

Political will a must to free society from corruption

ACC chairman tells roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The biggest challenge facing the present anti-corruption drive is to create political will to curb corruption from the society, said Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday.

"We have taken the challenge and are working hard by visiting different districts for creating public opinion and forming corruption prevention committees," he said while speaking as the chief guest at a roundtable.

The roundtable titled 'Anti-corruption drive and way forward' was organised by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) in association with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at BEI auditorium in the city.

UNDP Resident Coordinator Renata Lok Dessallien, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman, Danish Ambassador Einar H Jensen, and Australian High Commissioner Douglas Fosskett were present at the programme.

Hasan Mashhud said new organogram of the ACC will be finalised by December next when it will have a special investigation cell.

Besides, the ACC will launch countrywide public relations campaign soon, he added.

Asked about the extortion case filed against Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, the ACC chief said, "Donation and extortion cannot be the same. One cannot donate Tk 3 crore to someone for nothing. There must be some sorts of dealings."

Extortion involves threats in any forms, he said, adding that if one gives money to someone in exchange of getting benefits, it cannot be donations.

The ACC chairman said the root causes of fear which is allegedly affecting the businesses should be identified.

"Businesses were operated in a different manner before the launch of the anti-corruption drive, but these have changed now. Once all are accustomed to it, things will be alright," he said, adding that the anti-corruption battle has just begun and it

must be allowed to continue.

Asked if the arrest of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and filing of case against AL Chief Sheikh Hasina were aimed at making a balance, Hasan Mashhud said the ACC has no political consideration in filing cases.

Responding to the issue of maintaining due legal process, he said the ACC is fully sincere about it and is not doing anything arbitrarily.

Asked about the timeframe of the conviction of the already arrested, the ACC chief said it cannot push the judiciary for giving verdicts in a fast manner.

"We however want quality trials in the lower courts," he added.

Speaking on corruption in the administration, Hasan Mashhud said the ACC thinks that the departments or ministries concerned should investigate the corruption allegations against the civil servants.

"The ACC will take up such cases if the ministries fail," he said.

The secretaries to the ministries can also ask for wealth statements of the officials if they think it necessary, he noted.

BEI President Farooq Sobhan said corruption adds as much as 25 percent cost of doing business in the country, which must be checked for creating better business environment.

Terming the anti-corruption drive a 'painful process', he said the short-term pain will however result in long-term gain.

He also advocated for more rewards for ACC officials in a bid to encourage them in their actions against corruption.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman suggested engagement of more people, reducing institutional corruption, enactment of right to information law and sustenance of the signal that corruption is a punishable act.

Lauding the reconstitution of ACC, Election Commission and Public Service Commission, Renata Lok Dessallien of UNDP said instruments should be there so that the reform process can continue in future.



PHOTO: STAR

ACC Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury addresses a roundtable at BEI auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is BEI President Farooq Sobhan and on his right is UNDP Resident Coordinator Renata Lok Dessallien.

Conjoined twins die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As it happens in most cases the conjoined twins born on Tuesday died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) died yesterday morning.

Paediatricians had said the condition of the babies who were joined at the chest and abdomen was sound and their movement, breathing and other internal activities were going well.

But the babies died at 6:40am at the Department of Paediatric Surgery as their condition started worsening in the early hours yesterday. The babies were crying incessantly, they stopped taking food, and breathing problem developed, ward sources said.

Although examination of the internal condition of the babies did not take place, a medical officer at the ward said the twins may have died of congenital heart disease and other internal problems.

Hashu Begum, 30, gave birth to the conjoined twins at a clinic in Nawabganj upazila of Dhaka district on Tuesday.

Experts said conjoined twins are born once in every 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 live births in the world and it is three times likely to happen to females than males.

When an embryo begins to split into identical twins but stops midway leaving the partially separated egg to mature, it results in conjoined twins. Experts said chances of conjoined twins' survival depend on how they are joined. About 40-60 percent are stillborn and 35 percent survive 24 hours or less.

Of twins who undergo surgery, one often dies after the operation and the rate of survival beyond the age of two is just 20 percent, according to experts.

In Bangladesh, survival of conjoined twins is very rare. A total of three pairs of conjoined twins were admitted to DMCH in the last three and half years but none of them survived.

"Conjoined babies die because of lack of adequate intensive care. Investigation and surgery facility should be increased for their survival. At the same time, they should be brought to hospitals timely...In most cases conjoined babies born in remote areas die before being brought to hospitals," said a paediatric surgeon at a private hospital in the city.

Dr Ruhul Amin, associate professor of paediatric surgery at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, successfully separated a pair of conjoined twins at the Islami Bank Hospital a few years ago. One of the babies, however, died immediately after the operation, but its twin is living in good health.

Joy rules out AL-BNP joint movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sajib Wazed Joy, son of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, yesterday ruled out any move to launch AL-BNP joint movement, according to New York-based News World.

Joy, the chairman of Bangabandhu Foundation, said it is not fair to compare AL with BNP as BNP drowned the country in corruption, and it cannot avoid the responsibility for the present situation. That is why the AL has no plan to forge a joint movement with BNP, he added.

Arresting and sending the two former prime ministers, Hasina and Khaleda Zia, to jail merely in connection with allegations is inconsistent with the democratic norms, Joy said.

If there are any allegations against them, they can be taken to court, he added. "They are not such personalities that they would flee the country. So, what is the problem in granting

them bail," he questioned.

Joy said he has been discussing the issue of his mother's arrest with many policymakers in the United States.

Besides, the UN Human Rights Commission has been informed of it, he said, adding that the international community is closely watching the activities of the government.

6 robbers, 9 muggers held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In two incidents of robbery and mugging, police yesterday arrested 15 people in the city.

A gang of nine armed robbers entered the fourth floor of a six-storied building at sector 11 of Pallabi on Tuesday night.

"The robbers made the inmates hostages at gun point," said Mesbahuddin, second officer of Pallabi Police Station, adding, "They forcibly took the tenant of the house to wash room and tried to behead him and his two-year-old daughter."

At this, other members of the house started crying for help and immediately the neighbours encircled the building, locked the collapsible gate and informed the police, said Mesbahuddin.

Police rushed to the spot and arrested six robbers as three of them were able to escape with Tk 1 lakh in cash and gold ornaments weighing 12 tolas.

In another incident, police arrested nine adolescents after they mugged money and mobile phone from a taxi driver near Pallabi Sangbadik Colony.

Release Khaleda Demands US BNP

NEWS WORLD, New York

The US Chapter of BNP and its front organisations continued to stage demonstrations demanding release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for the third consecutive day while the US Chapter of Jubo Dal submitted a memorandum to the Bangladesh Consulate at New York.

Addressing the chief adviser, the memorandum said crores of people across the globe are disappointed and aggrieved over the 'conspiratorial' arrest of Khaleda Zia without any specific allegation.

Jubo Dal President Jakir H Chowdhury, General Secretary Abu Syed Ahmed and other leaders were present while submitting the memorandum.

Meanwhile, Washington BNP Vice President Sarafat Hossain Babu, in a press release, said he has sent letters to 10 senators, including US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Senate Foreign Relation Committee Chairman John Biden protesting the arrest of Khaleda Zia.

Belgium unit Unb adds: BNP Belgium unit also protested the arrest of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her two sons.

The Belgium BNP unit held a protest meeting on Monday with its president Ali Sanowar Siddik in the chair, according to a press release received in the city yesterday.

Hasina, Rehana

FROM PAGE 1

Metropolitan Magistrate KM Ruhul Amin passed the order following a petition by the defence lawyers.

In the petition, the lawyers mentioned that they had earlier submitted a writ petition to the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the case. After the hearing, the court granted ad interim bail to Hasina in the two cases filed with the Gulshan and the Tejgaon police stations and also issued a rule upon the government.

But the Supreme Court stayed the HC order following government appeals and directed the HC to dispose of the matter. The matter was on the HC cause list. The defence lawyers prayed for adjournment of passing any order on the acceptance of the charge sheet till disposal of the rule, they added.

Gulshan Police Station Officer-in-Charge Obaidul Haq, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court against Hasina, Rehana and Selim on July 24. A total of 24 people were shown as prosecution witnesses in the charge sheet.

Azam J Chowdhury, managing director of Eastcoast Trading Pvt Ltd, filed the case with the Gulshan Police Station against Hasina and Sheikh Selim on June 13 for extorting Tk 2.99 crore from him.

Rehana's name was included in the charge sheet as her involvement with the extortion was found during investigation.

The joint forces arrested the AL chief in connection with the case on July 16 and produced her before a magistrate's court that sent her to a sub-jail.

Two more extortion cases were filed with Tejgaon police against Hasina on April 9 and June 13. Besides, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on Sunday filed a case with the same police station against Hasina and six others for taking bribe.

3 RU teachers

FROM PAGE 16

"Being teachers, they violated the EPR. We will produce photographs and video footages of the teachers during trial of the case and prove how heinous offence they committed," he said.

After court formalities, they teachers were taken to jail at around 1:00pm.

Officer-in-Charge of Motihar Police Station Khondoker Ferdous Alam lodged the EPR violation case accusing professors Saidur, Sobhan, Moloy and some other unnamed teachers and students on August 25.

On September 1, a sub-inspector of Motihar PS submitted the charge sheet in the case accusing the three other teachers.

The charge sheet accused the six teachers under sections 3 (4), 4 (3) and 8 (2) of EPR of 2007 for bringing out a silent procession on RU campus on August 21 calling upon students to protest the incidents of Dhaka University.

Following the teachers' support, students called a strike on August 22 that resulted in a fierce battle between students and police, said the charge sheet.

Besides on July 26, the teachers observed leave en masse for realisation of their demands including the release of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and withdrawal of ban on politics.

"The teachers as a sequel to Dhaka University teachers' black badge wearing programme observed the leave programme. The leave en masse was virtually a strike in another name which is prohibited under the EPR," goes the charge sheet.

The teachers also held a secret meeting prior to RU violence and instigated peaceful students to be enraged and launch attacks on police personnel on August 22, it said.



PHOTO: STAR

Eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a discussion at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers in the city yesterday.

Call for national unity to tackle post-flood crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for national unity to face the challenges in the aftermath of floods.

The government and the people should work together to mitigate the suffering of the people and repair the damage, they said, adding that the flood has caused a loss of around Tk 3000 crore.

Presiding over the discussion at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers in the city, eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain called on all to work together to boost the economy of the country.

He also stressed the need to stamp out discrimination from

society.

Sultana Kamal, former adviser to the caretaker government, said the government has failed to bring together all sections of people to tackle the floods.

Now the government should take up various projects to help people minimise their losses, she added.

Reading out a written statement, engineer Abul Kashem said the government should start test relief and work for food programmes immediately to help day-labourers and farmers.

He also called for immediate steps to repair tubewells in the flood-affected areas.

At the discussion, the speakers urged the government to take

necessary steps to control the spiralling prices of essentials.

Prof Qazi Kholiuzzaman, president of Bangladesh Economic Association, said the government would have to reduce the development budget to tackle the post-flood situation.

He also called on the government and the non-government organisations to waive the interests on loans to help save the poor people.

Eminent banker Ibrahim Khaled suggested rehabilitating small traders who were evicted from village markets as they are now facing severe financial hardship in the aftermath of the flood.

Probe into graft allegations against Ex-Ctg Edu Board chief

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The education ministry yesterday launched an investigation into the allegations of corruption against former chairman of Chittagong Education Board A J M Shahidullah.

The investigation officer, Joint Secretary of the ministry BD Mitra, interviewed 11 former and present officials of the education board, including the former chairman, at the board office at Chandgaon.

Sources in the education board said Shahidullah faces allegations of embezzling funds and receiving bribes from officials and staffs in exchange for recruitment or promotion.

The investigation officer also went over several documents at the board office, they said.

When contacted, BD Mitra said he asked the accused to submit some documents and his wealth statement by today.

Chemon Afroze, wife of noted educationist Rezaul Haque, passed away due to old-age ailments at a city clinic yesterday afternoon at the age of 75.

She left behind her two sons, four daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held yesterday evening at the Dhanmondi residence of her younger son. Her body will be taken to her village home at Jirtoli in Begumganj this morning for burial.

Her quikhani will be held at Jirtoli after Asr prayers tomorrow (Friday).

Alhaj Ahmed Tareq Nawaz

Alhaj Ahmed Tareq Nawaz, who was attacked by muggers at Tejgaon in the city on his way to his home from his workplace in the early hours of Monday, succumbed to his injuries later at Dhaka Medical College Hospital at the age of 34, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, his parents and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. In this connection, a doa mahfil will be held at Baitul Abed, 53, Purana Paltan in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

His friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

President hopes for a flawless voter roll

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday hoped the authorities concerned will be able to prepare a flawless voter list, as the next national election will be held as per the Election Commission's roadmap.

"I hope the authorities concerned with the help of all will be able to implement the voter registration and national ID card project. A significant task will be completed in our national life with the implementation of this project," he said.

The president made the remarks while he was visiting voter registration work at Savar University College in the morning. He expressed satisfaction over the voter registration work and talked to the voters.

The president thanked the Election Commission, Bangladesh Army and all others related with the voter registration project.

He urged all to come forward to enroll their names in the voter list and cooperate in preparing the national ID cards in the interest of the nation.

On his arrival on the college premises, Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda, GOC of the 9th Infantry Division Major General Ashabuddin and

Project Director of the voter list preparation with photographs and national ID card Brigadier General Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury received the president.

Replying to a volley of questions from reporters, the chief election commissioner said the government might relax or lift the ban on indoor politics in mid-September. "The government will take a decision about talks with the political parties, including the two major parties, in due time," he added.

Myanmar council vice-chairman's visit postponed

UNB, Dhaka

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar's governing State Peace and Development Council Senior General Maung Aye has postponed his scheduled visit to Bangladesh.

General Maung Aye, the second-most powerful man in that country's military government, was scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on September 10 on a three-day visit at the invitation of Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed.

DHAKA

T O D A Y

Lecture
Dr Nancy Dye will deliver a lecture on 'Liberal Education & Pluralism'. Venue: Brac University, (Room No UB 104), 66 Mohakhali. Time: 4:00pm. Dr Nancy Dye was president of Oberlin College, USA and is currently senior advisor to the planned Asian University of Women in Chittagong. Oberlin College, the oldest continuously operating coeducational institution in the USA, gave simultaneous honorary doctorates to Prof Muhammad Yunus and Prof Amartya Sen in 1993.

Memorial meeting
Diabetic Association of Bangladesh organises a memorial meeting to pay tribute to National Professor Dr Mohammad Ibrahim on his 18th death anniversary. Venue: Birdem auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

Workshop
Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency organises a workshop on 'Dhaka City Corporation to host management workers'. Venue: Bank floor, DCC, Nagar Bhaban. Time: 11:00am.

Roundtable
The daily Prothom Alo and UNFPA will jointly organise a roundtable on AIDS. Venue: Biam auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Graduation ceremony
The graduation ceremony of the May-2007

O-level batch of Playpen School will be held. Venue: Emmanuelle's Banquet Hall. Time: 7:15pm.

Inauguration
The inauguration of English Law Students' Association of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Supreme Court Bar auditorium. Time: 4:30pm.

Certificate distribution programme
Nayan Tara Communications will distribute certificates among 18 juvenile directors working for Sisimpur, a TV programme, upon completion of a workshop. Venue: Alliance Francaise. Time: 11:00am.

Seminar
Dhaka Ahsania Mission organises a seminar titled 'Role of adolescent girls in social transformation'. Venue: Mission Bhaban auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Anniversary programme
KFC Gulshan organises a daylong programme to celebrate its first anniversary. Venue: KFC outlet, Gulshan-1. Time: 12:30pm.

Tourism fair
The inaugural ceremony of banglalink Bangladesh Travel and Tourism Fair will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:30am.

DU VIOLENCE

Probe body chief feels no pressure from govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Habibur Rahman Khan, head of the one-member probe commission formed to investigate the recent violence at Dhaka University (DU), yesterday said the commission is getting all types of cooperation from all quarters.

"The commission does not feel any pressure from the government. I will quit the job the moment I feel such pressure," he said.

"The commission is receiving desired supports from both the government and non-government sides," Rahman said while talking to reporters at his office in the capital. "The only problem they are facing at the moment is that eyewitnesses are not coming spontaneously."

Eight people including DU Treasurer Abul Kalam Azad gave their accounts before the commission yesterday.

Rahman would visit English Road and Kamalapur bus stand area in the capital to see vandalism done by protesters during the violence.

Meanwhile, the commission has issued letters to the authorities concerned of Rajshahi, Chittagong and Jahangirnagar universities asking them to inform the commission whether they have formed any body to probe the violent incidents on their campuses.

The probe bodies can share information with the commission, according to the letter.



Dr Mohammad Ibrahim's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 18th death anniversary of Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, founder of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh.

Dr Ibrahim, also a former national professor, died on this day due to a cardiac arrest at his residence in 1989.

Diabetic Association of Bangladesh has been observing the day as 'Service Day' over the last few years.

On the occasion, the association has arranged various programmes, including offering prayers and placing wreaths at the grave of Dr Ibrahim at Banani Graveyard.

Free diagnosis of diabetes will take place at the National Press Club, Newmarket, Mohammadpur and Labagh areas from 8:00am to 11:00am.

A view exchange meeting and a question answer session will be held between the patients and diabetes experts at 11:00am at Birdem auditorium while a 'free heart camp' will be conducted at the Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital at Shahbagh from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

A memorial meeting will take place at Birdem auditorium at 5:00pm where Health Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) ASM Matiar Rahman will also be present.

Death anniversary



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Prof M o h a m m a d Noman, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held and food will be distributed among the orphans and the destitute. Special munajat will also be offered at the mosque.

KM Rahman

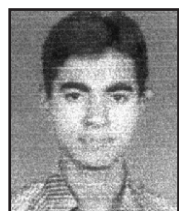


The third death anniversary of former EPCS officer KM Rahman will be observed today, says a press release.

He died of cancer at his Nakhla para residence in the city in 2004 at the age of 88.

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Kalia in Narail and in Dhaka.

Tohin Ahmed Bhuiyan



Today is the third death anniversary of Tohin Ahmed Bhuiyan, son of M o s t a q e A h m e d Bhuiyan, principal officer of Bangladesh

Krishni Bank, Head Office, says a press release.

Tohin, a student of Jagannath University, died in a road accident at Sonargaon in Narayanganj on this



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 24.6 degree Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:12pm today and rises at 5:42am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in	
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