

ACC makes breakthrough in fight against corruption

Says Prof Muzaffer

BSS, Dhaka

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has made a breakthrough in the fight against corruption and proved its ability to bring powerful persons to justice and establish the fact that no one is above the law.

However, the commission should be more interactive with common people in its motivational campaign by taking steps to remove concerns of the people with regard to the target and goals of the anti-graft drive.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, chairman of the Trustee Board of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), observed this while talking to BSS about different aspects of the anti-corruption drive that visibly took shape one year ago after the present caretaker government took over.

"Common people's perception is that more big corrupt people are still out of the net," he said, adding that the ACC must dispel this notion by bringing more corrupt politicians and bureaucrats to justice.

The success of the anti-corruption drive as a whole depends on the future course of action of the ACC as to how it tries to dispel this

notion and build people's confidence.

Appreciating the motivational campaign of ACC Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Hasan Mashud Chowdhury, he said more interaction with common people and involvement of young people in the campaign would bring the commission closer to people.

"I think some qualitative changes should be brought to the campaign. Earlier, the ACC chairman administered oath against corruption, though it was somehow dramatic. But it encourages people to come forward to combat corruption," he observed.

"But now he came back to Dhaka after giving speeches without any interaction with common people. I think he (ACC chairman) should be more interactive so that people have a feeling that he is close to them," Prof Muzaffer said.

The ACC should take people in confidence in a large scale and let people know about its problems to draw more public support, he added.

Pointing out the trail of the graft cases in the special courts, he said people are also confused with the

legal aspects of the cases. The trial process of all graft cases should be more transparent, he added.

Prof Muzaffer said the present government made the ACC a free and functional organisation through necessary reforms of law and without interfering in its activities. It helped the commission build its capacity to handle more work, which it never had done before.

Justifying the priorities of the ACC to launch its drive at individual level, Prof Muzaffer said the commission will now have to focus on systemic corruption at different levels of the public sector.

He observed that some former employees, who are still working at different positions in the ACC, are involved in some sort of irregularities that led the commission to take swift action against such elements. As soon as the ACC will be cleared of the corrupt officials, it will be able to function properly, he said.

Laying importance on bringing changes to the mid-level positions in the public sector offices, he said that most officers, which were once blamed for rampant corruption, were reconstituted only at upper level. The mid-level officers and

employees, largely responsible for such corruption, have remained in the same position, he added.

He did not agree with the proposal to show flexibility to the business community with regard to their corruption, saying that it would be similar to acknowledging corruption in business.

"If you allow corruption of businessmen, the bureaucrats and politicians might be entangled again in the vicious circle in the future," he said.

"I do not accept the theory that action against corrupt businessmen will hamper the economic progress," he said.

About cooperation between the TIB and the ACC, Prof Muzaffer said, "We are cooperating with the ACC in the motivational campaign and investigation of systemic corruption."

He ruled out the notion that the ongoing anti-corruption drive has slowed down the economic progress.

He said the speed of economic activities might be hampered if circulation of money is reduced, but economy cannot be sustained upon corruption. The anti-corruption drive would bring good results for the country in the long run, he added.



People from all walks of life pay their last respects to Justice KM Sobhan after his body was brought to the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

Justice KM Sobhan laid to rest

BSS, Dhaka

Justice KM Sobhan was laid to eternal rest at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in the city yesterday after a namaz-e-janaza on the Supreme Court premises.

Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin, judges of both the divisions of the Supreme Court, lawyers and leaders of different political parties attended the namaz-e-janaza.

Earlier, his body was taken to the Central Shaheed Minar at 11:00am to let people from all walks of life pay their last respects to Justice Sobhan.

Justice Sobhan, a frontline leader of the country's human rights movement, passed away due to a massive cardiac arrest on December 31 at the age of 82. His body was kept at the Birdem mortuary to enable his expatriate daughter to have the last glimpse of her father.

Qulkhwani

The qulkhwani of Justice Sobhan will be held at Malibagh Shahi Mosque in the city after Asr prayers today, family sources said.

His relatives, admirers and friends have been requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Road accidents kill four

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed in separate road accidents in Savar, Jhenidah and Sirajganj yesterday.

UNB from Savar says: Two people were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Madhumoti Model Town early yesterday.

Witnesses said a sugar-laden covered-van hit a dump truck of Dhaka City Corporation at about 3:30am, killing van driver Karim, 30, and his brother and also helper Amir, 35, of Majail village in the upazila on the spot.

The accident occurred as a tyre of the DCC truck deflated and got hit by the Savar-bound covered-van.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies. Driver Karim got married only a few days ago.

Our correspondent from Jhenidah adds: A pedestrian was killed in a road accident at Hamdah bus stand in Jhenidah town yesterday.

The deceased was identified as

Ansar Ali, 30, son of Bhata Mondol of Karati para village under Jhenidah Sadar upazila.

Police said a passenger bus hit Ansar Ali at Hamdah bus stand when he was going to Jhenidah town in a bicycle from his village Karatipara.

He was rushed to Jhenidah Sadar where he succumbed to his injuries.

Police sent the body to Jhenidah hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case has been filed with Jhenidah court in this regard.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj adds: A pedestrian was crushed under the wheels of a microbus on the Dhaka-Bogra highway in Panchila Bazar area in Sirajganj yesterday.

The victim was identified as

Sokim Ali, 55, of Ratonkandi village in the district.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 10:00am when a Dhaka-bound microbus from Bogra hit Sakim from behind while he was crossing the road, leaving him dead on the spot.

Traffic police of Koddarmorh outpost seized the microbus from Jamuna bridge area and arrested its driver Zahurul Islam.

Bangladesh issues should be highlighted in Lesotho meet

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable in Dhaka yesterday underscored the need for putting forward Bangladesh's issue in the upcoming least developed countries' (LDCs) ministerial meeting in Lesotho next month.

Scrapping of a global textile quota system, Multi-fibre Arrangement, has compounded economic woes of Lesotho, a country neighbouring South Africa.

The speakers argued as many African interests are not matched with Bangladesh's, the LDC forum should incorporate all the agenda from both South Asian and African countries in their position paper to put a pressure on developed nations.

These views were made at an informal interaction on 'Current State of Doha Round: Strategic Options for Bangladesh' organised by Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI) at its auditorium.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, permanent representative of Bangladesh to the WTO and UN office in Geneva, was the main speaker at the session, chaired by Prof Shishir K. Deb, the BFTI chief executive officer.

Debapriya said the Bangladesh mission in Geneva is working on incorporating more Bangladesh issues in the LDC priority lists.

Expressing his frustration over



Debapriya Bhattacharya, permanent representative of Bangladesh to the WTO and UN offices in Geneva, speaks at a roundtable at Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI) auditorium in the city yesterday.

the current state of Doha Round, he said no industrial group is backing the negotiation for its immediate successful wrapping-up.

"Due to lack of any visible industrial pressure group, both the developed and developing nations are following a go-slow policy in concluding the round," he said.

Debapriya said the issues like intellectual property rights, trade-related technical support and non tariff barriers will get prominence in the WTO talks in future.

Prof Shishir proposed introduction of the intellectual property rights issue in curriculum of for-

mal law study in different universities in the country.

He also urged the government to update the patent law now remains pending at the law commission.

Samson H Chowdhury, chairman of Square Group, Md. Kamaluddin Ahmed, executive chairman, Board of Investment, also took part in the discussion.

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka celebrates New Year

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka celebrated the New Year amid festivity with new commitments to achieve new goals, says a press release.

Chief Executive Officer Dr Ed L Hansen inaugurated the celebration and declared the year as the year of Great Customer Service for Apollo Hospitals Dhaka. He said New Year's resolution for Apollo Hospitals Dhaka is 'Great Customer Service, Every Day, in Every Way'.

The CEO hoped that the Apollo Hospitals in Dhaka will achieve new levels of quality in clinical and operational performance in AHD in the future.

Burn unit opens at CMCH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday opened the much-awaited burn and plastic surgery unit having 13 beds.

Health Adviser Maj Gen (retd) ASM Motiur Rahman formally inaugurated the burn unit unveiling a plaque at the surgery unit No. 1 at the hospital.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest, the adviser said opening the burn unit is 'a dream come true'. It will help reduce the suffering of patients coming from different parts of greater Chittagong.

Speakers at the ceremony urged the health adviser to take steps to address the issue of manpower shortage at the hospital.

Presiding over the ceremony, CMCH Director Brig Gen Abedur Rahman said the unit would be upgraded into a 50-bed unit in the future and the construction of a separate block on the 5th floor of the hospital is underway to this end.

Chittagong Medical College Principal Prof Dr MA Wahab, Head of the CMCH surgery unit Dr Hasan Md Abdur Rauf and Project Director of 100-bed Burn Unit Project of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Dr Samanta Lal Sen were present as the guests of honour.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dr Sen said each medical college and hospital must have a burn unit as it is not possible for 100-bed burn unit at the DMCH to treat about 1.50 lakh patients a year.

He also stressed the need to train medical professionals outside the capital to manage burn injuries.

Work together to control malaria in CHT: Adviser

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Health Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Motiur Rahman yesterday said everybody will have to work together to control the deadly disease malaria in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

He made the call while launching the distribution ceremony of 'Long Lasting Insecticide-treated Mosquito Net (LLIN)' as chief guest at the conference room of Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC).

The function was organised jointly by the directorate of health and family welfare, Brac and WHO.

The adviser called for inclusion of all local bodies in the ongoing malaria control programmes to make it a success.

He assured the audience that more doctors would be recruited soon to fill in the longstanding

vacant posts and improve the healthcare service in the district.

The adviser also directed the officials of Water Development Board to implement their ongoing projects properly to develop water resources management of the Kaptai Lake.

Presided over by RHDC Chairman Jagat Jyoti Chakma, the function was also addressed by CHT Regional Council Chairman Jyotindra Bodhipriya Lama alias Santu Lama and Health Secretary AKM Jafarullah Khan.

Under a joint venture, health ministry, Brac and WHO are carrying out a special programme for preventing and controlling malaria in CHT.

According to Brac sources, 55 patients died and 14583 people were attacked by malaria in Rangamati till August of 2007.



Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed receives cheques and relief goods for cyclone-affected people from individuals and associations at the Banquet Hall at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.



Apollo Hospitals Dhaka Chief Executive Officer Dr Ed L Hansen speaks at the New Year's celebration in the city on January 1.



Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) Rear Admiral Mostafizur Rahman adorn Captain Farid Habib with the Commodore Rank badge ceremonially at Naval Headquarters on Tuesday.

Know Bangladesh Better

Read Star Insight, a fortnightly publication of The Daily Star. It's coming out twice a month every alternate Saturday along with our regular issue. The current issue (January 05, 2008) covers stories from Natore, Khagrachari, Faridpur, Jhenidah & Mymensingh. Coming out Tomorrow. Ask your hawker for your copy



Send your comments & contribution to Star Insight. Rafiq Hossain, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. Fax: 880-2-8125155. Email: starinsight@thedailystar.net. www.thedailystar.net/insight

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