

Possibility of inflation going down slim

Says Dr Akbar Ali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former adviser Dr Akbar Ali Khan said people of fixed income group will continue to suffer in the coming days as possibility of decrease in inflation is slim.

"The government did not pay enough attention to inflation and price hike of essentials in the last five years," he said at a seminar titled 'Price Spiral: Ways to Contain', jointly organised by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Media Initiative for Public Policy (MIPP) at the Press Institute of Bangladesh in the city yesterday.

Meanwhile, BDR, which is now working on price of essentials, clearly said BDR alone will not be able to control the price hike.

Emphasising formulation of consumer protection law, Dr Akbar also suggested increasing supply of food stock and providing free food to the poor people.

He said "Some poor people would be benefited by the initiative of BDR but it will not influence the market as well as the economy".

BDR Director General (DG) Major General Shakil Ahmed presided over the seminar, which was moderated by Farid Hossain, convener of MIPP while Colonel Mujibul Haque of BDR and Dr Mustafizur Rahman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) delivered the key speeches.

Major General Shakil said "Rice

and lentil are the fundamental rights of people and the government should ensure that people get them at fair price,"

"We have submitted a proposal to the government for approval to allocate them land to set up an independent market place on permanent basis", he said.

Blaming lack of strong management in the market system, BDR DG also said safety net programmes like VGF and food for work should continue and be expanded for the marginal people.

In reply to a question, he said "BDR unilaterally will not succeed in controlling price of essentials but it may be able to create a competition in the market which will help keep the price under control".

International Chambers of Commerce President Mahbubur Rahman, former president of BGMEA Anisul Haque, General Secretary of Consumer Association of Bangladesh Borhan Ahmed, Business Editor of the daily Prothom Alo Shawkat Hossain Masum, General Secretary of Bankers Association M Aminuzzaman and Oil Refiners Association President Abdur Rouf Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

The speakers said the market should be competitive to control the price of essentials in the long run.

They suggested taking mid-

term and long-term measures, including effective market management, establishing more wholesale markets, ensuring strict surveillance in the market, providing free food to the poor people and stopping the extortion from the market.

Dr Mustafiz said a market surveillance department should be formed under the commerce ministry.

Describing the import situation, he said only five importers control 96% sugar, 31% onion and 38% rice, adding that there is a tendency to dominate the market due to lesser number of importers.

Colonel Mujibul said mismanagement in different markets, including Karwan Bazar and insincerity of the concerned authorities to control the market is responsible for price hike of essentials.

"In Karwan Bazar, there are 11 associations and most of them do not have business activities but are super-active in collecting tolls from the market," he said, adding that different political parties and corrupt people are assisting these associations for their vested interest causing price hike in the market.

"A handful of big businessmen are controlling the market, so the government should encourage small traders to come to the market, which will help keep the price under control and ensure quality of products as well," he said.

Munshi Faiz new envoy to China

UNB, Dhaka

The government has appointed Munshi Faiz Ahmad, present Bangladesh envoy to Singapore, as Bangladesh Ambassador to China, said a Foreign Ministry release yesterday.

SI sent to jail for keeping phensidyl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A police sub-inspector of Bogra sadar police station was suspended and arrested yesterday on charge of possessing phensidyl.

SI Matlubar Rahman was sent him to jail after 45 bottles of Phensidyl were recovered from his personal locker at the police station.

A team led by Bogra Police Superintendent Bogra Zamil Ahmed searched Matlubar's personal locker Saturday night following an allegation that he released two drug peddlers—Shipon and Liton—after nabbing them with Phensidyl bottles on Wednesday.

Earlier on Wednesday, the officer-in-charge of the police station assigned Matlubar to arrest Shipon and Liton from Badurtala in the city. Matlubar went there, caught the two drug peddlers and allegedly released them after seizing the drugs.

The SI took the drugs and kept it in his personal locker without filing any general diary.

Three beams of sub-registrar office collapse

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Three beams of the roof of the sub-registrar office collapsed at Shrinagar upazila in Munshiganj yesterday.

No casualties were reported at the scene.

The beams at the room of the sub-registrar collapsed hampering the official activities of the office.

Sources said the incident could have caused serious fatalities had the beams collapsed during the office hours.

ATTACK ON FINE ARTS INSTT

Punishment to culprits demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

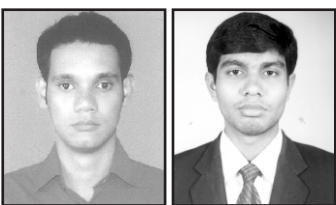
Students of Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University (DU) demanded proper investigations into the atrocities of JCD activists and BNP-backed teachers on general students on May 29, 2005.

In a press release they also demanded punishment to the persons responsible and said that this is high time they are brought to book.

Jatiyatabadi Chhtrata Dal (JCD) along with four JCD leaders-turned-teachers swooped on the students who were demonstrating against the university authorities.

The agitators, mostly female students, were demonstrating against the police atrocities on the students in the wake of the death of third-year student Shamme Akhter Happy who was run over by a speeding bus at Shahbagh the previous day. At least 100 students were wounded when the students fought pitched battles with the police immediately after the death of the student.

Immediately after the incident, the authorities formed an investigation committee to look into the matter, but the investigation is yet to finish.



Tahmid, Ziaul new president, GS of DUDS

DU CORRESPONDENT

Tahmid Alam Amit and Ziaul Haque Sheikh have been elected as president and general secretary of Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) for the years 2007-2008, says a press release.

DU Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider formally announced the names of the newly elected members at a programme at DU Senate Building on May 24.

DUDS Moderator Dr ASM Atiqur Rahman and moderators, presidents and general secretaries of hall and department level debating clubs of the university were also present on this occasion.



Outgoing Bhutanese Ambassador DASHO JIGME TSHULTIM calls on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, left, at her Sudha Sadan residence and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, right, at her cantonment residence in the city yesterday.

Road crashes kill 10, injure 82

STAR REPORT

At least ten people were killed and 82 injured in separate road accidents in Feni, Sylhet, Brahmanbaria, Pirojpur Bagerhat and Munshiganj.

BSS from Feni reports: Three people were killed and 28 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Mohipal near Feni town yesterday.

Traffic movement on the highway remained suspended for about two hours following the accident that took place at 12:00 noon.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Comilla-bound passenger bus from Chittagong collided head-on with a truck, leaving three people dead on the spot.

Of the dead, two were identified as Giasuddin, 43, an employee of Bakhrabad Gas Company, and Ayesha Khatun Lovely, 25, wife of Abdul Halim of Kaichhuti village under Choudagram upazila. The identity of other victim aged about 24 could not be known immediately.

The injured Lovely's four-month-old son Hridoy and her husband Halim, 35, Khokan, 45, Sadek Hossain Majumder, 65, Anwar Hossain, 30, Abdul Latif, 36, Abdul Zabbar, 65, Dulal, 40, Masum, 18 and Narayan, 24, were rushed to Feni Sadar Hospital.

Other injured are taking treatment at private clinics, sources said.

Our staff correspondent from Sylhet adds: Two freedom fighters were killed and eight others, including four freedom fighters, were seriously injured in a road accident at Saroker bazar area on the Sylhet-

Zakiganj highway yesterday.

The dead are former union parishad member Abdul Haque Bakoi, 75, and Rafiqul Haque, 74, both hailing from village Narainpur of Kanaighat upazila.

The accident occurred when a speeding minibus collided head-on with an auto-tempo bound for Kanaighat, leaving Bakoi and Rafiqul dead on the spot.

Of the injured, upazila unit commander of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Shamsuddin Chowdhury and three others were rushed to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital with serious injuries.

Police quoting local people said the deceased along with others were taken to the Kanaighat upazila headquarters in an auto-tempo for attending a meeting of the upazila command of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria adds: One old woman was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Shahbazpur village under Sarail upazila in the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Noorjahan Begum, 65, of Shahbazpur village.

Witnesses and police said a bus knocked her down while she was crossing the road, leaving her injured seriously.

Noorjahan succumbed to her injuries on the way to hospital.

The driver and helper of the bus managed to escape the scene.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

UNB from Pirojpur adds: A man was killed and 20 others were injured in a road accident near Gulishakhali Bazar in Mothbaria upazila yesterday.



Witnesses said a Mothbaria-bound bus from Patharghata hit a rickshaw and pedestrians, leaving Ishaq Mollah, 45, dead on the spot.

Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday gunned down a Bangladeshi cattle trader at Gaborda, a bordering village in Swarnagar police station in West Bengal, India, opposite to Baikari border in sadar upazila.

The deceased was identified as Hefzal Mia, 38, son of Khalid Dhabak of village Kalim Chhoygharia in Sadar upazila.

Quoting local people BDR said a group of Bangladeshi cattle traders went to India to buy cattle on Saturday and when they reached the place of occurrence with cattle, BSF Gaborda camp opened fire on them. The victim received bullet and died on the spot, according to report received here across the border. Later on, BSF men took away the body.

BDR sent a letter to the BSF authorities protesting the incident and asked them to return the body by holding a flag meeting.

On contact, Major Nurul Momen Chowdhury, second-in-command, 41 Rifles Battalion confirmed the incident.

Death anniversary



Today is the 13th death anniversary of Prof Ashab Uddin, a politician and former member of the provincial council, says a press release.

On the occasion, fateha will be offered at his grave on Bashkhali College campus in Chittagong and a discussion will also be held at Moniruzzaman Islambadi auditorium at Kadam Mobarak High School in Chittagong at 4:00pm.

Prof Ashab actively participated in the language movement in 1952 while being a teacher of Comilla Victoria College and was elected a member of the parliament as a Jukta Front candidate from Bashkali constituency in 1954.

Nasima Nargis Ahmed



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Nasima Nargis Ahmed, wife of late Ashrafuddin Ahmed, former deputy Commercial Manager of BIWTC, says a press release.

Nasima was a member of Narayanganj 'APWA' Women's Association and was an executive member of Lioness Club and Khulna's Kochi Kanchar Mela.

On this occasion, prayers will be offered both at her J-23, Pallabi residence and village home at Tili of Comilla to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani, Dr Jalaluddin Ahmed, Professor of Electrical & Electronics Engineering Department of AIUB, will be held at his father-in-law's residence at House #32, Road #14/A, Dharamondi R/A in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Friends and relatives are requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Dr Jalaluddin was seriously injured in a road accident on 12 May. He succumbed to his injuries on May 25. He was also a professor in the University of Northern Iowa, USA.

He was laid to rest on May 26 at Chadgaon Residential Area, Chittagong.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

WVA Int'l Ladies Lunch Friday

WVA International Ladies Lunch will be held at the Banquet Hall of Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city on Friday, says a press release.

Ladies of different Embassies and High Commissions will participate with food of their respective countries in aid of the charitable and capacity building projects for the underprivileged women of Bangladesh taken by WVA.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Media Initiative for Public Policy (MIPP) jointly organise a seminar titled 'Price spiral: Ways to contain' at the Press Institute of Bangladesh in the city yesterday.

Future US-Bangla relations hinge on CG's success

Former US ambassador Milam tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former US ambassador William Milam yesterday said Bangladesh's future relations with the United States hinge on whether the caretaker government (CG) is successful or the military takes over in future.

"We are in a critical period in US-Bangladesh relations, there will be improvement (in the relationship) if there is a return to a revived democratic system, if it does no work then relations will not be good," said Milam while speaking at a seminar organised by Bangladesh Enterprise at its office in the city.

"It is noticeable in Washington that there has been a chorus of concern, especially from think tanks, whether (in Bangladesh) there has been a military takeover in disguise or it is a military rule in disguise," said Milam, adding, "There have been reports of human rights violations and abuse of civil rights."

"The general mood in think tanks is of 'wait and see' and let them (the caretaker government) have a chance of working it out," said Milam, ambassador to Bangladesh between 1990-1993, while asserting that he was speaking as a private citizen as he is no longer a civil servant.

Milam said the government needs to give a specific timeline of a more detailed agenda and it is quite natural for Bangladeshis to finish this as quickly as possible.

"The way I look at this, you are witness to a very interesting experiment and we hope it will work," Milam said, adding, "It is uncertain whether Bangladesh will follow a Turkish model where the military helps the government return to democracy or the Pakistani model, where historically, the military has come to power and remained there for a number of years."

"What we are seeing is an attempt to build a solid foundation and better form of democratic system," he said, adding, "You are building from a collapsed structure, people in Washington are not clear about where this is going to go."

He said if the caretaker government is successful, "It would be unique because the history of military intervention in any form is almost always bad."

Earlier, Milam met with Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at his office where he said America considers Bangladesh a key international player.

Answering to queries from waiting reporters after the meeting, Milam said, "I don't know whether it (transition) will be difficult or not. I hope not. It sounds to me like there is a very good plan and process."

Milam, also a former US ambassador to Pakistan, is currently a senior policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Centre in Washington DC.

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, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi and Ishwardi and it may continue, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 22.6 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:40pm today and rises at 5:12am 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	35.0	28.6	74	72
Chittagong	33.8	27.5	82	77
Rajshahi	35.6	28.6	87	68
Khulna	36.3	28.5	76	65
Barisal	34.2	28.0	77	76
Sylhet	31.0	24.7	99	94
Cox's Bazar	34.3	27.8	77	78

Body found in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of an unidentified person was found at Jatrabari in the city yesterday.

Police recovered the body clad in lungi and shirt from a banana wholesale market at Jatrabari and took the body to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) at 2:30pm where doctors declared him dead.

Police sources said that the man had been lying unconscious in the area since the morning.

DMCH sources alleged the man died after muggers probably used the drugs a little bit more than necessary while making him unconscious.