

Efforts on to make graft much riskier, less remunerative

Says ACC chairman

UNB, Narsingdi

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Lt General (Retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday said the commission is striving relentlessly to make corruption much riskier and less remunerative than before to curb people's propensity for committing this crime.

"In the past, corruption was more remunerative and less risky in the country, which induced people to commit this crime on a large scale. But we are trying to make it

more risky than remunerative," he said, as a countrywide purge continued in the current interim period against serious crime and corruption.

Meanwhile, many big shots in society, including top politicians, business tycoons and bureaucrats, have run the risk of getting their fortunes and future ruined under the crackdown on the suspected corrupt. The ACC chairman was addressing a view-exchange meeting with different professionals of the district at the district Shilpakala

Academy Hall in the morning. Narsingdi district administration arranged the meeting as part of a cross-country campaign against corruption, a pervasive spread of which threatened social fabric and created a grave political crisis in the recent past.

General Hasan Mashhud painted a perilous picture of the past socio-political milieu wherein, he said, people had lost social values and also the sense of judging what is good and what is bad. And this labyrinth generated "pervasive

corruption" in the country.

He called upon the helmsmen of all institutions of the country for setting an ideal example of honesty through remaining transparent in their function and conduct.

Chaired by Deputy Commissioner Jilal Rahman, the meeting was also addressed by ACC Director General Abu Taleb Mia, Narsingdi Superintendent of Police Shahabuddin, civil surgeon Dr Shihrendranath Singh and Narsingdi Government College Principal Prof Mohammad Ali.



Winners of the 7th Inter-university Anti-Corruption Debate Competition 2007 pose with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at the TSC Auditorium on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. Sitting from right are Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad, Tahmid Alam Amit and Ziaul Haq Sheikh.

DU CHAMPION IN DEBATE COMPETITION

Help combat corruption

Speakers urge students

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) emerged as the champion of 7th Inter-university Anti-Corruption Debate Championship 2007 and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) became the runner-up yesterday.

The final round of the four-day debate competition was held at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC). The

CUDS founding anniversary programme begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A two-day programme marking the 12th founding anniversary of Chittagong University Debating Society (CUDS) began yesterday with a view to familiarising people with different formats of debate.

Eminent social scientist Prof Dr Anupam Sen inaugurated the programme as the chief guest at Muslim Institute Hall with CUDS Moderator Prof Dr Mahbul Hoque in the chair.

CUDS President Tajul Islam delivered the welcome speech while Shahnoor Wahid, editor of Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, Chief Coordinator of Radio Today Nasimul Gani, Shohab Riaz of Ilias Brothers, Marketing Manager of Al Amin Group of Industries Monowar Hossain Ratan, Regional Sales Manager of Nestle Bangladesh Shahadat Hossain and CUDS General Secretary Abdus Samad Himel also spoke.

The speakers at the programme said that debate would help the students grow as more logical and sophisticated persons.

Eminent debaters from different educational institutions and teachers, lawyers and journalists participated at parliamentary debate, professionals' debate and teacher-student debate yesterday. Later, a cultural programme was held.

The Daily Star, Channel i and Radio Today are the media partners of the two-day programme.

Indian ship with relief at Ctg port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Gharial carrying 400 tons of rice for the Sadr victims anchored at Chittagong Port yesterday.

It berthed at Silo jetty of the port at around 1:00pm and is scheduled to depart after unloading the rice at around 11:00am today, sources said.

India is committed to provide 40,000 tons of rice, 10,000 tons of wheat and 1000 tons of milk powder for the Sadr victims, said sources in Indian High Commission in Chittagong.

This is the fourth Indian Naval Ship to anchor at Chittagong Port carrying food items for the Sadr victims, sources said.

CYCLONE SIDR

US urged not to deport illegal Bangladeshis

STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington on Tuesday requested the US not to deport illegal Bangladeshis on the humanitarian grounds, as a violent cyclone caused massive damage to the economy of Bangladesh.

An official of the State Department admitted that the department received a letter from the Bangladesh Embassy on the request, reports News World from Washington.

The letter highlighted the massive devastation caused by the Cyclone Sidr and its severe consequences, which affected lakhs of families in the southwestern part of the country.

There are thousands of illegal Bangladeshis who are making a huge contribution for the survival of their relatives at home. Their deportation will have serious consequences for their families.

The US president, if he wants, could introduce a temporary law for not deporting the illegal Bangladeshis for the time being, the News World reported, adding that the State Department will take final decision on the Bangladeshis' request.

'ICT offers new opportunities for girls'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) opens up new doors of opportunities for the girls in the country, speakers at a conference said yesterday.

Relief International-Schools Online, a US-based organisation in partnership with Democracywatch, organised the daylong conference titled 'ICT and Girls' Empowerment' at BIAM auditorium in the city.

The conference was a part of Global Connections and Exchange Project (GCE), which is being implemented in Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Palestine and USA by Relief International-Schools Online.

Speakers at the conference said that development practitioners, policymakers and the mass people must consider ICT education for girls seriously because without their participation, IT sector will be lagging behind.

Taleya Rehman, executive director of Democracy, Harvey W Sernovitz, deputy director of American Center, and Nazrul Islam, country director, Relief International, also addressed the conference.

Taleya Rehman in her speech said using the new ICT such as internet, girls in rural areas will be able to connect them to the world and learn a lot, which will eventually enhance their employment opportunities.

Harvey W Sernovitz said that GCE projects create a sense of empowerment for youth who might otherwise have a difficult time affirming themselves and showcasing their talent and potential.

Schoolgirls from across the country participated at the daylong conference.

The conference showcased some ICT innovations and projects, which are very much effective in empowering girls via ICTs.

The GCE project has set up internet-enabled computer centres in 27 schools across Bangladesh.

Milad mahfil



A milad mahfil will be held to pray for salvation of the departed soul of Mohammad Serajul Islam at his residence at House # 30, Road# 63 at Gulshan-2 in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He passed away due to cardiac arrest in the early hours of December 10 at the age of 66.



Graduates of the National Defence Course (NDC)-2007 and Armed Forces War Course (AFWC)-2007 pose with President Iajuddin Ahmed at the certificate award ceremony in the city yesterday.

Nat'l security, defence no longer depend on military power alone

President says at NDC graduation ceremony

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said national security and defence no longer depend on military power alone, but on the overall national power and capacity manifested in national development.

"As you know, the concept of security has been assuming newer and broader dimension with every passing moment at the 21st Century," he said at the graduation ceremony of National Defence Course and Armed Forces War Course at the National Defence College in Mirpur Cantonment.

The president said: "National security and defence no longer depend on military power alone, but the overall national power and capacity manifested in the level of national development."

He said the Defence Doctrine and War Fighting Strategy are developing day by day. "We must have a modern military in keeping with our strategic, demographic

and national developmental imperatives."

Iajuddin praised the Armed Forces for responding to the call of the nation in protecting democracy and strengthening the hands of the government by providing their dedicating services.

He said the armed forces efforts in support of improving law and order, combating corruption, tackling disaster management, preparing voter ID cards and building infrastructures in remote areas are undoubtedly praiseworthy and they deserve appreciation from the nation.

The president expressed his firm belief that all these fine work by the Armed Forces, both in national and international arena, have been possible due to their utmost sincerity, dedication, patriotism, efficiency and above all, professional excellence.

He appreciated the governments of China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia and Sudan for

sending their officials for training at the National Defence College here.

A total of 24 officers - nine army officers having ranks of Major General/Brigadier Generals, three naval officers with ranks of Commodore/Captain, two air force officers with ranks of Air Commodore/Group Captain and eight officers from the civil administration with ranks of Joint Secretary - participated in the National Defence Course-2007.

Of them, seventeen officers from 10 foreign countries participated in the course.

Advisers of the caretaker government, Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed, Navy Chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Zahan Nizam, Air Force Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman, Principal Staff Officer at the Armed Forces Division Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury, President's Military Secretary Maj Gen M Aminul Karim and senior officers of the Armed Forces were present at the function.

Develop coordinated policy to tackle natural disasters: AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday called on the government to develop a coordinated policy in consultation with all stakeholders and the political parties to tackle natural disasters.

It also stressed the need to raise awareness among the people about cyclone and adopt strategies for cyclone preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

The AL made the suggestions at a roundtable organised by its sub-committee for forest and environment at the National Press Club.

The speakers also called for building stronger coastal and river embankments and planting more trees in order to minimise loss of lives.

Prof AQM Mahub, chairman of geography and environment department of Dhaka University, presented a keynote paper titled 'Super Cyclone Sidr 2007: Environmental stresses and measures to be taken'.

He suggested introducing disaster education, launching disaster awareness programme and taking environment-friendly approach to development planning.

AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed called on the government to make a list of Sidr victims and build houses for them.

Fishermen should be given boats and nets, farmers be given seeds, fertiliser, cattle and interest-free loans, and small traders be given loans for their rehabilitation, he added.

Another presidium member Motia Chowdhury suggested cultivating alternative rice in the coastal areas to ease food crisis and building strong embankment to protect croplands.

Jatiya Party Presidium member Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, Prof Hossain Mansur, Abdul Mannan, Dr Abdur Razzak, Dr Dipu Moni,

Habibur Rahman Siraj, Prof Abu Sayeed, Ashiqur Rahman, Dr Abdul Mannan, Md Qudrullah Jahangir, Prof Khaleda Khanam, Md Ruhul Amin, Dr Anwarul Karim and Abu Naser Khan also spoke.

Sub-committee chairman MA Mannan presided over the roundtable moderated by the party's forest and environment affairs secretary Dr Hasan Mahmud.

Meanwhile, AL Acting President Zillur Rahman yesterday demanded release of detained party president Sheikh Hasina before the Victory Day.

If the AL chief is released, she could contribute to relief opera-

tions and rehabilitation of Sidr victims, he said while inaugurating an education-oriented programme organised by Bangladesh Chhatra League at the AL president's political office at Dhanmondi.

Zillur also said the AL has been conducting relief operation as per the directives from Hasina and would continue its efforts until the Sidr victims are rehabilitated.

He also demanded immediate release of detained BCL General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton.

AL leaders Motia Chowdhury, Syed Ashrafur Islam, Abdul Mannan, BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon also spoke.



AL Presidium Member Motia Chowdhury, third from right, speaks at a roundtable at National Press Club in the city yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

Dialogue
People's Empowerment Trust and Oxfam will jointly organise a national dialogue on 'Bail conference of parties on climate change and Bangladesh'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

IUBAT seminar
International office of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) organises a seminar on 'Stakeholders in major conflicts: Non-participation, proliferation and spillovers'. Venue: IUBAT, Uttara Model Town. Time: 3:00pm.

Symposium
Diabetic Association of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Endocrine Society jointly organises a symposium on 'Carbohydrate and diabetes: problems and prospects'. Venue: Institution of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh. Time: 6:40pm.

Brac roundtable
Brac will organise a roundtable on its future strategy on the occasion of its 35th founding anniversary. Venue: Brac Center Auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

Seminar
Social Science Research Centre of Dhaka University will organise a seminar on hijra community. Venue: 401 Lecture Theater. Time: 10:00am.

BIISS seminar
Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) organises a Victory Day commemorative seminar on 'Impact of corruption on national security-how to overcome it'. Venue: BIISS Auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
International Republican Institute (IRI), International Business Forum of Bangladesh and USAID will jointly organise a participatory discussion on 'Regulatory reforms commission: Hope and aspiration of the business community'. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 11:30am.

Roundtable
Amader Somoy will organise a roundtable on fixing our responsibilities in Eid to help Sidr victims. Venue: Amader Somoy office. Time: 10:00am.

Scholarship distribution
Development Assistance for Backward Society (DABS) will distribute scholarships among meritorious students of Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (BUET) and Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

ICMAB
Dhaka Branch Council of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh organises its fellowship night. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 5:30am.

Photography exhibition
Asiatic MindShare Ltd organises a photography exhibition to raise fund for Sidr victims. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Lobby. Time: 3:00pm.

\$200m loan agreement signed with ADB

UNB, Dhaka

A loan agreement to the tune of 200 million US dollar was signed yesterday in Dhaka between the government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance Dhaka Water Supply Sector Development Programme.

M Aminul Islam Bhuiyan, Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD), and Hua Du, Country Director of the funding-agency ADB, inked the deal on behalf of their respective sides.

Senior officials concerned of the ministries and agencies of the government and the ADB were present at the signing ceremony.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sushanta Kumar Nandi, a Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) organising secretary and freedom fighter, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at a clinic in Khulna yesterday at the age of 58.

He left behind his four brothers and four sisters and many admirers to mourn his death.

JSD Executive President Prof Mohammad Shafiq and General Secretary Abdul Malek Ratan condoled the death and conveyed sympathy to members of his family. JSD leader ASM Abdur Rab also condoled his death.

Haji Sohurun Nesa

Haji Sohurun Nesa, mother of Central Committee Member of the Jatiya Party (Ershad) Haji Ismail Hossain, passed away at her residence at Maniknagar in the city on Tuesday at the age of 70, says a press release.

She left behind her six sons, five daughters, grand daughters and grand sons and relatives to mourn her death.

Her kulkhwani will be held after Asr prayers at Maniknagar Pukurpur Jame Mosque tomorrow.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the kulkhwani.

Rafiqul Haider's anniversary of death today



Today is the 36th death anniversary of martyred intellectual Rafiqul Haider Chowdhury (Eashika), says a press release.

On this day in 1971, Razakars, collaborators of the Pakistan Army, picked him up blindfolded from his Shaheedbagh residence and later killed him.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Aminbagh Mosque in the city after Asr prayers to mark the day.

3 martyred brothers

Today is the 36th death anniversary of three brothers - Selim Reza, Nasir Uddin Ahmed and Azmal Hossain who were martyred during the War of Liberation, says a press release.

On this day in 1971, three days before the Victory Day, the Pakistani Army in collaboration with their local agents Al-Badr picked up three sons of late Alhaj Asgar Hossain of "Pubail House" at 19 Siddheshwari Lane in the city. Since then they have been missing.

On the occasion, a Quarkhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Pubail Station Jame Mosque at Pubail in Tongi after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of their departed souls.

Barrister Momtaz Karim



Today is the 10th death anniversary of eminent lawyer Barrister Momtaz Karim, son of late Nawab Karim, says a press release.

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

Khitish Chandra Talukder



Today is the first death anniversary of school teacher Khitish Chandra Talukder, father-in-law of Chaitanya Chandra.

Halder, court correspondent of The Daily Star, says a press release. On the occasion, recitation from the Geeta, Kirtan, discussion and a prayer session will be held at his village home at Khalia under Rajoir upazila in Madaripur district.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 29.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 9.6 degrees Celsius at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:13pm today and rises at 6:32am 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	26.6	13.2	60	56
Chittagong	26.3	15.4	70	62
Rajshahi	25.8	10.1	89	74
Khulna	26.1	13.8	88	80
Barisal	26.8	13.0	79	73
Sylhet	27.5	13.4	66	74
Cox's Bazar	28.5	17.0	75	73