

CG to seek civil society suggestions for qualitative change in politics

Says commerce adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will seek suggestions from different citizens' groups and professional bodies for qualitative change in politics during its talks with them in parallel with dialogues with political parties.

"Different groups of citizens in our society have different kinds of thoughts regarding qualitative improvement in politics. We'll try to get an idea about the improvement," Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman told journalists

yesterday after a dialogue preparatory meeting at his office.

The formal dialogue will be held with political parties where the citizens groups will not be invited.

"The dialogue with the citizens groups will be held in a different track in parallel with political dialogues," he said, adding that they are now finalising the modalities for the talks.

Though the government earlier said the political parties reached consensus about engaging the civil society with the dialogues, pro-Khaleda BNP faction leader

Khandaker Delwar Hossain strongly opposed on Wednesday inviting them along with the political parties.

Hossain Zillur and three other advisers who coordinated the April 7-28 pre-dialogue talks had a meeting with eminent economist and former adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud on Tuesday to find out ways to engage the citizens' groups and civil society with the dialogues.

Talking to reporters, the commerce adviser also said they finalised recommendations for consideration of the chief adviser (CA)

who is going to address the nation in a week.

"You know, we earlier submitted a report to him (CA) on the recommendations that came up during the pre-dialogue talks. Today we finalised a shorter version which he can consider in his address," he added.

Meanwhile, talking to journalists at his ministry, Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff said the advisers who are involved in coordinating the dialogues are not having enough time to attend their official works.



Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus hands over MDG3 Torch to former adviser Geetara Safiya Choudhury at Grameen Bank office in the city on May 7.

Plant two palm trees at home

Gen Moeen urges families

BSS, Dhaka

Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday urged every family of the country to plant at least two palm trees at their homes to meet the demand for edible oil and eradicate poverty from society.

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the nationwide plantation programme of palm trees at Kurmitola Golf Club course.

Amidst cheers, the army chief planted a palm sapling to start the programme. After that, a munazat was offered for the success of the project.

General Moeen said normally the palm tree starts producing oil within four to five years after its plantation and the palm trees on a hectare of land produce 10 tonnes of oil a year.

He said, "I believe that the prospect is very bright in our country and all experiments show that we have a chance to be successful as like Malaysia."

The army chief urged every family to plant two palm trees in their homes, which will not only fulfill their yearly demand for oil, but also contribute to reduction of poverty in society.

General Moeen hoped that the programme would inspire everyone to come forward in a big way.

Anti-corruption rally begins at Patia tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

Patia Sachetan Nagarik Committee, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) jointly organise a two-day anti-corruption youth rally at Patia in Chittagong beginning from tomorrow, as part of TIB and ACC's 'Jago Manush' campaign, says a press release.

On the first day, an anti-corruption painting competition and anti-corruption cartoon exhibition will be held at local SA Ali High School ground at 4:00pm while an anti-corruption rally will be held on the second day.

ACC Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury is expected to inaugurate the rally.

Besides, a musical programme will also be held where famous singers of the country will perform.

NIKO GRAFT CASE Arrest warrants against Dr Samad, 5 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued warrants for arrest of former principal secretary to Prime Minister's Office Dr SM Samad and five others for awarding gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko Resources through corruption and abuse of power.

In the case, detained former premier Sheikh Hasina, former state minister for energy Prof Rafiqul Islam and former energy secretary Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury are also accused.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on Wednesday pressed charges against Hasina and others for committing the offences.

On December 9 last year, the ACC filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Hasina and six others.

Arafat Rahman Koko

Meanwhile, detained former prime minister Khaleda Zia's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko was shown arrested yesterday in a case filed for amassing illegal wealth and concealing information about his properties to the ACC.

Two shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were shot by a gang of armed criminals at Gandaria in the city yesterday.

The injured are Nazir Hossain, 24, an alleged drug peddler and Shimul Parvez, 27, a security guard of Group-4 security agency.

Nazir was shot in his back while Shimul in his right leg. Shimul was shot while he was walking on the rail track. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital

One dies in rooftop fall during storm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker was killed after falling off the roof of a six-storey under-construction building during the storm at Mohakhali in the city last night.

The victim identified as Aminul Islam, 25, was rushed to Ponju Hospital at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in a critical condition. He was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) as his condition deteriorated where he succumbed to his injuries.

Witnesses said the stormy wind blew him down at about 8:00pm while he was working on the building along with his fellow colleagues.

Prince Richard visits Sidr-hit Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The Duke of Gloucester, Prince Richard, yesterday visited Sidr rehabilitation project under Ghotoker Andua, a remote village under Mirzaganj upazila in Patuakhali district.

British High Commission in Dhaka Anwar Choudhury accompanied the Duke during his visit.

It is the second visit to Bangladesh by Prince Richard who visited Bangladesh back in October 1987.

He visited the area to have a glimpse of the Sidr rehabilitation project of Habitat for Humanity, one of a large number of organisations that patronise.

Chris Austin, country director of DFID, Alistair Wood, private secretary to the Duke, and Tim Khan, head of British Business Group, were present during the visit.

Habitat for Humanity International Bangladesh is constructing 280 core shelter units at Mirzaganj under its disaster response project, funded by a disaster relief agency called Christian Aid Ministries (CAM).

On a short briefing to local journalists, the Duke of Gloucester said, "I am absolutely happy to help the Sidr-affected people. We will be taking all possible steps to rehabilitate them."

Prince Richard is the second son of the late Duke of Gloucester and the late Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester. He is a grandson of George V and a first cousin to the Queen.

BSS adds: The Duke also inaugurated a technical school at Kashipur in Barisal.

The UCEP School Complex is built at a cost of Tk 3.56 crore under the assistance of DFID.

(DMCH).

Witnesses said Shrimul was shot while two armed criminals chased Nazir spraying bullets at him on the rail track.

Locals chased the criminals and caught Abdur Rahim, 24, with arms and later handed over him to Group-4 security agency.

Nazir was shot in his back while Shimul in his right leg. Shimul was shot while he was walking on the rail track. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital

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