

Form Food, Drug, Cosmetics Authority to protect consumers' rights

Experts urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a workshop yesterday proposed that the government form an autonomous 'Food, Drug and Cosmetics Authority' (FDCA) to protect consumers' right.

They also said the FDCA would help the government control the quality of food, drug, medical equipment, cosmetics and agricultural and chemical products.

It would also boost export, increase tax, create employment opportunity of the educated people, control price of those products and most importantly the import items would not be able to capture the local market badly, experts viewed.

University of Development Alternative (UODA) organised the workshop where research findings

of market survey also stressed the need for an FDCA like USA, which shall regulate, inspect and test all food materials, chemicals, cosmetics, drugs and medical devices.

Mujib Khan of UODA presented the keynote paper where he elaborated the structure and function of FDCA and said this body would be able to play an important role as part of good governance.

Six directorates, including food, drug, cosmetics and chemicals would be involved in FDCA and would work in a coordinated way under continuous monitoring system, he said adding that around Tk 120 crore might be spent to run the organisation but if it is made a Public Limited Company (PLC), it could earn eight times higher than its expenditure.

Prof of the department of Pharmacy of Dhaka University ABM Faroque said lack of coordination prevails in the ministries that lead the fraudulent businessmen to adulterate food, drugs and cosmetics, which is hazardous for health.

"It requires alternative, visionary and effective steps to protect peoples' health," he added.

We are living in a state of failure and a market of failure where it is urgent to form an autonomous body consisting of government officials, academicians and businessmen, said Prof Muzaffer Ahmed, chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (Cab) General Secretary Kazi Farook said Consumers' Protection Act should

be promulgated as an ordinance as there is no example of protecting the rights of consumers by the law of penal code.

Vice Chancellor of UODA Prof Eamjuddin Ahmed delivered the concluding speech while among others former president of Bangladesh Medical Association Prof Rashid E Mahbub, Prof Mohammad Rahmatullah of UODA, Shahabuddin Kabir Chowdhury of Jahangirnagar University, General Secretary of Pharmacy Graduate Association Ishtiaq Ahmed and Magistrate Rokon Ud-Doula also spoke on the occasion.



Adviser for Foreign and Expatriates Welfare Ministries Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury speaks at a dialogue at Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday jointly organised by The Daily Star and Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU). On his left are The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed, RMMRU Chairperson Prof Tasneem Siddiqui and Brig Gen (retd) Shahedul Anam Khan and on his right is Dr Syed Refaat Ahmed. (Story on Page 1)

Armed police beat Nigerian IUT student

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A group of 10-12 foreign students of Islamic University of Technology (IUT) yesterday put up a barricade on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Board Bazar in Gazipur for an hour demanding immediate action against few police constables who beat up a fellow IUT student.

Sources said Abu Bakar, an IUT student from Nigeria, sought help from the on duty police personnel of armed police battalion when he lost his umbrella while withdrawing money at the Board Bazar branch of Dhaka Bank.

But police misunderstood Bakar for their language limitations and started to charge baton on him. Bakar phoned one of his fellow compatriots and requested him to come to the spot. Soon, a group of foreign students rushed to the spot and engaged in a heated debate with the policemen who chased them away.

Agitating students returned to the campus and put a barricade on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

On information, senior police officials, Rab members and army personnel rushed to the spot and tried to tame the agitating students who refused to return to the campus until action against the policemen responsible is taken.

As the law enforcers assured them of taking action, the students returned to the campus.

Later, the law enforcers held a meeting with the university authorities and also assured them of taking action against those police personnel. Following the meeting, the armed police battalion in Board Bazar area was withdrawn.

CA plants saplings

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed planted two saplings on the premises of the Chief Adviser's Office and his 30 Hare Road official residence yesterday under the ongoing National Tree-planting Movement 2007.

Accompanied by officials of his office, he planted an Olive sapling on the premises of his office at 3:30 in the afternoon.

Earlier, he planted a sapling of Amlaki, a kind of indigenous fruit, amid rain at 10:05am in his Hare Road residence compound.

Environment and Forest Adviser Dr CS Karim, Environment and Forest Secretary Rezaul Karim, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim and Secretary in charge at the CA's Office Kazi M Aminul Islam were among others present on the occasion.

On June 3, the chief adviser inaugurated the three-month-long National Tree-planting Movement in Tangail.

339 RECEIVE TERMINATION LETTERS Situation tense in industrial belt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Situation in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt is likely to turn violent as 94 workers of state-owned Aleem Jute mills and 245 of Eastern Jute mills received their termination notices on Saturday night.

Rumours are also there that state-owned Jessore Jute Industries and Carpeting Jute mills may also be laid off on the pretext of power outage and dull market of jute products both at home and abroad.

Leaders of Khulna regional unit of Palkat Sangram Parishad (PSP) held a closed-door meeting at a local hotel on Saturday midnight where they hit upon a plan to go for a severe agitation in consultation with CBA leaders of all jute mills in Dhaka and Chittagong.

The meeting was attended by CBA leaders of eight jute mills in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt.

Earlier on June 4, some 1080 workers of five state-owned jute mills in Khulna industrial belt were served with termination notices.

Authorities of laid-off Crescent, Star and Platinum Jubilee Jute mills held a meeting with the CBA leaders yesterday in the zonal office of BJMC in a bid to end the impasse.

The CBA leaders made it very clear to the authorities that workers would not join works until mills are reopened fully withdrawing lay-off orders and making full payment of all arrears.

They also refused to ask workers to joint works in the sacking section of Star, Crescent and Platinum Jubilee Jute mills.

PSP Convener Sarder Motaheuddin said all jute mills in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt have become losing concerns due to wrong policy of past government, unbridled corruption, financial crisis and power outages.

He said the mills are now virtually on the verge of collapse as the caretaker government has not allocated any fund in the recently-announced national budget for running them properly.

A source at Zonal BJMC office told this correspondent that the government is reluctant to allocate any more fund to reopen the jute mills.

"We are trying to devise ways and means to run the mills on 'No work no wages basis' lessening production cost," said the source.

Zonal Coordinator of BJMC Shamim Ahmed said time is running out fast to resolve the crisis.

ADP achievable Says former BB chief

DU CORRESPONDENT

Former governor of Bangladesh Bank (BB) M Farashuddin Ahmed yesterday said although ambitious, the ADP (annual development programme) is achievable.

"But the government should form a committee to monitor the implementation of the ADP," Farashuddin added as he was speaking at a seminar on "National Budget 2007-2008", organised by Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University.

The former governor of the central bank also said checking the soaring inflation will be a key challenge for the government.

Associate Professor of IBA Shawkat Ali Ferdousi said the measures proposed in the budget for social safety net and harmonisation of customs duty are timely and appropriate.

Prof M Ziaulhaq Mamun, director of the IBA, presided over the seminar.

Death of journo Zahirul condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations and political leaders condoled the death of eminent journalist Zahirul Haq, former president of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ).

In a condolence message, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said the nation had lost a sincere journalist in Zahirul Haq who made significant contributions in journalism during the liberation war and played a major role in the anti-autocratic movement.

"Zahirul Haq's death is an irreparable loss to the nation," said Khaleda Zia.

Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury expressed deep shock at the death of the noted journalist, also an ex-director general of the external publicity wing of the foreign ministry.

In a condolence message, the adviser said Zahirul Haq left his mark as a highly efficient and competent officer in the Foreign Service.

He conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

In a separate condolence message, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

UNB adds: Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim expressed deep shock at the death of Zahirul Haq.

In a condolence message, he conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) President Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary Omar Faruque expressed deep shock at the death of the noted journalist.

In a statement, they said Zahirul Haq was a meritorious journalist who strived for establishing the rights of the journalists.

National Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud and General Secretary Kamal Uddin Sabuj also expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

Chinese envoy meets Ershad

UNB, Dhaka

The newly appointed Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka, Zheng Qing Bian, made a courtesy call on Jatiya Party Chairman and former President HM Ershad at his Baridhara residence yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed national and international issues relating to bilateral interest between China and Bangladesh.

Charges to be framed against Wadud Bhuiyan on June 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court here yesterday took into cognizance a charge sheet against Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, a former BNP lawmaker from Khagrachhari, and fixed June 13 for framing charges in presence of the accused.

Sources said Chittagong Divisional Special Judge Md Habibur Rahman accepted the charge sheet that accused the lawmaker of possessing illegal wealth worth around Tk 6.36 crore.

Assistant Commissioner-2 of Chittagong District Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Md Jahangir Alam on Wednesday submitted the charge sheet against Wadud Bhuiyan at a Khagrachhari court that sent it to the court of Habibur Rahman in Chittagong on Thursday, they added.

Bhuiyan's name appeared in the first list of 50 corrupt people declared by the ACC and he had submitted statement on his wealth.

But after investigation, Dhaka Zone ACC Assistant Commissioner Nurul Alam found huge quantity of additional and undeclared wealth possessed by Bhuiyan and his family, and filed a case against him with Khagrachhari Sadar Police Station on March 21.

After probing the case, Jahangir submitted the charge sheet on Wednesday.

A total of 84 people were shown as witnesses and 31 items as evidences in the charge sheet.

Sources further said the lawmaker also hid an amount of Tk 1.37 crore in his wealth statement and preparations are on to file another case for this offence.

Factory gutted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Raw materials and machineries of a factory were gutted at Shyampur industrial area in the city yesterday. The fire with huge smoke broke out on the first floor of the four-storied building housing the factory named Welcome Industry at 1:00pm forcing workers to run in panic. The fire has lasted for two hours.

Fire fighters doused the fire at 3:00pm. Production in the factory has remained suspended for rest of the day.

Scotch tape, raw materials to manufacture scotch tape and machineries of the factory were gutted in the fire. Factory authorities could not estimate the loss as of filing this report last night.

"The fire might have originated from an electric short circuit somewhere on the first floor of the factory building," said Sub-inspector Ali Hossain of Shyampur Police Station.

Habib gets Chand Sultana Literacy Prize

M Habibur Rahman, director, Education Sector, Save the Children USA, has won Chand Sultana Literacy Prize 2006 for his contribution in developing non-formal education in Bangladesh, says a press release.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) introduced the award in 2001 in memory of Chand Sultana, a renowned non-formal education material developer of DAM to acknowledge the country's renowned literacy personnel and organisations for their innovative implementation and research on literacy, non-formal education, cancer, HIV/AIDS, etc.

He will be handed over the award on June 16. The award includes Tk 30000, a crest and a citation.

Hotelier shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A hotelier was killed while another person suffered critical injuries as unidentified criminals sprayed bullets on them in Maghbazar in the rainy evening of yesterday.

The dead is Raihan Chowdhury, 22, owner of two restaurants and a residential hotel in Maghbazar. The injured Awlad Hossain Milton, 25, an employee of a television showroom in Mirpur, was taken to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

The unidentified criminals took Raihan and Awlad to a lane in Bara Maghbazar at 5:30pm. They locked the entrance to the lane and shot Raihan and Awlad point blank, killing Raihan, who received about seven bullets, on the spot.

Though received two bullets—one in the chest and in the hand—Awlad somehow survived.

"I woke up by the sounds of continuous firing from the lane beside my house. I could count them from 10 to 15," Shahinur Rahman, a resident of a house on the lane.

"Half-an-hour after Raihan left home we heard sounds of firing. As soon as we were informed by neighbours, we found him dead on the lane," said Yeasin Rana, elder brother of the deceased.

"Raihan along with one of his uncle went out of the house after some local called him at 5:00pm," he added.

Family sources of Awlad said they were forced to shift their residing place from Maghbazar to Pallabi four months

ago following a feud with the local criminals. Faruk, cadre of local criminal gang named 'Mukul Group', used to tease and disturb wife of Awlad that resulted in a feud between the gang and the family.

Awlad went to Maghbazar to draw money from tenants of their own building in the area.

Geeteera Safiya leaves for Uganda

Bss, Dhaka

Women and Children Affairs, Social Welfare, Jute and Textiles and Industries Adviser Geeteera Safiya Chowdhury left Dhaka on Saturday night for Uganda to attend the four-day 8th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers' Meeting (8WAMM) beginning from today.

The theme for 8WAMM is 'Financing gender equality for development and democracy'.

The meeting will focus on issues related to adequate resource allocation to advance gender equality and women rights, financing key strategies to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the implementation of the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015 adopted at 7WAMM held in Fiji Islands in 2004.

Obituary

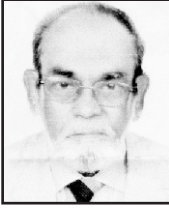
Monwara Bashar, mother of Jatiya Samaitantrik Dal (JSD) Vice-President Sharif Nurul Ambia, passed away due to old age complications at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 81, says a press release.

She left behind her five sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at the Azimpur graveyard.

JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu and General Secretary Syed Zafar Sazzad condoled her death.

Syed Obaidul Kabir



Alhaj Syed Obaidul Kabir, son of late Alhaj Syed Sadat Ali of Chakhar, Barisal, passed away on June 10 at the age of 76, says a press release.

Kabir, former general manager of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, is survived by his wife, two sons and three daughters to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Gousul Azam Mosque at Mohakhali after Zohr prayers today.

His qukhwani will be held at his residence at South East Palace, House # 3, Road # 137 at Gulshan 1 in the city after Maghrib prayers on Wednesday.

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of litterateur and educationist Prof Dr Manjusri Chowdhury, says a press release.

On the occasion, Nandini Sahitya and Pathchakra will hold a discussion in memory of Dr Manjusri at Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium of National Museum in the city at 5:00pm today.

The Weekly Begum Editor Nurjahan Begum, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Prof Mamtaujuddin Ahmed, Dr Ashraf Siddiqui and Poet Abul Hossain will attend the discussion as guests.

Dr MM Hossain



Today is the 6th death anniversary of Dr MM Hossain, says a press release.

On the occasion, fathea will be offered at his grave and Qu Rankhwani, milad mahfil and doa will be held at different orphanages.

Qu Rankhwani and milad mahfil will also be held at his son's residence at Gulshan after Asr prayers.

Relatives, colleagues, friends and admirers are requested to pray for the departed soul.

Delwar Hossain

Bss, Dhaka

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Delwar Hossain, former Special Correspondent of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

The programmes undertaken on the occasion include feeding of the destitute and Qu Rankhwani at his Kafrul residence in the city and holding of milad mahfil at his village Nayanagar under Gazaria upazila in Munshiganj district.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to join the programmes and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul, family sources said.

INT'L TURKISH OLYMPIAD Turkish Hope School team returns home

A team of International Turkish Hope School (ITHS) returned home on Saturday after participating in the 5th International Turkish Olympiad, says a press release.

The team includes teachers Ahmet Mekan and Ayse Arzu Akar and four students Antara Fariha, Rawnak Zarin Khan, Asif Mahmud and Muhammad Khairul Anam Nakib.

International Turkish Hope School has been participating in the Olympiad since 2003, organised by International Language Teaching Association in Turkey.

This year 550 students from 102 countries participated in the Olympiad. Asif Mahmud, a student of class VII, won gold medal in Turkish Test, one of the categories in the Olympiad.

The team also took a stall in the festival venue in Istanbul and exhibited rickshaw, traditional handicrafts and many other traditional things representing Bangladeshi culture and tradition in front of a multinational visitor group.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light and moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Southwest monsoon has set on all over the country, Met Office said.

It also predicted that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 33.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Satkhira and lowest 23.0 degrees at Dhaka.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.47pm today and rises at 5:10am 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	24.6	23.0	96	96
Chittagong	31.2	24.8	73	88
Rajshahi	29.7	23.7	100	98
Khulna	31.7	27.0	90	81
Barisal	31.0	27.0	83	39
Sylhet	26.5	23.5	98	97
Cox's Bazar	29.8	--	--	92