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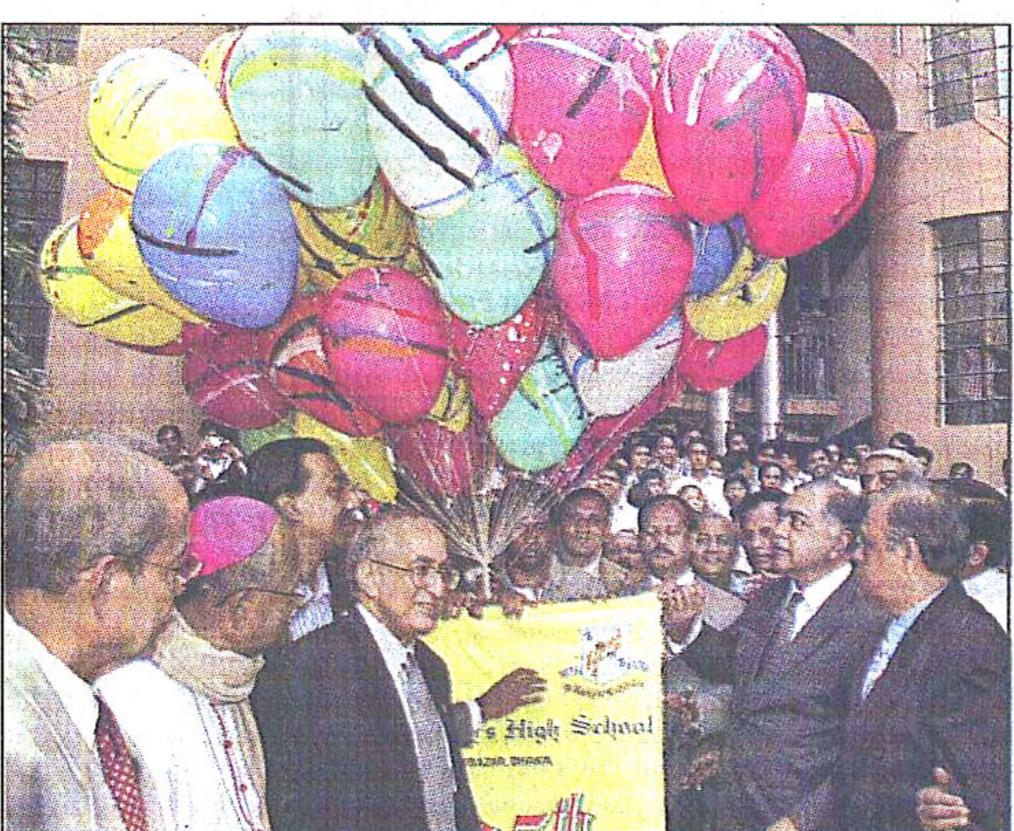
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'Make easy access to govt rules, regulations'

STAR REPORT

The Regulatory Reforms Commission (RRC) has recommended that the government publish all its rules and regulations on a website so that the public has easy access to them.

RRC Chairman Akbar Ali Khan said this while addressing a discussion titled "Regulatory Reforms Commission: Hope and Aspiration of the Business Community" at the city's Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre (BCFCC) as chief guest yesterday.

He said that if public access to government rules and regulations is not made easy, people end up groping in the dark for them.

Khan said that RRC has also recommended that the government make details of proposed rules and regulations public. In this way public opinion can be created on those before they are formulated into rules.

"We have already sent these recommendations to the chief adviser of

the caretaker government," Khan added.

Speaking on RRC's agenda, Khan informed that five areas -- including rules and regulations governing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), NBR, Board of Investment (BoI), SMEs and the environment -- have been prioritised.

He told the discussion that during the first four months of its work, RRC would prepare recommendations for reforms in the country's financial sector. After that they would concentrate on those areas said to cause public harassment, such as public works and utility services.

Khan said that though one year was a short time for such an important task as these reforms, RRC would try to complete its job within the given time.

He said RRC would go all the way and not just stick to conventional methods to complete their task.

Replying to a query Khan said that recommending reforms was his job, responsibility for implementation of

those reforms lie with the chief adviser and his government.

"The CA will intervene in case of any disagreement from government high-ups regarding the implementation of these reforms," he told the meeting.

While answering questions from a businessman Khan said that the BoI had failed to tender its due services to investors. He also urged the government to form a fertiliser commission to address the mismanagement in fertiliser distribution across the country.

First Secretary for Economic and Political Affairs of the US Embassy in Dhaka, Heather Variava, while addressing the discussion, expressed hopes for a better business environment in the country in the coming days.

International Business Forum of Bangladesh (IBFB) organised the discussion meeting chaired by its president Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury.

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St Gregory's School celebrates 125th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

St Gregory's High School, one of the renowned and oldest schools in the country, celebrated its 125th anniversary with colourful programmes amid festivity and much enthusiasm yesterday.

The celebration brought together present and former students, including illustrious alumni who reminisced about their school days, on the first day of the two-day programmes.

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, an alumnus of the school, inaugurated the celebrations as the chief guest by releasing balloons on the school premises in the old part of the city.

Gregorians Jamilur Reza Choudhury, vice chancellor of BRAC University, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Shawkat Mahmud, president of the National Press Club, and Brother Robi Purifiss, headmaster of the school, attended the inaugural ceremony as the special guests.

As old and new Geogrians mingled with each other, various programmes, including cultural show, fair and sports and games, created a festive atmosphere on the school premises throughout the day.

The chief and special guests also placed wreaths at the memorial to two teachers and two students who were killed during the Liberation War.

Speaking on the occasion, former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, an alumnus of the school, said it is up to the headmaster and teachers to create a learning environment in the school and it is up to the parents to create such environment at home.

Badruddoza became second in the matriculation examination from this school in 1947.

He also said students must learn to fight corruption and resist it at all levels.

Dr Kamal Hossain, who graduated from this school in 1951, said good students should learn to become good people first, as there is "noticeable lack of values among today's students."

Reminiscing about the past cultural and sporting glories of the school, Mahfuz Anam said teachers, students and guardians have to come forward to restore the glorious past of the institution.

In the afternoon session, Badruddoza Chowdhury inaugurated the newly constructed school building. Writer and journalist Shahriar Kabir was present as the special guest.

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