

Start talks with political parties without delay

BDB, CPB urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) and Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday called on the government to start dialogue with the political parties without delay to discuss national issues, including price hike of essentials.

The two parties also called for holding a free and fair election as per the roadmap.

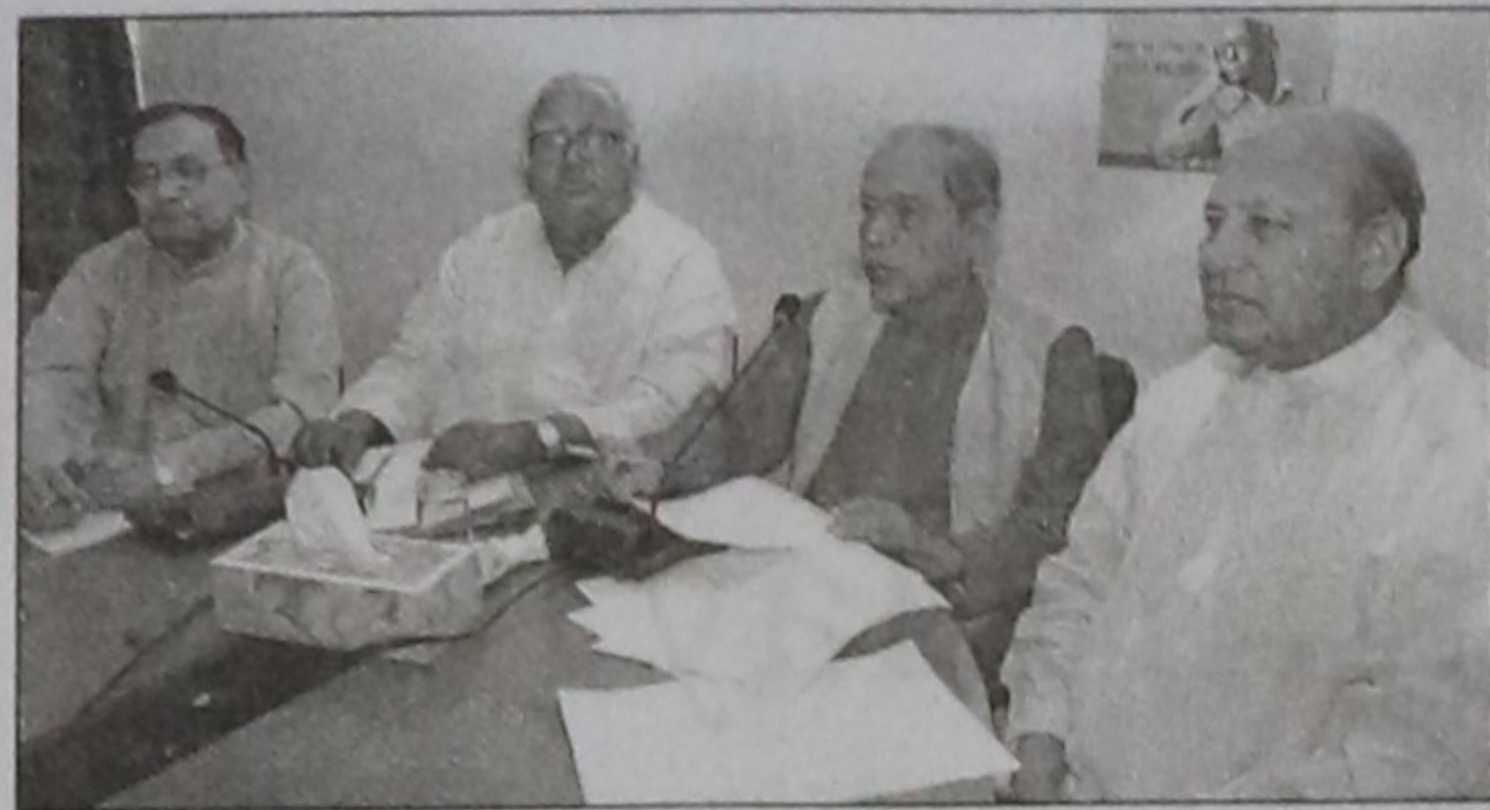
The call came after a two-and-a-half-hour meeting between BDB President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan at the CPB office at Purana Paltan in the city.

They discussed several issues, including electoral alliance and the present political situation, at the meeting but did not elaborate to reporters.

"The government should sit with the political parties immediately to find out ways to mitigate the suffering of the poor people and labourers, caused by the price hike of essentials," Badruddoza told reporters.

Both the party chiefs called on the government to intensify the anti-corruption drive and to take steps to prevent corrupt people and black money holders from standing in the election.

"We no longer want to see any corrupt politicians in power," they



AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury speaks at a meeting between Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh and Communist Party of Bangladesh at the CPB office at Purana Paltan in the city yesterday. On his right are Manzurul Ahsan Khan and Muzahidul Islam Selim and on his left is Maj (ret'd) Abdul Mannan.

He also said that the CPB will also hold similar dialogue with the Awami League and left-leaning parties.

They also urged government to sit with the political parties to discuss the present political situation.

Replying to a question, both the leaders said, "We want an acceptable election which will be free and fair."

"We are holding dialogue with various political parties to minimise our differences," Manzurul Ahsan Khan said.

He also said that the CPB will also hold similar dialogue with the Awami

AWAL'S APPOINTMENT HC judgment stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday granted leave to appeal filed by Acting Law Secretary Kazi Habibur Awal and stayed a High Court judgment that declared his appointment as acting law secretary illegal.

A full bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court said in its order that the HC judgment will be stayed until the disposal of the appeal.

On February 18, a HC division bench of Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Shahidul Islam delivered the judgment declaring Awal's appointment illegal.

The HC delivered the judgment upon a writ petition filed by District and Sessions Judge Aftab Uddin Ahmed on July 5 last year challenging the appointment of Awal as acting law secretary.

The government and Awal had filed the leave to appeal following the verdict of the High Court.

The government appointed Awal as acting law secretary on June 28 last year in consultation with the Supreme Court.

Additional Attorney General Salahuddin Ahmad moved the petition of the government while Dr Kamal Hossain and Barrister Amir-Ul-Islam moved the petition of Awal.

Death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of Capt (Ret'd) Alhaj Abdul Alim Bhuiyan, says a press release.

On the occasion,

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his village home Paramtala under Muradnagar upazila.

Chowdhury Amir Kawsar

Today is the third death anniversary of Chowdhury Amir Kawsar Kislui, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his ancestral home at Gawal Chamte in Faridpur town after Asr prayers.

Hazrat Haji Yunus Mia

Today is the second death anniversary of Hazrat Haji Yunus Mia, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa and Quran mahfil will be held at Shahlia Baharia Dinia Madrasa and Haji Yunus orphanage at Dhamalia village under Sirajdikhan PS in Munshiganj.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Shamsul Islam, former manager of Unilever, Bangladesh will be held at his residence at Dusk View Apartment, House-40, Road-25, Gulshan-1 in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Siemens help for cyclone victims

Siemens Bangladesh Limited (SBL) donated two mobile X-ray machines recently to help the cyclone-affected people, says a press release.

Rudolf P Klink, managing director and CEO of SBL, said as a part of the corporate social responsibility Siemens always tries to work for the nation with warm hearts.

He said this while he was handing over two mobile X-ray machines to Health and Family Planning Secretary AKM Zafar Ullah Khan at the Secretariat on February 28. Hafizur Rahman, general manager of SBL, was present at the occasion.

Earlier, Siemens donated 20 water purification filters worth Tk 1.20 crore which were placed in the cyclone-affected areas and being maintained by the Bangladesh Army.

The X-ray machines will also be used for check-up of the cyclone victims by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. These units will be set up at the hospitals in the affected areas. These units can be taken to different locations for ease of a patient.



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Concerted efforts needed for women's empowerment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Concerted efforts are needed for economic and political empowerment of women in the society, said the grassroots women at a workshop in the city yesterday.

They said the country's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cannot be achieved without the upliftment of women and children.

The workshop titled 'Voices from the grassroots women' was organised by the Local Consultative Sub-group on Women's Advancement and Gender Equality (LCG-WAGE) at ICDDR,B auditorium in the city as a part of its programmes of the International Women's Day tomorrow.

At the workshop, seven grassroots women from different remote areas of the country shared their experiences with the audience highlighting their successes in achieving their rights and their contributions to social changes.

Priya Mandol of Manikganj said women have played a significant role in saving natural and agricultural resources.

"We need to have access to our seeds and natural resources," she added.

Meherun, another poor woman from the same district, said, "Thousands of disadvantaged women like me have overcome food insecurity and low social status in a sustainable way through Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme. The VGD has helped us improve our nutritional and economic status. Our children are better fed now."

Rakha Rani, a former union parishad member of Thakurgaon, stressed the need for concerted efforts to stop early marriage and violence against women.

"We shall have to come out from houses if we want to make changes and fight together to stop all social evils," she added.

Halima of Dhaka stressed the need for a quality reproductive health services.

Salma Nazrul of Manikganj said, "Education, skills and income are the important conditions for gaining status in the family and the community."

She is one of the poor women who received training on fish culture and credit out of the savings money.

The grassroots women also narrated the challenges that they are facing in various fields, including participation in development activities, community healthcare, reproductive health, education, micro-finance, gender equality, dowry-free marriage, violence against women and food security.

The workshop underscored the need for creating an atmosphere favourable for the women to play greater role in development activities.

separate examinations should be arranged to ensure the qualities the PSC want in candidates are there.

Public Service Commission (PSC) Chairman Saadat Hussain said the staff of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption who are now working in the ACC are harassing people with their old mindset.

"It will create havoc. It is losing many cases and many corruption suspects will be released," he said adding that the cases should not be filed arbitrarily, rather critically analysed first.

Saadat said they were considering hiring foreign experts to bring changes in the examination process for recruiting public servants.

He said the PSC was actually never independent.

IGS researches recommended establishment of a transparent process for recruiting public servants, raising the status of PSC members and chairman, formation of a parliamentary committee to review PSC performance annually, complete overhaul of present examination system and a study to see if the quota system in recruitment is needed.

Its recommendations on the ACC include explicitly defining corruption and offences that fall under the jurisdiction of the ACC, merit-based recruitment and extending the tenure of ACC commissioners and direct recruitment of staff and lawyers.

Brac University Pro Vice-chancellor Salehuddin Ahmed and IGS Director barrister Manzoor Hasan also spoke at the programme.

ACC going in EPR mode to cause havoc

FROM PAGE 16

launching ceremony of two policy notes on governance of ACC and PSC prepared by Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of Brac University. The launching of the policy notes was held at a city hotel.

"The ACC started dealing cases under emergency rules but emergency will not remain for long. The ACC therefore will be in serious problems during the transition period," former adviser to a caretaker government Akbar Ali said.

Asked if the ACC now should transfer its cases from the EPR to existing laws, he told journalists after the launching programme that the cases are now under trial and it will not be right to make comments on it.

There is a lot of work in the ACC but it is lacking adequate staff, Akbar Ali said. "It is indeed going through a very difficult time. The ACC should be established as a strong organisation," he said.

The RRC chairman observed that the PSC should not be under the control of the government or any institutions and the examination system should be reviewed. He said the present recruitment system does not make sure that good public servants are placed appropriately.

He said the transparency of PSC is now much less than that of the British period when anyone was able to know the results of their examinations in details, but it is not possible now.

Akbar Ali Khan said cadre-based

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UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following professional position in its Dhaka Office:

JOB TITLE: Planning Specialist, Planning, M&E Section, NO-C

MAIN DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: The successful candidate will be responsible for the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Annual Reviews, assist in economic and social policy analysis which include analysis of resource allocation by government and development partners. The incumbent of the post will act as focal point for Ministries and ensure good working relationships at the highest level with the government partners and maintain contacts with international institutions. S/he will provide technical, statistical and database support and actively participate in the design of monitoring and evaluation tools being used by UNICEF and its allies. The post holder also required to represent UNICEF in high-level meetings in the relevant areas in and outside the country.

QUALIFICATIONS: Master's degree. Preference will be given to degrees in areas related to social science (sociology, anthropology, economics, social development, and demography), public health, nutrition and medical sciences.

WORK EXPERIENCE: At least five-years progressively responsible work experience in social development field. Experience of work with Government, NGOs, academics and in research institutes desirable

SKILLS & ATTRIBUTES:

- Proficiency in the use of computers and especially in word processing, spreadsheets, power point, database, graphics and internet is a must.

- Be responsible for keeping up-to-date with the latest developments in UNICEF programme and management policies, strategies (including those related to gender), procedures (including system etc.)

- Be responsible for keeping up-to-date with the latest developments in the social sector.

- Be aware of and sensitive to, the local development and political environment.

- Negotiation skills, presentation skills, analytical skills.

COMPETENCIES

Technical knowledge Integrity
Team work/leadership Drive for results
Analytical and conceptual thinking Networking
Commitment Judgement

CONTRACTS AND REMUNERATION: The selected candidate will be awarded a Fixed Term contract and remuneration is at the NO-C level of the United Nations local salary scale.

COMMUNICATIONS: Applications with CV should be forwarded to the Chief, Human Resources Section, UNICEF-Bangladesh, Sheraton Annex, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000, by 23 March 2008. Please mark on the envelope the post applied for. Only short-listed candidates will be called for written test/interview. Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.

APPLICATIONS FROM QUALIFIED FEMALE CANDIDATES ARE ENCOURAGED

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'Tarique held on political motives'

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday alleged that the government arrested and kept detained its Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman "purely with political motives" as no allegation against him was proved.

A statement issued by BNP Office Secretary Rizvi Ahmed in the name of Khaleda-appointed Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said Tarique has been detained in prison for the last one year. "He was arrested on false and fabricated charges as the government has not yet been able to prove any single allegation

against him."

The statement says Tarique is now seriously ill following "physical and mental torture" and seclusion in the prison for last one year.

"The torture was meted out to him is not only inhuman but also against all principles and justice," it said, adding that keeping him detained without trial is tantamount to a "flagrant violation of human rights".

The strongly worded statement, issued under name of Khandaker Delwar who is now in Singapore, said it is being noticed that despite his release orders by courts, the government has held him on various "pretexts and

tricks".

"We feel that the government is engaged in such mean-minded activities to thwart the advances of a nationalist force like BNP," it said.

The statement also pointed out that with the same intention, the government has held in detention former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Expressing strong condemnation and protest against what it said government's inhuman actions, the party demanded immediate release of Khaleda and her son Tarique as well as all detainees.

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The liaison office of "The Italian leader in Apparel Retailing" has been working its operation here with around 50(fifty) top garments factory, located in Dhaka more than 11 years, is seeking for professional candidates to fill up the following positions, with the ultimate goal to strengthen its structure and to meet the growing garment business in Bangladesh.

MERCHANDISER: (1 Position), Male/Female

The candidate must possess an excellent knowledge of English language in order to communicate efficiently with buyers in Italy, a smart personality and a deep experience in garment products and costing (both woven and knit), accessories, fabric, yarn and factories procedures.

QUALITY CONTROLLER : (1 Position), Male

The candidate must have good knowledge in English as to communicate efficiently with the expatriate of the staff, has to be used to check the inline productions in the factories with the accuracy required by fashion country productions, with good knowledge in woven and knit product and their productions methodology.

The ideal candidates for both the positions has to be young and dynamic, age within 25-35 years old, with minimum 4/8 years experience in an international context and preferably in an international garment-buying house. The candidates should be well literate in computer applications.

We offer the opportunity to join an international company, an attractive salary and the chance to take an important part in the growth of this challenging organization.

The research is open to candidates holding a senior position whose curriculum will be evaluated not only for these positions but also for further company developments.

Send your CV with one photograph, contact telephone number and mention the position for with indicating salary to "Oriental Buying Services Ltd, Road-34, House-13 (5th Floor), Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212" within 20th March'08.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Tangail, Mymensingh and Comilla districts in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged dry weather over the country.

Highest temperature 31.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and Sathkira and lowest 14.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongla.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:05pm today and rises at 6:14am 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	28.1	18.8	74	66
Chittagong	28.5	19.0	73	74
Rajshahi	26.6	18.7	85	78
Khulna	30.7	22.0	84	61
Barisal	30.2	20.5	81	74
Sylhet	28.6	16.6	72	64
Cox's Bazar	29.4	18.8	64	74