

Police reform govt's priority, says CA

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed has said reform of the police force is essential and the government takes it as a priority task.

The CA made the remarks while addressing senior police officials at the International Conference Centre (ICC) yesterday morning on the occasion of Police Week-2007.

He said the radical reform of an organisation is possible only when the demand comes from its own workforce and hoped that the ongoing reform project of the police force, including its legal one, will achieve its objectives.

Appreciating various activities of police, he said their (police) activities during the last three months have proved that they are capable of reigning on the bad people and helping the good ones.

Responding to various suggestions, including legal and institutional reforms, the CA said the government will be able to take

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Prayer Timing		
April 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-24	6-28
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

# US offers further help to fight graft

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The United States has offered further cooperation to the government in its drive against corruption, particularly in identifying concrete, short-term support for investigations and prosecution of corruption suspects.

The US has also committed to increase their aid to Bangladesh by 40 percent, with a significant amount earmarked for bilateral

initiatives to combat corruption, Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Aminul Islam Bhuiyan said.

US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis extended this offer to Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury in a recent letter, where she also provided recommendations to prosecute corruption suspects in light of her country's own experience.

A government inter-ministerial

working group headed by the ERD secretary met yesterday to identify possible areas of bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and the US in combating corruption and punishing the corrupt.

Representatives from the Anti-Corruption Commission, ministries of home, law and foreign affairs, Bangladesh Bank, and the National Board of Revenue participated in the meeting.

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US for polls as early as possible

UNB, Khulna

US Ambassador Patricia Butenis has said the United States expects the caretaker government to arrange free, fair and impartial elections as early as possible by accomplishing all the tasks.

Talking to journalists at a local hotel yesterday morning, she said the US will not however say anything about the elections dates which she said was a matter of the government and the Election Commission.

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BMTF asked to make transparent ballot boxes

CEC visits army-run factory

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday visited the Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory (BMTF), which is preparing samples of transparent ballot boxes for use in the next election.

The CEC urged the army-run BMTF to make sample ballot boxes so that they could show these to the political parties before giving final

order for preparing around 2,40,000 ballot boxes.

Two election commissioners Brig Gen (retd) Sakhawat Hossain and Mohammad Sahul Hossain and BMTF Managing Director Brig Mominul Hoque accompanied the CEC during the visit.

The BMTF officials made a presentation on three types of sample ballot boxes.

According to the presentation,

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Ex-BNP MP's Cadillac seized in Noakhali

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

The joint forces yesterday seized an expensive Cadillac car of former BNP lawmaker Md Shahjahan from the garage of Anwar Mirza, chairman of Al-Amin Group of Industries, at Harinarayanpur in the district.

The car, worth around Tk 3 crore, was imported by Shahjahan under the duty-free facilities for lawmakers.

The team comprising law enforcement officers, members of

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# Waiting for son at jail gate

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A 65-year-old rickshaw-puller had been waiting at the Dhaka Central Jail gate for 11 hours yesterday for the release of his son who had been arrested 15 days ago on charge of stealing.

"I have been waiting here for my son since 7:00am because my lawyer told me Tuesday evening that my son would be released today. I am very hungry as I could not eat anything," Shaheed Ali told The Daily Star at 6:00pm yesterday.

"But my hunger will end as soon as I meet my son."

Shaheed said he regularly came to the jail in the last 15 days, cancelling his professional work and had to wait for long to meet his son Mohammad Rafiq and provide him with food and other essentials.

Like Shaheed, several hundred people gathered in front of the Dhaka Central Jail gate yesterday waiting for the release of their relatives.

A total of 482 accused, including

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A person released on bail following latest amendment to Emergency Powers Rules, and his relatives break down outside Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Cases against 55 graft suspects on the cards

NBR to sue them in special court

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is preparing to file cases against the top 55 graft suspects for concealing information about their income, submitting fabricated tax statements and non-compliance with income tax rules.

The cases will be filed in a special court in phases under the Income Tax Ordinance, 1984, which will be first of its kind, sources said.

Talking to the reporters at his office yesterday, NBR Chairman

Badiur Rahman said preliminary scrutiny has been completed. "Now we will formulate a model format for filing the cases and we will discuss with the law experts to create this format."

He, however, declined to disclose any specific date regarding the start of filing of the cases.

Once the format is approved by an NBR body in compliance with the section 169 of the Income Tax Ordinance, the board will start the

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# Religion-based politics source of militancy

## Seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Religion-based politics is the major source of militancy and close ties between Jamaat-e-Islami and militancy is quite lucid in this country, speakers at a views exchange meeting said yesterday.

Punishing a few of the militants cannot uproot militancy. Rather, an ideological battle against militancy needs to be launched, they added.

Bangladesh Heritage Foundation and Democracy and Human Rights Research organised the discussion at Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (Bilia) auditorium titled 'Militancy in Bangladesh: Against Democracy, Rule of Law and the Spirit of Liberation War'.

While presenting the keynote

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