

Reforms should be brought to every sector: Badruddoza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said reforms should be brought not only to political parties but also to other fields such as Election Commission, judiciary and parliament.

He suggested that parliament should have 100 more seats and they would be distributed among the political parties in proportion to the numbers of parliamentary seats they win in the elections.

He also suggested giving more power to the speaker of parliament.

The LDP will announce reform proposals by the end of this month, Badruddoza said while exchanging views on political reforms at the party office at Maghbazar in the city. About 150 leaders and workers of the party from Rajshahi attended the meeting.

Badruddoza said, "We are against dynastic politics. But if anybody from any political families have qualities to join politics, they can do so, which should not be

considered dynastic politics."

He also said that leaders and workers of the political parties should decide on the tenure of party chairman and general secretary.

But if a party member becomes the prime minister, president or a minister, he/she will have to quit his/her post in the party, he added.

Speaking at the meeting, Rajshahi LDP leaders and workers suggested that the party's national committee, executive committee, and district and thana committees should be elected through secret ballots of party representatives in a council, which should be held every two years.

Situation tense over control of party central office

Meanwhile, tension ran high at the central office of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) at Maghbazar in the city yesterday as supporters of Badruddoza-led LDP and Col Oli-led LDP broke the locks of the door of the office in a bid to take control of it.

On receiving information, the

police stepped in to bring the situation under control. They also picked up Bulbul and Titu, two supporters of Col (retd) Oli. However, they were freed later, LDP sources said.

They said workers of Badruddoza-led LDP first broke the lock and replaced it with new one in the afternoon. Later, supporters of Col Oli-led LDP broke the new lock and replaced it with another.

Both the LDP factions claim the Maghbazar office as their office.

"Some supporters of Maj (retd) MA Mannan broke the lock and replaced it with a new one taking control of the office," Sahadat Hossein Selim, a leader of Col Oli-led LDP told The Daily Star last night.

"Later, our workers entered the office by breaking the lock," he said.

On Wednesday, GM Faruque Khan, on behalf of LDP Secretary General Maj (retd) MA Mannan, filed a general diary (GD) with Ramna Police Station so that no-one can enter the party central office during the emergency, LDP (Badruddoza) sources said.

Top criminal killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

A top cadre of notorious "Matin Bahini" was killed in an encounter between police and his cohorts at Char Milpara in the town early yesterday.

He was identified as Lutfor Rahman alias Bodu 35, son of Ihsam Ali of Char Milpara.

Acting on a tip-off, police cordoned off Char Milpara area at around 3:30am where members of the gang were holding a secret meeting.

Sensing the presence of the cops, Bodu's accomplices opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate.

Bodu received bullets during the "shootout" while his cohorts managed to flee. Police said they took Bodu to Kusthia General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

According to police, Bodu was an accused in ten criminal cases including five for murder filed with Kusthia Sadar and Kumarkhali police stations.

In another raid, Daulatpur police arrested nine people, including two cadres, of notorious "Laichad Bahini" at Sangarampur village.

The arrested gang members are Abdur Razzak, 35, and Abdus Salam, 29. Both are close associates of former BNP lawmaker Reza Ahmed Bachhu Mollah, police said.

In Meherpur, a team of Rapid Action Battalion recovered a rifle and ten bullets from Lakhmipur village early yesterday.

On receiving information, a team of Rab-6 went to the village and recovered the rifle and bullets from a bush owned by one Atiar Mondol of the village. No one was arrested.

GRENADE ATTACK ON UK ENVOY Charge framing on July 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday fixed July 29 as the date for framing charges against four chargesheeted accused in the case of grenade attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA).

District and Sessions Judge Abdul Gafur fixed the date as one accused, Muhiur Rahman alias Muhib Ullah, brother of Mufti Abdul Hannan, could not be produced in the court.

Three other accused, however, were produced before the court. They are chief of Harkat-ul Jihad Mufti Abdul Hannan, Sharif Shahedul Islam Bipul and Delwar Hossain Ripon.

Meanwhile, the names of 20 other accused, who were arrested after the grenade attack in the shrine area on 21 May in 2004, were dropped from the charge sheet.

Earlier on June 26, the Sylhet Sadar magistrate sent the case records and the charge sheet to the District & Sessions Judge's court for trial.

Compartment of train derails

CU CORRESPONDENT

A compartment of Dhaka-bound Mahanagar Pravati derailed at Kadamtali yesterday morning while it was being taken to Railway yard for a wash.

The train was scheduled to depart Chittagong Station for Dhaka at 7:15am but the derailment, which occurred at 5:00am, delayed the journey for two and a half hours, much to the sufferings of the passengers.

A relief train of the Railway rescued the compartment at around 9:00am. The train left for Dhaka at 9:40am, said the sources.

No Canadian edn instt operates off-shore campus

For international students, Canada offers an educational system of outstanding quality and academic degrees that are internationally recognised, said a statement of Canadian High Commission yesterday.

In a recent publication, the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh listed 56 "illegal" branches of foreign universities in Bangladesh. The UGC has included two Canadian education institutions in their list.

But the statement of Canadian High Commission stated that no Canadian education institutions presently operate an off-shore campus in Bangladesh.

In the statement, the High Commission of Canada has requested the UGC to take steps to clarify the misconception between institutions represented by local agents and an off-shore campus which actually deliver academic programmes.

Empowering women thru' entrepreneurship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Razia Amin of Satkhira is now a successful woman entrepreneur, thanks to the right decision she took 13 years ago.

When her family had been suffering severe financial hardship 13 years ago, she enrolled on a training course of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha (JMS) in order to become self-reliant and support the family.

After completing the course on business management in 1994, Razia started her own business. She collected items of handicrafts from women in the neighbouring areas and sold them to the JMS in the capital.

"The training has boosted my confidence, which helped me expand my business gradually. Now I have a production house, 'Ghoroa Kutir Shilpa'," she said, adding that "I started my business with only Tk 2,000, but now I earn Tk 10,000 monthly."

"Although my husband has been sick for several months now, I can maintain my family with my

income," Razia said while sharing her experiences at a workshop titled 'Economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs of Bangladesh' yesterday.

Some 85 successful women entrepreneurs from across the country took part in the daylong workshop organised by the Jatiya Mahila Sangstha at its auditorium in the city under the 'Promotion of Women Entrepreneurs for Economic Empowerment' project.

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geeteara Safiya Chowdhury was present at the inaugural session of the workshop as the chief guest.

She listened to women entrepreneurs, their problems and also shared her own experiences in entrepreneurship.

Women can become successful entrepreneurs, she said, adding that they would have to prove it through hard work, honesty and courage.

She also called on the media to highlight the positive image of women to help them.

It is not possible for the government to provide employment opportunities for 70 million women in the country, she said, adding that women themselves should come forward, form co-operatives and set up sales centres in different places to become self-reliant.

The 'Promotion of Women Entrepreneurs for Economic Empowerment Project' would create opportunities for small entrepreneurs, said Begum Rokeya Sultana, secretary of the women and children affairs ministry.

The project that was launched in 2003 has already imparted training to some 1125 disadvantaged women and will train 1300 more women on business management, catering, fashion designing, beautification and interior designing.

The aim of this project is to ensure women empowerment in the long run, said Project Director Reza-e-Azam Khan.

JMS Executive Director Prof Firoza Begum presided over the workshop.

Launch countrywide school feeding programme

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday underscored the need to launch countrywide school feeding programme in order to reduce dropout rate among primary level students.

Such programmes would help meet the nutrition needs of children, make their school-hours more interesting and create income-generating opportunities at the grassroots level, they added.

They also suggested strengthening coordinated efforts of the government and non-government organisations and local government bodies in rural areas to make the school feeding programme a success.

The Coastal Association for Social Transformation (Coast) Trust organised the seminar titled 'Implementation of School Feeding Programme for Primary Level Students and Reality of PRSP

(Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper)' at the National Press Club in the city.

Assistant Director of Coast Trust Md Aminur Rasul said the dropout rate among primary school students is around 10 to 30 percent. During the school hours, students of coastal areas or monga (near famine situation)-ridden areas usually remain engaged in different kinds of jobs that ensure a meal for them, he said.

If the students are provided with tiffin, it would help meet their nutrition needs as 56 percent of students suffer from malnutrition, he added.

Besides, if food is given to students, they would attend classes with much enthusiasm and the dropout rate would decline eventually, he said.

The meal at schools would not be their main meal of the day. Rather, it would be their supplementary meal of the day, he added.

If such programmes are initiated

at the local level, employment opportunities would also be created for the local people, said the Coast Trust official.

Involvement of local community, especially through Union Parishad, NGOs working in the respective areas and the government agencies, would ensure the non-profit character of such venture, he said.

Although the PRSP contains outline of the programme, no such programme has been taken up so far, he said, adding that such programme should be launched in the coastal and monga-affected areas immediately and then across the country in phases.

Former lawmakers Nurul Islam Nahid, Monoranjan Shil Gopal and Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman also spoke at the seminar moderated by Prof Tofail Ahmed of Chittagong University.

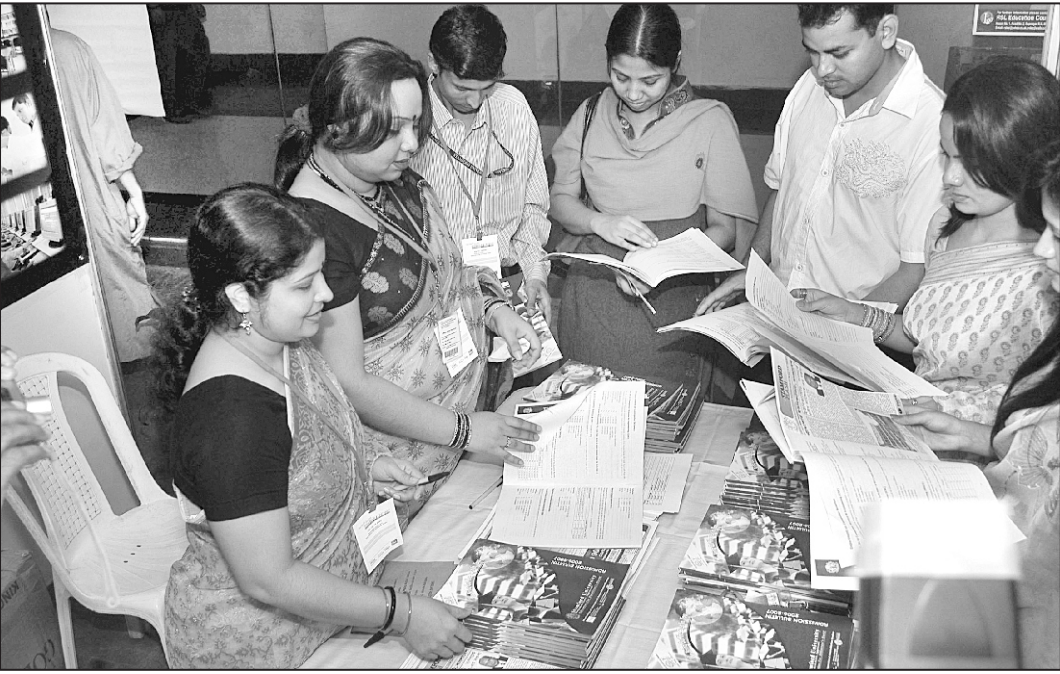


PHOTO: STAR

Visitors thumb through brochures of an educational institution at a stall at the seventh Education and Immigration Exposition (EDIM Expo)-2007 that began at Bashundhara City in the capital yesterday.

Edn exhibition begins in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The seventh Education and Immigration Exposition (EDIM Expo)-2007 began at Bashundhara City in the capital yesterday.

A total of 73 local and foreign universities, education institutions and related service providers are taking part in the five-day exhibition, organised by Conference and Exhibition Management Service (CEMS).

Prof SMA Faiz, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, inaugurated the exhibition, which provides opportunities for students to collect information about courses, programmes and other facilities offered by different private universities and other educational institutions and admission process.

CEMS Managing Director Mehru N Islam and Director Shahid Sarwar were present at the inaugural ceremony.

The exhibition will remain open from 10:00am to 8:00pm daily.

The Daily Star and Radio Foorti are the media partners and the Prothom Alo is the web partner of the exhibition.

Journo assaulted for protesting teasing of daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Miscecreants assaulted a journalist at Bahirgola in Sirajganj town yesterday morning when he protested teasing of his daughter.

Police said a gang of miscreants led by Rubel and Masud assaulted Nazrul Islam, district correspondent of Dainik Bhorer Dak, at about 9:00am, when he protested teasing of his daughter on their way to her school.

Nazrul is now undergoing treatment at a private clinic in the town in a critical condition.

Local journalists condemned the incident and demanded exemplary punishment of the culprits.

Nachole UNO transferred

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabgonj

Nachole Upazila Nirbahi Officer Manjur Morshed yesterday was transferred to Assasunia upazila in Satkhira district, district administration sources said.

The UNO was transferred after 8 days of Nachole incident

Deputy Commissioner Md Shahadat Hossain confirmed the decision of his transfer.

TITAS GAS CASE Show cause on IO for discharging 2 accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued a notice upon an investigation officer (IO) asking him to explain why a legal action would not be taken against him for discharging two accused in a case filed for causing loss of Tk 26 lakh to the Titas Gas Limited.

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka passed the order, as Sub-Inspector Shafuqul Islam, who is also the IO of the case, submitted a final report (FRT) appealing to the court for discharging the two accused from the charges.

The court also directed him to submit a supplementary probe report by July 31 and reply to the show cause notice issued upon him for his negligence in investigating the case.

According to the prosecution, Shahidul Haq Dakua, manager of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Limited, alleged that Nazrul Islam, proprietor of Rahee Steel Products at Tejaoga in the city, and his relative Babu took an approval for using a one burner at their company. But they had used four burners without permission from the Titas Gas authorities that caused a loss of Tk 26,20,266 to the Titas

Gas Company.

Following the incident, a cheating case was filed against Nazrul and Babu with Tejaoga Police Station on June 25 last year.

The IO submitted the final report to the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka on December 30 last year and prayed to the court for discharging them.

In his FRT, the IO said he tried to arrest them but failed to do so. Moreover, the charges brought against them were found to be false, fabricated and concocted. Moreover, the IO did not take approval from the Public Prosecutor (PP) for submitting the FRT.

On the other hand, the IO collected some documents from the accused during the investigation and he submitted those to the trial court.

After scrutinising the case dockets and other relevant documents, the trial court asked the IO to appear before the court on Wednesday to explain why he discharged them, even though specific allegations were found against them.

But the IO did not give satisfactory reply to the court questions about it. So, the court issued show cause upon him and directed to investigate the matter again. The court also rejected the FRT.

WEATHER
T O D A Y

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are likely at places over the country, Met office said.

It also said that day temperature may rise slightly over the country. Highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 25.2 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:19am 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	34.6	27.7	68	70
Chittagong	31.7	26.6	77	77
Rajshahi	35.6	27.2	78	70
Khulna	35.0	27.5	84	67
Barisal	33.5	26.5	79	73
Sylhet	33.1	27.0	89	63
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.7	76	75

JMB Shura member's wife on 7-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted seven-day remand for Shahida Begum, wife of arrested Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Majlish-e-Shura member Anwar Hossain alias Faruq.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rouf Khan granted the remand when Sub-inspector Abdul Ghani of (SI) of Shah Ali Bagh Police Station sought seven days' remand for quizzing her.

The court also ordered police to produce bullet-hit Anwar Hossain being treated at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) before it after his recovery from injuries.

In the forwarding report Ghani said illegal firearms were recovered from her possession. So, Shahida needs to be quizzed for seven days for arresting her accomplices and recovering the destructive materials she possesses.

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized two pistols, nine bullets, seven computers, a large number of compact disks (CDs) and books on 'jihad' during the operation on July 10.

Faruq was shot during the raid by Rab and arrested along with his wife Shahida Begum in their house in the city's Mirpur area. Later, Shahida was handed over to Shah Ali Bagh police.

The arrests were made following leads from four other JMB operatives - Shura (highest policy making body) member Asadul Islam alias Arif, Mymensingh regional commander Shahidul Islam alias Rakib and members Sagar Hossain alias Sayeem and Saiful Islam. They were arrested in Mymensingh.

A top Rab official said the four were sent back to Mymensingh on Wednesday night after primary interrogation at the Rab headquarters. They will be produced before a local court and taken into remand for intensive interrogations, the official said.

Obituary

RU CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Gaffar, a teacher of Rajshahi University School and College, passed away due to prolonged illness at his Kazia residence near RU campus yesterday at the age of 56.

He left behind his wife, one son and three daughters.

RU Vice-Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain, Pro VC Prof Mannunul Keramat, RU School and College Principal Prof Nazrul Islam condoled the death.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Maj Gen (Retd) Muzammel Hussain will be held at New D O H S Mohakhali Jame Masjid after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He passed away at the CMH in Dhaka due to cardiac arrest on July 10 at the age of 71.

He is survived by his wife and three daughters.

ATM Zahirul Haque



Qulkhwani of ATM Zahirul Haque Chowdhury, former regional director of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), will be held at his residence at 64 Siddheshwari Circular Road after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

He passed away at Holly Family Red Crescent Hospital on July 9 at the age of 72.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Mafzalur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Mafzalur Rahman will be held at his residence at House No-12, Road No-2, Mirpur-10 after Asr prayers today.

Relatives and friends have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Mafzalur Rahman, a retired official of Krishi Bank, passed away due to cardiac arrest at Lab Aid Specialised Hospital in the city on Wednesday at the age of 61.

Mahbub Husain



Qulkhwani of Mahbub Husain, son of late Ali Husain, will be held at House 54, Road 6A, Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives and friends are requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for his departed soul.

Mahbub passed away due to colon cancer at Kaplan Hospice in Massachusetts, US on July 9.