

LISTED CORRUPT SUSPECTS

ACC to begin submitting charge sheets from next week

UNB, Dhaka

The Ant-Corruption Commission (ACC) will begin submitting charge sheets from next week against the listed corrupt suspects for whom first information reports (FIRs) were filed earlier by the anti-graft watchdog.

"Charge sheets are on the way. Submission of charge sheets will begin from the next week," said ACC Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury while talking to newsmen on return to his office after meeting Law Adviser Barrister Mainul Hossain at the Secretariat yesterday.

A competent source told UNB that charge sheets against Awami League leader and former state minister Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, BNP leader and former state minister Mir Nasir Uddin and

his son Barrister Mir Helal, and BNP leader and former state minister Aman Ullah Aman would be submitted next week.

FIRs were filed against them for concealment of information in early March.

Mashhud, who took charge of the reconstituted ACC about two months back, said, "Time has come to do something so that people can understand that the ACC is doing something."

Replying to a query about filing new cases, he said the cases filed so far against the suspected corrupts would be processed as soon as possible.

"The most important thing is to complete the cases without any flaw," the ACC chairman said, adding, "If these cases cannot be conducted correctly, question will rise in the minds of ordinary people

about the campaign against corruption."

About appointing lawyers to fight the cases for the Commission, he said the issues relating to appointment of lawyers and the mode of payment of their remuneration have been discussed in the meeting on Wednesday.

"I hope, everyone will accept the lawyers whom the Commission has decided to appoint," he added.

Replying to another question, Mashhud said the Anti-Corruption Act, 2004 has been amended and already approved by the government.

"It awaits gazette notification," he said.

Asked if the ACC secretary could ask for the wealth statements, he said there were doubts in people's mind as to whether the

secretary could issue notices to submit wealth statements, but the approval was given by the government.

Responding to another query, the ACC chairman said during the meeting with the law adviser, also in-charge of the information ministry, he asked for the use of government media to inform people of the campaign against corruption.

Mashhud said the law adviser has assured that Bangladesh Television would extend all-out cooperation in reaching the message to common people of the country.

About his visit to districts in future, the chairman said, "I will continue the visit...But first I will complete the tasks that have been prioritised."



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Toufique Ali speaks at a dialogue on 'Resumption of Doha Negotiations and Challenges for Bangladesh' at Brac Centre Inn auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya and Commerce Secretary Firoz Ahmed. The Centre for Policy Dialogue organised the event.

Initiate movement to cut hunger, poverty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a reunion programme yesterday urged all to initiate a social movement to eradicate hunger and poverty from the country.

They said the main problem of the country is lack of good governance and a positive change is not possible unless mindset of the people changes.

The reunion of Ujjibok, a regional body of The Hunger Project was held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium in the city. The participants at the programme

recited poems, performed songs and staged plays.

Speaking as the chief guest, former adviser to the caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan said lack of good governance is the main problem of the country.

He also said there are many kinds of poverty in the country and different ways instead of one should be adopted to eradicate poverty.

Praising the initiative taken by The Hunger Project, he said, "We have to move forward with the belief that we can do."

Eminent economist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said the reunion is

an assembling of different creative things including poetry, songs and play.

Urging everyone to disseminate such creative things all over the country, he said The Hunger Project can play an important role in this regard.

Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, country director of The Hunger Project, Prof Mahfuza Khanam, Language Veteran Dr Halima Khatun, Rafiqul Islam Sarker, former chief news editor of Bangladesh Television and Dr Meher-E-Khoda also spoke.

ACC collects papers for verification of AL MP's assets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A four-member task force of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday collected 80 documents from the office of District Registrar in Khulna for verification of the property of Awami League (AL) leader and former lawmaker Mostafa Rashidi Shuja.

District Registrar Mamta Ara Begum said the task force collected the documents related not only to the property of Shuja but also to other members of his family.

She also admitted to receiving an official letter from the head office of ACC to help visiting task force collect documents relating to property of another former AL law maker Haji Selim who has vast assets in Khulna.

Steps for rehabilitation of evicted slum dwellers soon

UNB, Dhaka

Law, Information and Housing and Public Works Adviser Mainul Hossain yesterday said all possible steps will be taken for immediate rehabilitation of the evicted slum dwellers in the city.

The adviser said this while addressing a meeting on rehabilitation of the city's slum dwellers at the housing and public works ministry.

"The problem of slum dwellers is permanent and it will be solved in phases," the adviser said.

The meeting was informed that with the financial assistance of Coalition of the Urban Poor, an NGO, tin-shed houses would be built initially at Karail and

Mohakhali under the supervision of the housing and public works ministry for emergency and temporary rehabilitation.

It was also told that permanent infrastructure for the evicted slum dwellers would be constructed in 14 buildings (6-storied) in Mirpur with funding from Public Works Department and assistance of Coalition of the Urban Poor. These will be allotted to the slum dwellers on rental basis.

Housing and Public Works Secretary ASM Rashidul Hye, Chairman of Centre for Urban Studies Prof Nazrul Islam and Executive Director of Coalition of the Urban Poor Mostafa Quayum Khan were, among others, present at the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

M Shakil Akhter speaks at a seminar on 'Buriganga: Present situation and our duties' at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Safiuddin Sarkar and Prof AQM Mahbub.

Concern over labour unrest in Khalishpur

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) has expressed deep concern over the situation in Khalishpur industrial area in Khulna.

A press release of ASK yesterday said labour unrest is growing across the country and the latest incident occurred in Khalishpur.

Citing newspapers, it said workers at the Peoples Jute Mills, Platinum Jute Mills and Star Jute Mills located in Khalishpur have been agitating over their arrears and wages for last few days.

The situation has further deteriorated as both the police and the workers have resorted to violence in which several people were injured.

ASK appealed to all concerned to sit together in order to find a peaceful solution to the problem as there is no other alternative to save the country's dwindling economy.

Campaign for signing of disability rights convention

The Action on Disability and Development (ADD) along with its partners has launched a solidarity campaign for the signing of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, says a press release.

The campaign that began on April 16 will cover 25 districts. The programmes include discussion and cultural programmes where people put their signatures on a long banner.

The UN Convention has opened for signing on March 30 for its member states. Meantime, 86 countries have signed the Convention. Bangladesh did not sign the Convention yet.

The ADD along with its partners from disability rights movement urged the government to immediately sign and ratify the Convention and implement it gradually.

ADD has undertaken the countrywide solidarity campaign to create mass awareness and public opinion prior to signing, ratification and gradual implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The campaign will continue in Dhaka up to today.

The ADD will display the signed banners in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on April 25 and organise a debate on the signing of the Convention.

Take stern action against polluters, encroachers

Speakers tell seminar on Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists yesterday urged the caretaker government to take stern action against the encroachers of the Buriganga and those dumping domestic and industrial waste into the river.

They also called on the government to demarcate the riverbank in order to protect the river from illegal encroachment.

A protection wall and an earthen walkway can be constructed to save the river, they suggested at a seminar on 'Buriganga: Present situation and our duties'.

Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Save the environment movement), geography and environment department of Dhaka University and Urban Rural Planning (URP) department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) jointly organised the seminar at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) auditorium.

auditorium.

"The Buriganga receives a large quantity of waste, surface run-off, untreated industrial effluents, treated sewerage directly or indirectly from the capital, which leaves the river virtually dead," Prof AQM Mahbub said.

"From time immemorial the Buriganga is serving the residents of Dhaka. But it is now dying due to the inconsiderate use of the river by people," said M Shakil Akhter, assistant professor of URP department of Buet, in the keynote paper.

Paribesh Bachao Andolon Convener Abu Naser Khan, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Secretary Monowar Hossain and former president of the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh Safiuddin Sarkar took part in the seminar.

JOURNALISM AWARD '07 TIB extends deadline for submitting entries

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has extended the time frame of submitting reports carried out in print and television media for its Investigative Journalism Award-2007 to May 15, 2007, says a press release.

Investigative reports published in any Bangla or English daily or weekly or in any television channel during the period from January 1 to December 31, 2006 are eligible for the award.

In case of print media, the original printed versions of the reports have to be submitted while in case of televised reports, entries have to be submitted in VHS cassette or CD format with full script.

The entries should reach TIB, Progress Tower, House-1, Road-23, Gulshan-1, Dhaka by May 15, 2007.

The reports should be submitted with a photograph of the participant, contact address, including telephone number, while 'Investigative Reporting' should be written on the envelope.

The reports will be evaluated in the light of their success in exposing administrative irregularities and mismanagement, and institutional and systematic corruption.

TIB-nominated judges will evaluate the reports and their decision will be considered final.

Reports published in national and regional newspapers and magazines and local television channels could be sent for the competition.

One report from each media will be awarded Tk 60000 in cash, crest and citation this year.

Tk 66.56 lakh donated to cancer hospital in Feb, Mar

Donations for Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) amounted to about Tk 66.56 lakh in February and March 27, says a press release.

The donors of the month of February are Hasina Abdullah, Tk five lakh (for a bed in memory of her late husband Murad Abdullah), Maj Gen (retd) MA Latif, Tk five lakh for a bed in memory of his late wife Quamrun Naz Siddiqua), AA Safi, Tk 1.25 lakh, Mohiuddin Ahmed Jaigirdar, Tk one lakh (in memory of his late parents), Zeenat Zahan Islam, Tk 50000, Infrastructure Development Company, Tk 16200 and Yasmin Yunus Khan and Nazneen Begum, Tk 10000 each. Besides, a number of Bangladeshis living in USA donated US\$ 40000 (equivalent of Tk 27,33,838).

People who donated in March are Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha, Tk five lakh (installment for a twin bed cabin), Saarc Women's Association Bangladesh Chapter Tk five lakh (for a bed to be named after the association), Hosne Ara Begum, Tk 4.5 lakh (for a bed to be named after her late daughter Shamim Sharmin Shuchi), Abdur Razzaque, Tk five lakh (for a bed in memory of his parents), Kaniz Choudhury Tk five lakh (for a bed in memory of her parents), Nurjahan Sultan Tk one lakh, Sabethur Rahman, Tk 25000, Hosne Ara Banu, Tk 15000, Swapna Reza, Tk 5700, Nusrat Jahan Choudhury, Tk 5000 and Md Nasiruddin Choudhury, Tk 1000.

Meanwhile, there has been more progress in the construction work of the hospital. Work up to the 5th floor, including two basements, has been completed and now work for the 6th floor is going on.

City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.1	23.4	74	53
Chittagong	31.8	25.5	80	76
Rajshahi	36.5	22.7	80	62
Khulna	35.2	24.6	75	53
Barisal	34.2	24.5	74	58
Sylhet	33.8	24.8	78	61
Cox's Bazar	32.2	22.8	77	68



Rise in temperature 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 in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, Met Office said, predicting that day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 22.2 degree Celsius at Chuadanga.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:22pm today and rises at 5:32am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

BDR, BSF men exchange fire

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) exchanged some 20 rounds of bullets in Paanchbhulot border area in Benapole yesterday.

Tension has been running high on both sides of the border following the exchange of fire.

BDR sources said BSF members from Bornobaria camp started firing shots at Bangladesh border before dawn without any provocation. The BDR members also retaliated with fire.

The incident of firing has created a panic among the villagers in border areas.

However, no-one was injured in the incident.



Obituary

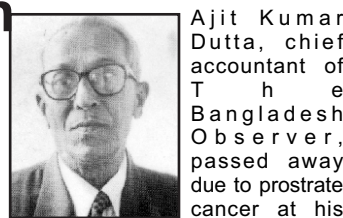
Mahmodul Allum (Baby Allum), former executive of Ford Foundation and Roneo Vickers and former managing director of Rone Agency, passed away at the LabAid Cardiac Hospital in Dhaka on Wednesday at the age of 79, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one daughter and one grandson.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Gulshan Jame Mosque after Juma prayers today.

His quikhwani will be held at the Gulshan Jame Mosque after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Ajit Kumar Dutta



Ajit Kumar Dutta, chief accountant of The Bangladesh Observer, passed away due to prostate cancer at his residence at Purana Paltan on Wednesday midnight at the age of 80, says a press release.

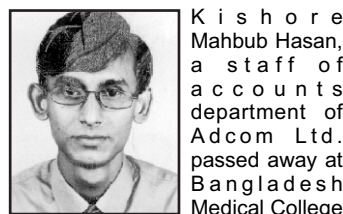
During the War of Liberation in 1971, Dutta, a freedom fighter, served the Bangladesh Government in exile as accountant.

He left behind his two sons, three daughters and a host of friends, colleagues and admirers to mourn his death.

His body was taken to National Press Club and his workplace in The Bangladesh Observer where his colleagues and admirers paid their last respect to him.

Dutta, hailed from Kamarkhali in Faridpur district, was cremated at Postagola Crematorium in the afternoon.

Kishore Mahbub Hasan



Kishore Mahbub Hasan, a staff accountant of Adcom Ltd., passed away at Bangladesh Medical College and Hospital in the city on Wednesday at the age of 32, says a press release.

He left behind his father and mother to mourn his death.

His quikhwani will be held at Hazilil Sarder mosque at Kharilbagh after Asr prayers tomorrow.

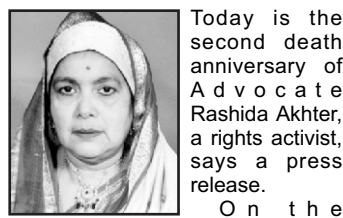
Death anniversary



Today is the second death anniversary of Imran Ahmed Chowdhury Mobin, a noted social engineer of the country, says a press release.

On the occasion, a daylong Quurankhwani will be held and prayers will be offered at his grave and milad mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence at House No-36/2, Road No- 4 after Maghrib prayers today.

Advocate Rashida Akhter



Today is the second death anniversary of Advocate Rashida Akhter, a rights activist, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Quurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at her residence at 49 BC Das Street, Lalbagh in the city after Asr prayers.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programmes.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League Presidium member Kazi Zafarullah and AL Deputy Publicity Secretary Ashim Kumar Ukil are being taken to central jail yesterday.

Cambridge varsity honours Maissa Karim posthumously

Cambridge University's prestigious Judge School of Business has announced the establishment of Director's Maissa Karim Scholarship to honour Maissa Karim, a member of the MBA class of 2005-06 session and a holder of Director Scholarship who died on July 5, 2006.

Maissa was studying at the Judge School of Business when she had a relapse of a major illness and passed away peacefully in her sleep at the age of 31, says a press release.

The Director's Maissa Karim Scholarship will be offered as a supplement to Director's Scholarship to outstanding candidates whose financial conditions are such that they would be unable to join Cambridge MBA programme.

Ansar, VDP start selling food items at 10 city centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) has started selling rice and other essentials at 10 city centres under 'Operation Nityapanya Programme'.

The price of rice per kilogram is Tk 15, flour Tk 24, salt Tk 12 and 10, lentil Tk 49 and 63 and sugar Tk 32.

The customers are showing much interest in buying food items from these centres as the price is less and the weight is accurate, says a press release of Ansar and VDP headquarters.

The programme started on

March 23 along with Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) to provide daily essentials to city dwellers at low price and to keep the market price steady.

The centres are located at Wapda Colony Bazar at Jatrabari, Brothers Union Club and AGB Colony at Motijheel, Muggapara T&T field, Kadamtala field at Bashabo, Madhubagh Kisholoy Sangha field, Ansar VDP field at Malibagh, Madhya Badda Primary School, Vatara Union Parishad field at Badda, and Hajj Camp at Ashkona.