition.

The exhibition remains open from 10:00am to 8:00pm. Entry fee is Tk 10.

A large number of students cannot go abroad for higher education due to lack of required admission and scholarship information, said Sumon Talukder, managing director of SSBCL, at a press conference on the eve of the exhibition at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Interested students can get necessary information on overseas studies from the foreign participants at this exhibition, he added.

Poland representatives Prof S Ryszard Domanski and Aleksandra Modrazynska, SNN Editor Utpal Kumar Sarker and Mohabbat Hossain Chowdhury of Eastern Bank were also present at the press conference.

## Australia donates 1000 spectacles to Lions Club

"Blindness of many poor people can be prevented or saved with a little help of others."

Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett said this while handing over around 1,000 pairs of spectacles to Md Omar Shafayat Kausar, district governor of the International Association of Lions Club in Dhaka, says a press release.

"I hope these spectacles will give poor eye patients in Bangladesh the ability to have better sight", added the Aussie envoy.

The Lions Club will distribute the items free of cost among poor eye-patients in Bangladesh including the poor patients who have had cataract surgery at the Lions Eye Hospital.

The spectacles have been donated under a project jointly organised by Foresight Australia an Australian International non-profit organisation committed to the prevention and cure of blindness, and the Lions Club of New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory.

## Robbery in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A gang of robbers looted money and valuables totalling Tk 5 lakh from a house at village Moijpur in Biswanath upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

About 10 to 12 armed robbers stormed into the house of Hari Malakar at about 3:30am.

Sources said the gang first identified themselves as members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and asked the family members to open the door. As the family members did not comply, the robbers broke open the door at the back of the house.

The masked robbers beat up 60-year-old Hari Malakar before looting Tk 25,000, 10 tolas of gold ornaments, TV set, tape recorder, camera, mobile phone and other valuables.

Receiving information, police picked up three suspects from nearby Daudpur village.

## Tk 24 CR BILL ARREARS

# N'ganj chemical co gas line disconnected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A mobile court of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co. Ltd. disconnected the gas line of Talukder Chemical Company at Tarabo in Rugganj yesterday for not paying the bill arrears amounting to Tk 24 crore.

The mobile court led by Magistrate Khalil Ahmed also arrested Manager Ataur Rahman of the company during the drive against bill defaulters.

The mobile court conducted the drive with the help of joint forces yesterday afternoon.

Magistrate Khalil Ahmed said that the company also had an illegal gas connection and it had been tampering with the gas meter for long.

Owner of the company Mozammel Haq Talukder has been at large.

According to Titas Gas officials, Talukder Chemical Company is the

biggest gas bill defaulter in Narayanganj.

## Memorial meet on Waheedul Haque today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A daylong meeting in memory of journalist and Tagore song specialist Waheedul Haque will be held on Ati Bhawal High School premises under Keraniganj upazila in Dhaka today.

The programme will begin at 9:30am.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui will be present as chief guest with educationist Matiur Rahman Bhuiyan in the chair.

Members of different organisations, including Chhayanaout, will perform in the cultural function.

## Alleged arms dealer killed in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

An alleged arms dealer was killed in 'crossfire' between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and his accomplices in Joynagar area at Daulatkhan in Bhola district early morning yesterday.

The Rab team also recovered a gun and four rounds of ammunitions from the spot.

The victim was identified as Miraz, 35, a fugitive and also the younger brother of pirate gang leader Siraj.

He was convicted and charge sheeted in a number of cases for murder, rape, toll collection, extortion and arms supply.

Squadron Leader Jamil Uddin Ahmed of Rab-8 unit confirmed the incident.

On information, the Rab team raided Joynagar area to nab the miscreants at about 3:00am.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, Miraz's accomplices opened fire on the Rab men, prompting them to retaliate.

The miscreants were forced to retreat leaving the body of Miraz.

## Two murdered in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police recovered two bodies, including one of a woman, at Gazipur yesterday.

Locals recovered the strangled body of one Shabana of Arichpur of Tongi at her residence yesterday morning.

Shabana's mother said since her marriage, her husband Anwar had been demanding Tk 50,000 as dowry.

As Shabana's parents could not pay the dowry, he used to torture her and he strangled her on Wednesday night.

Hearing the scream of their four-year-old son next morning, locals rushed to her home and recovered the body.

Police arrested Anwar.

Meanwhile, police of Joydevpur Police Station recovered the slaughtered body of an unidentified man, aged around 25, from a paddy field in Gachhabazar area at Gazipur Sadar yesterday morning.

## Boy missing



Md Naimul Islam Bibop, an 11-year-old boy living in the city's Kuril area, has been missing since March 18, says a press release.

The boy went missing from near his house 'Aziz Sarkar Mess', 38 Dr Alim Sarani, Basundhara, Kuril.

Ageneral dairy has been lodged with Badda Police Station on March 22.

Anybody knowing his whereabouts is requested to inform the nearest police station or call at the following numbers: 01817145017 and 01711976285.

## Death anniversary



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Qazi Nurul Islam, former joint secretary, says a press release.

He passed away at Akron City Hospital in Ohio, USA on this day in 1997.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held.

## Anwara Rahman



Today is the first death anniversary of Anwara Rahman, wife of Md Mizanur Rahman Bachhu, a freedom fighter and senior vice-president of Arai Hazar thana Awami League, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at an orphanage and mosque after Juma prayers.

## Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Dr Qazi Abu Yusuf, former Awami League lawmaker, will be held at his residence at 46, Mirpur Road in the city after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, admirers and political colleagues have been requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Engineer Rabiul Islam

Qulkhwani of Engineer Rabiul Islam, director of Geocoin Limited, will be held at 19 Isa Khan Avenue, Sector-6 at Uttara in the city after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release. He passed away due to cardiac arrest at Sikder Medical College Hospital at Gulshan. Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend his qulkhwani.

# WEATHER TODAY

## Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Jessore and Kusthia in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Highest temperature 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 19.1 degree Celsius at Chandpur.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 5:59am 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	32.8	23.3	81	75
Chittagong	29.7	22.6	78	91
Rajshahi	35.4	22.6	86	47
Khulna	33.4	24.5	82	69
Barisal	33.2	23.4	87	71
Sylhet	26.8	20.3	87	84
Cox's Bazar	30.6	20.2	67	79