

LIST OF FBCCI ELECTION CANDIDATE PUBLISHED Annisul Huq, Rouf Chy may contest for president

UNB, Dhaka

Former BGMEA president Annisul Huq was declared nominated director of FBCCI yesterday as the election board of the apex trade body published the list of valid candidates to contest its upcoming election.

On the other hand, President of Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers Association MA Rouf Chowdhury will have to win a direct vote to become FBCCI director as he was declared a valid candidate to contest the election.

The two business leaders from the association group are widely expected to contest for the post of president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

In this 2007-09 term, the FBCCI president will be elected from the Association Group as per the FBCCI rules.

In another major development yesterday, the FBCCI Election Board received an application to reconsider the candidature of Rouf Chowdhury as he was a director of the apex trade body for the last three consecutive terms, said a source at the FBCCI.

According to FBCCI Articles of Association section 14 (V), one cannot continue as FBCCI director for the fourth consecutive term.

The source said, did not discuss the issue. It would be considered at the FBCCI Appeal Board if it gets such an application.

As per the published list, 24 candidates from the association

group will contest the election on March 17. From them, some 1,215 voters of the group will elect 12 directors through voting.

Around 30 nomination papers have been submitted for this group, but the Election Board declared six nomination papers invalid for various reasons, including improper signatures of seconders, loan defaulters and court restriction.

In this group, the Election Board also excluded five voters of Bangladesh Restaurant Owners' Association from the final voter list in light with the court judgement. They are Khandaker Ruhul Amin, Selim Ahmed Hena, Sheikh Mohammed Jayul Abadin, Alhaj Abdul Majid Sajal and Alhaj Osman Gani.

In the chamber group, some 316 voters will elect 12 directors from 28 valid candidates. Nomination of one candidate in this group has been declared invalid.

The 38 elected and nominated directors - 24 elected and 14 nominated directors from the two groups - will choose their president, first vice-president and vice-president through an election to be held on March 19 at 4:00pm.

Apart from Annisul Huq of the association group, six other nominated directors of FBCCI are AKM Nurul Fazal Bulbul of Bangladesh Association of Banks, SM Shafiquzzaman of Bangladesh Aushad Shilpa Samity, Kazi Belayet Hossain of BFFEA, Abdul Matlub Ahmed of Bangladesh Insurance Association, Kamran Tanvir Rahman of BJMA and Abdul Hai Sarker of BIMA.

The nominated directors from the Chamber Group are Ebadul Haque Chand (Barisal Chamber), Mohammed Amirul Haque (Chittagong Chamber), Aftab-Ul-Islam (DCCI), Shaharuzzaman Mertoza (Khulna Chamber), AKM Rafiqul Islam (MCCI), Md Hasen Ali (Rajshahi Chamber), and Junnun Mahmud Khan (Sylhet Chamber).

The FBCCI election had been stalled over a membership dispute of a FBCCI member-body, BGMEA, prompting the Ministry of Commerce, the regulatory authority, to extend the tenure of the Mir Nasir Hossain-led Board of Directors up to December 6, 2007.

However, they could not hold the election in the extended period due to a court order over the membership dispute.

The Nasir committee took over charge of the apex trade body on September 5, 2005 for a two-year term until September 5, 2007.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce on December 6 appointed Syed Manzur Elahi as administrator of the apex trade body with the main assignment to conduct the election in his three-month tenure.

Manzur took over charge of the federation chamber on December 8 with the assurance that he would facilitate the election as early as possible.

On the same day, the dispute over membership got settled in the court, paving the way for holding the election.

The FBCCI Election Board announced the fresh election schedule on January 13.

UK hopes for fair polls, not Kenya-like ones

UNB, London

British Foreign Minister David Miliband has expressed optimism about holding of a free, fair and credible election in Bangladesh, saying the British government does not like to see Kenya model elections.

"We hope the state of emergency will be lifted and Bangladesh will return to genuine democracy through fair and credible elections," he told Bangladesh-British journalists at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London Wednesday afternoon.

Miliband, who was in Bangladesh on a two-day visit from February 8 and held talks with government, opposition and military figures, said the army has no political ambition in Bangladesh and is cooperating with the civilian government.

Asked about corruption cases against politicians, particularly the two former prime ministers, he said Britain wants that due process and international standard should be followed so innocent people are not punished.

"We don't support any individual, we support independent judiciary, strong institutions and democratic process," he said.

The British minister praised the current voter registration with photographs, saying it will contribute to holding free and fair voting.

Termining his first ever visit to Bangladesh "fruitful", Miliband said Britain will work with Bangladesh in combating adverse impacts of floods and changes in climate.

Miliband also praised British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury for taking bilateral relations to a new height.

ACC NOTICE TO HASINA SC hearing on appeal Mar 9

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday adjourned until March 9 the hearing on an appeal against the High Court judgment declaring illegal the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) notice asking detained former prime minister Sheikh Hasina to submit her wealth statement.

On Nov 21, last year, a High Court division bench, upon a writ petition of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, declared illegal the ACC notice that had asked Hasina to submit her wealth report.

A day after her arrest on July 17 last year in connection with an extortion case, the ACC, through the jail authorities, served the notice on Hasina asking her to submit the statement of her movable and immovable property to the commission within seven working days.

Hasina filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of the ACC notice and own the legal battle.

Tanjila Sara footbridge opens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newly constructed footbridge opens in Paribagh, a busiest area of the Dhaka city yesterday.

The footbridge constructed with the financial support of EXIM Bank was named after Tanjila Sara, a student of Viganunisa Noon School and College, who was killed in a road accident at the same place on April 14 in 2005.

EXIM Bank Chairman Nazrul Islam Majumdar formally inaugurated the footbridge. Members of the board of directors of the bank, officials of Dhaka City Corporation and family members of Sara were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, MM Abu Naser Waheed, father of Sara, called on the government to take steps to ensure road safety, and also urged the people to use the footbridge to cross the road.

Death anniversary

Today is the 14th death anniversary of journalist Anwarul Islam Bobby, says a press release.

On this day in 1994, he died of leukemia in Dubai on his way to London for treatment.

On the occasion, food will be served among the destitute. His friends, relatives and admirers are requested to pray for the departed soul.

He was the founding editor of The Daily Life of Chittagong, The Pulse, medical journal, and now defunct The Bangladesh Times.

Abul Basher (Monir)

Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Abul Basher (Monir), a freedom fighter and social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his residence at 10, Tejuri Bazar at Farmgate in the city after Juma prayers today.

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



Members of Moddho February '83 Smriti Sangrakkhan Parishad mark the Swairashashok Protirodh Dibash (autocracy resistance day).

Reserve 5pc quota for people with disabilities in govt jobs Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday urged the government to reserve five percent quota in government services for the people with disabilities to bring them into the mainstream of society.

They said the Public Service Commission (PSC) should formulate specific policy and take necessary steps to ensure five percent quota for these people who constitute 10 percent of the total population.

If the government does not create job opportunities for this group, the private organisations would never come forward for their employment, they said, adding that it would ultimately hinder the overall advancement of the nation.

The press conference was organised by ActionAid on Disability and Development (ADD) in collaboration with Protibondhi Chhatra Sangha (Organisation for

Handicapped Students) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

While delivering the inaugural speech, Liton Barui, general secretary of Protibondhi Chhatra Sangha, said, "There is 30 percent quota for freedom fighters, 10 percent for women, 10 percent for different districts and 5 percent for indigenous people, but there is no quota for the people with disabilities."

"We are not demanding quota for all the jobs, rather we want five percent quota only for those jobs which we can accomplish with less hazards," he added.

Liton also placed a six-point demand and said the government should take the responsibility of reserving five percent quota for the physically challenged people in the 28th BCS examination.

At the same time, special test should be introduced for the visually impaired people, he added.

"If the government does not encourage the people with disabili-

POWER PLANT Govt mulls Bibiyana deal in July

UNB, Dhaka

The government plans to sign a contract for the 450MW Bibiyana power plant project by the end of July this year.

Md Abdul Jalil, director general of Power Cell, a reform implementation wing of the Power Division under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, announced the government plan at a briefing at Bidyt Bhaban in the city yesterday.

After signing the contract, he said, it will take three years to implement the project. The plant is expected to go into

operation in 2011.

The Power Cell had organised a 2-day conference of bidders in the city on February 11-12 to clarify different issues on the Bibiyana power plant project.

About 20 representatives from four pre-qualified bidders attended the conference. Top officials of Power Division, Power Cell, Power Development Board (PDB), Power Grid Company of Bangladesh, Petrobangla and other officials concerned represented the government at the conference.

Jalil said the bidders were found very serious. They are very happy with the programme of the government for implementing the project.

"We've asked them to submit their financial and technical offers by mid-June. We've a plan to complete the selection process within a short time and then award the contract by the end of July 2008," he said.

Jalil said under the present bidding process after submission of technical and financial offers, there will be no scope for any kind of negotiation. "Everything will be done on the basis of the written offers."

Huge VoIP equipment seized in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized huge illegal Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) equipment from an apartment owned by Khalilur Rahman, chairman of KDS Group, and arrested one person in this connection.

The arrestee, identified as Md Amanullah, 23, said that he has been doing illegal VoIP business for the last two years using different cyber cafes.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-7 raided the apartment at the top floor of the four-storied building at Sugandha Residential Area at around 5:00pm and seized the equipment worth over Tk 20 lakh.

The seized equipment include 6 quintrons, 60 cellular sets, three media converters, one IPS and huge cables.

Ustad Jagadananda passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Nô ৯৮৪ মাসিকান উস্টা জগদানন্দা বরুয়া passed away due to old age complications at the city's Centre Point Hospital early yesterday at the age of 88.

He left behind his wife, three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives, admirers and students to mourn his death.

He donated all his movable and immovable properties for the development of music and established an institution called Dhruva Parishad, said a release of Bangladesh Buddhist Association.

His was cremated at his village in Rangunia yesterday.

Lokman Sheikh

Lokman Sheikh, father of Sheikh Khairuzzaman, manager (Public Relations) of Jibon Bima Corporation, passed away due to old age complications yesterday at the age of 80, says a press release.

Kazi Shahidul Islam

Kazi Shahidul Islam, a freedom fighter and general secretary of Gohala union Awami League in Gopalganj, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 55, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, son and daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Hafeza Khatun

Hafeza Khatun, mother of Rafiqul Islam Manik, former president of Gazi Bhaban Shopping Centre Shop Owners' Association, passed away at her Shantinagar residence in the city due to old age complications on Wednesday at the age of 79, says a press release.

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

She was laid to rest at her family graveyard at her village home at Kalagachia.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Sadek Ali Ahmed, a patron of Mother Teresa Memorial Society Bangladesh and a former assistant inspector general (AIG) of police, will be held at his residence at 29, Lake Circus, Kalabagan in the city after Udd prayers today.

He passed away due to old age complications at his residence on Thursday, says a press release.

Utilise every inch of land for boosting food output General Moeen tells Noakhali meeting

UNB, Noakhali

Chief of Army Staff, General Moeen U Ahmed called for utilising every inch of land for boosting food output.

He made the remark while addressing a meeting on the Char Jubli Habib Ullah Mia Hat High School premises in Subornachar upazila yesterday.

"Import of food would not solve the food deficit problem nor will it bring down prices of rice. Food deficit has to be solved through boosting production," he said, calling for utilising 30 crore hands of 15 crore people.

General Moeen told the audience that two-thirds of allocated money of development projects used to be wasted earlier.

"Now speed has returned to development activities as full funds are being used in development activities," he said.

Earlier, he distributed one irrigation pump machine, one power tiller and one urea fertiliser machine among the members of Modern Krishi Samabaya Samity.

He also handed over books to the heads of Char Jabbar Degree College and Habib Ullah Mia High School.

GOC of Comilla region Major General Anwar Hossain was present on the occasion.

General Moeen flew in here by

Sightsavers Int'l, Brac sign deal on eye care service

Sightsavers International, UK, and Brac recently signed an agreement for providing eye care services to the beneficiaries of 'Support to Targeted Ultra-poor people (STUP)' programme of Brac, says a press release.

Dr Caroline Harper OBE, chief executive of Sightsavers International, and Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed signed the agreement on their respective organisations during her recent visit to Dhaka.

During her visit, Dr Harper represented Sightsavers International in a four-day international conference of International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) in Chittagong.

The conference was organised with a view to achieve goals of 'VISION 2020: The Right to Sight'.

She participated in the meeting of IAPB Board of Trustee as a member.

Dr Harper also called on Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Choudhury during her visit.

a helicopter from Feni. After arrival, he went to Gassapia village where he inaugurated small milk farm project of the army.

Earlier, the army chief, also chairman of the Trust Bank operated by the Sena Kalyan Trust, inaugurated the bank's Feni branch.

Speaking on the occasion General Moeen underscored the need for setting up more Export Processing Zones (EPZ) in the country for boosting its problem-ridden economy.

"Utilising our concept and example India has set up 250 EPZs in the country where we have only eight," General Moeen said.

Speaking on the activities of the Trust Bank General Moeen said dividends of the bank are used in assistance of the poor army personnel and also the

uplift projects.

"Country's people will be able to play an effective role in the country's development process by depositing their money with this bank," Moeen U Ahmed said.

Talking on EPZ, General Moeen said the government has already approved the setting up of an Export Processing Zone at the abandoned Feni Airport owned by the Armed Forces.

Trust Bank Managing Director Iqbal U Ahmed gave the welcome speech on the occasion. Trust Bank Manager Major General Aminul Hasan, Comilla Cantonment and 33 infantry division GOC Major General Anwar Hossain and assistant vice-president of corporate and marketing department of the Bank Aftab Mahmud were present.



Dr Caroline Harper OBE, chief executive of Sightsavers International, UK, calls on Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed during her visit recently.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Mild to moderate cold wave that is sweeping over Rajshahi division and the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail, Comilla, Sirimongal, Jessore, Satkhira and Barisal may continue, Met office said.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, it said, predicting nearly unchanged night temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 27.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 6.2 degrees Celsius at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:53pm today and rises at 6:31am 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 | 24.3 | 10.8 | 38 | 27 |
| Chittagong | 25.0 | 12.9 | 53 | 40 |
| Rajshahi | 23.2 | 06.7 | 65 | 48 |
| Khulna | 23.5 | 10.7 | 52 | 41 |
| Barisal | 24.2 | 09.7 | 52 | 52 |
| Sylhet | 24.5 | 10.9 | 73 | 43 |
| Cox's Bazar | 27.0 | 13.7 | 55 | 44 |