# Raise teachers' salary to attract meritorious persons

### Educationists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers' salary at primary level, especially in non-government primary schools, will have to be raised to ensure quality education by attracting meritorious persons get. to this profession, said the educationists at a view-exchange meeting yesterday.

They urged the caretaker government to increase budgetary allocation for primary education as talented people will not be encouraged to become primary school teachers without enhanced salary.

The meeting was organised by Bangladesh Non-government headded

Primary Teachers Association at the National Press Club in the The primary teachers also

demanded nationalisation of their job before the next national bud-Speaking as chief guest, Prof process.

Muzaffer Ahmad said the existing 11-type primary education has created discrimination in the society, which is not desirable in an independent democratic country.

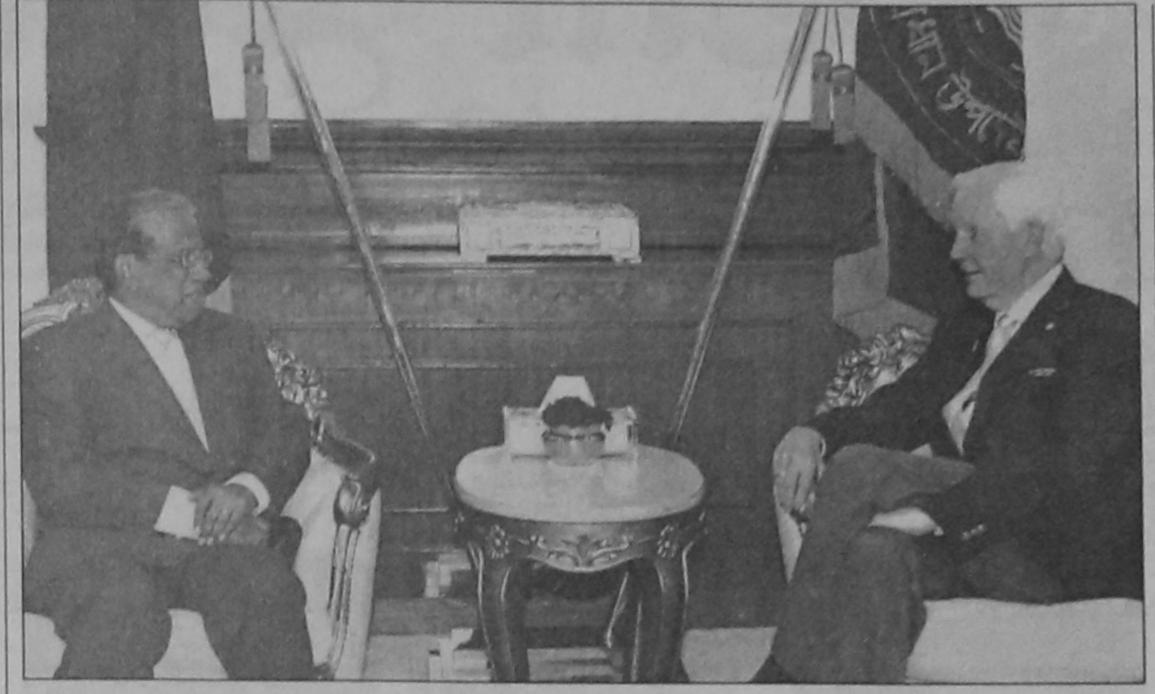
"Handsome salary will have to be provided for talented teachers. Otherwise, quality education at primary level cannot be ensured,"

Former education minister Dr agovernment office. Osman Farruk said brilliant and talented people are avoiding the career of primary school teachers due to poor salary causing a downslide in the quality of education at the first stage of learning

Ahmed Chowdhury said bright students do not want to start their career as primary school teachers, believing that it is a noble profession, do not continue it for long because a government primary school teacher is paid less than the salary of an upper division clerk of

"To improve the quality of teaching, a teacher has to adopt various methods for easy understanding of the students. Only meritorious persons can do that job but they are not interested in the profession because of poor Major General (retd) Amin salary," said Economist Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad.

Presided over by Shamsul Alam, president of the association, the and those, who accepted the career meeting was also addressed by association Secretary General Megendra Mohan Saha, politician Kader Siddique and primary teachers from different parts of the



Rotary International President Wilfred J Wilkinson calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

Experts against privatisation

## 61pc indigenous people face discrimination

### Sample survey reveals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A survey on 332 indigenous people shows about 61 per cent of them are discriminated against in different ways while 76 per cent fall victim to violence and threats.

The findings of the survey conducted by Dhaka University teachers Prof Dr Nazrul Islam and Prof Dr Asif Nazrul under a project of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastobayan Sangstha, were revealed at a discussion meeting at the WVA auditorium in the capital yesterday.

The survey was conducted on 332 indigenous people in Jessore, Mymensingh, Chapainawabganj, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Pabna, Rangamati, Sylhet and indigenous students of Dhaka University between March and April last year under the project Strengthening Human Rights Support through Enhancing Access to Justice for

### 5000 phones inoperative for cable theft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five thousand telephones of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) went out of order since yesterday morning as the underground cable was stolen, says a BTTB release.

According to the source, around 12 metres of underground cable were stolen.

The repairing works are going on and the inoperative telephones will start working within four to five days, it added.

A theft case was filed with Khilgaon Police Station in this connection.

### Platinum jubilee of St Alfred's School

A celebration committee was formed in the city yesterday to celebrate the platinum jubilee of Saint Alfred's High School at Bakerganj in Barisal, says a press release.

Former professor of Notre Dame College Gabriel Manik Gomez was made the president of the 17-member committee while Bangladesh Diabetic Association President Dr AK Azad Khan was named the president of the advisory panel.

#### JNU summer vacation

The Jagannath University authorities have set the date for summer vacation of the university from May 20 to June 19, says a press release of the university.

However, all administrative and departmental works will continue during this period.

### Blessings sought



Khatun, a renowned gynecologist and obstetrician and professor of Bangladesh Medical

Dr Shahla

College, will undergo critical surgery at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore today.

She is the eldest sister of Sheepa Hafiza, director (Human

Resources) of Brac. Her family members have requested her friends, relatives and admirers to pray for a successful operation.

### Vulnerable Groups and Advocacy for Reform.

The findings showed about 18.67 per cent of them were evicted from their ancestral land. Besides, 6.02 per cent participants in the survey believe that justice cannot be ensured by court while 5.72 per cent of them are ignorant about legal process.

The speakers at the meeting said most indigenous people are not aware of the laws that guarantee their rights. Besides, human rights organisations also fail to reach out to the victims who badly need their legal support, they said. Member of the national com-

mittee of Manobadhikar Bastobayan Sangstha Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly, who presided over the meeting, said the government should formulate and implement new policies to ensure the rights of indigenous people.

Executive director of the organisation advocate Elina Khan said coordination among the organisations working for the welfare of indigenous people is very important to provide them with necessary assistance.

Representatives of different organisations that provide legal support for indigenous people were also present.

### Workers Party threatens movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers' Party of Bangladesh (WPB) yesterday threatened to forge movement along with other like-minded parties to force the government to implement their 11point charter of demands including lifting of the state of emergency immediately for making the upcoming parliamentary election free, fair and credible.

The demands also include lifting of all bans on people's democratic rights including political and trade union activities, halting of all direct and indirect pressure on mass media ensuring press freedom, holding of parliamentary election first and cancellation of delimitation of electoral constituencies.

"If the government does not meet our demands, there will be no alternative but to go for movements and for this we will forge unity with other like-minded political parties," said party President Rashed Khan Menon while speaking at a news conference at its central office in the capital.

Holding the chief adviser (CA) responsible for taking the country into a confrontational path through setting a set of conditions for the upcoming dialogue between the caretaker government and the political parties, he observed that there is uncertainty about the outcome of the dialogue.

"But we still hope that it is possible to reach a consensus through dialogue," said Menon, a key-leader in AL-led 14-party

He also pointed out that the dialogue is going to be held at a time when the mass media is facing restriction.

Rain likely

next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

try during the period, Met Office said.

major cities and towns yesterday were:

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or

squally wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the coun-

Highest temperature 38.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yester-

The sun sets in the capital at 6:36pm today and rises at 5:14am

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

Min

26.0

23.4

24.1

21.7

23.7

23.2

24.0

day at Satkhira and lowest 21.7 degrees Celsius at Khulna.

Temperature in

Celsius

Max

35.0

31.9

36.8

36.5

35.6

28.0

33.6

UNB, Dhaka

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

In a written statement, party



PHOTO: STAR Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon speaks at a press conference at the party's central office at Topkhana Road in the city yesterday.

General Secretary Bimal Biswas said they will collect mass signatures from May 23 to June 6 across the country and submit those to the government through district and upazila administrations to press home their demands.

He said they have already directed their all units across the country to unite the people to press home their demands. Whatever the CA had told

about relaxing the state of emergency ahead of the national poll, finally there will be government's control over the holding of the election, and that election could never be free and fair, he added. Bimal termed the CA's initia-

tive to formulate a national charter irrational and motivated.

Party leaders Haider Akbar Khan Rano, Fazle Hossain Badsha, Qamrul Ahsan, Nurul Hasan, Nur Ahmed Bakul, Hazera Sultana and Mojammel Haque Tara were also present at the conference.

Humidityin

percentage

Morning

78

84

77

85

72

Evening

70

86

64

67

70

87

77

### European Commission supports trial

of war criminals SCF team meets Frowein STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The European Commission yesterday agreed, in principle, with the demand for trial of war criminals of 1971 at a meeting with Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF).

An SCF delegation led by its President Air Vice Marshall (Retd) AK Khandker met Stefan Frowein, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of European Commission (EC), at his office in the city, says an SCF press release. "We support the matter of trying

the war criminals, in principle, the press release quoted Frowein as telling the SCF delegation. "Because, the trial of war crimi-

nals and those who committed crimes against humanity is linked with the establishment of democracy and human rights," he said.

AK Khandker told The Daily Star that they told Frowein "The European Union upholds human rights around the world and we hope you support our demand for justice and trial of war criminals

The other members of the delegation were Maj Gen (Retd) KM Shafiullah, Maj Gen (Retd) CR Dutta, Maj (Retd) Rafiqul Islam, and SCF Convener Lt Gen (Retd) Harun-Ar Rashid.

#### 'Liberation war, mass upheaval should be base of nat'l charter' STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) at a meeting yesterday said national unity created during the liberation war and mass upheaval in '90 should be the base of the national charter proposed by the chief adviser (CA) in his address to the nation, says a press release.

The CA's call for consensus among political parties in some issues with a view to forming the national charter are unnecessary they added.

The meeting was presided over by BSD President Kahlekuzzaman at Shaheed Tajul Auditorium of Moni Singh-Farhad Trust Bhaban at Paltan in the city.

They said the country got its constitution in '72 based on the liberation war that reflects the aspirations of people of all walks of life.

### Ln Shahjahan governor of District 315 B-2



Khadem has been elected district gover-Lions Clubs International yesterday, says a

press release. He is the chairman of Voluntary Organisation Bangladesh 2000 and a former government official.

### DHAKA ODAY

#### Seminar

Liver Foundation of Bangladesh organises a seminar to mark the World Hepatitis Day. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

#### Reception

The Scholars Forum will accord a reception to the students who got scholarships in class VIII in 2007. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium, Time: 9:00am,

#### of community, union clinics New act should be formulated to ensure accountability and control over private hospitals, clinics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of health experts yesterday opposed the government's decision to lease around 516 community and union clinics to different private healthcare organisations, service delivery contractors and non-government organisations.

If the public healthcare centres go to the private sector, it would hinder poor people's access to the healthcare services in the country, they said at a press conference titled 'Leasing the public health services: Effect on public health' at the National Press Club in the city. If the resources of crores of taka

of public health sector go to the hands of different groups in the name of privatisation, it would ultimately commercialise the healthcare services, they added.

'Health Professional Society for the sake of the citizens,' the speakers

and diagnostic centres, experts

While presenting the keynote paper, Prof Rashid E Mahbub said leasing the public health system should be stopped immediately.

"At the same time, a national and local committee should be formed in collaboration with the government and people to run an autonomous public health system," he said, adding that corruption of different donor agencies in health sector should be investigated and their suggestions that go against public interest should be rejected.

The main problem in public health sector is mismanagement which should be stopped immedi-Organised under the banner of ately and it is not wise to blame doctors for the present situation of the total healthcare system and said it would also deprive those also to privatise it, said Prof who donated five decimal of land Nazmun Nahar, child specialist of to establish community clinics in Birdem Hospital, adding that the order to get free primary healthcare government in any way cannot avoid the responsibility of poor inconference.

people's right to get healthcare The experts demanded the

government to ensure healthcare services at a minimum cost and availability of the equipment in the public hospitals, to increase budget allocation and to root out corruption at every level.

From 1998 to 2001, some 11,500-community clinics were established with a view to providing primary healthcare and family planning services to the villagers. For 6,000 people, there is only one community clinic that remains inoperative since the BNP-led fourparty alliance regime. Health and family welfare min-

istry invited a tender on April 21 to lease 378 community clinics and 138 union clinics at 15 upazilas of Bhola, Cox's Bazar, Sherpur Shatkhira, Lalmonirhat and Sunamganj districts.

Prof Ruhul Haque, Dr Sharfuddin Ahmed of BSMMU, Dr Abdul Matin, Dr Moshtak Hossain and Dr Arman Khan also took part

## Hasina indicted, trial starts May 21

FROM PAGE 1

approved the proposal for setting not deliver justice," she said. up the barge-mounted power plant after it was scrutinised by different committees of her government.

concerned minister was not made an accused," she said. Hasina also said at the beginning of the AL government led by

her in 1996, the country's total electricity production was only 1.600MW and at the end in 2001 the total production rose to 4.300MW. "After my government, the subsequent governments could

not add a single megawatt of electricity to the national grid. If the Awami League government could continue, electricity production would be 7,000MW now and there would be no deficit of electricity," she said.

of Bangabandhu who was elected prime minister and president of the country, but her family members had not piled property by abusing power. At a stage the judge told Hasina

this court thinks her [Hasina] innocent and the prosecution will have to prove the charges during trial.

Hasina however told the judge

"If you were independent and neutral, you would have really thought me innocent and exonerated me from the charges. But against the accused.

there is pressure on you. You can-

Prosecution lawyer advocate Sharfuddin Ahmed Khan Mukul told newspersons if the charges Hasina and the six others, "Everything of this project was against Hasina were proved, she through their mutual underdone very transparently. The would be sentenced to maximum standing and using their influ-12 years' imprisonment and be charged in this case. But I was disqualified from contesting the

> "The people made Sheikh Hasina prime minister of the country for serving them. But she had committed corruption while she was in state power. We have proved that Sheikh Hasina and the other accused took Tk 3 crore in the name of setting up the bargemounted power plant and the court examining the documents, materials and evidence framed charges against all the accused," he said.

He said the court is functioning independently.

Defence lawyer Barrister Shafique Ahmed said they have Hasina said she is the daughter filed petitions with the court for discharging the charges against the accused as there was no evidence, materials or documents of taking bribe by them in the First Information Report (FIR) and Siddigur Rahman was also charge sheet.

> "The court rejected the petitions and we have become surprised at the court order," he

Hasina and another accused Dr the court is not independent and Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury were produced before the court amid tight security at 9:50am yesterday. The court started proceedings of the case reading out the charges

ACC Deputy Director Sabbir Hasan filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station on September 2. The case said ence, helped a foreign company and its local partners win a deal for setting up the 100MW bargemounted power plant and thus

deprived the lowest bidder. The case was filed under Sections 161, 163, 164, 165, 165 (a)/109 of the Penal Code and 5 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947. Later, ACC brought the case under Emergency Power Rules. If the charges are proved, the accused face sentences ranging from life term to one-year imprisonment. Investigation officer ACC

Deputy Director Morshed Alam submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka on January 10. In addition to the seven

accused in the FIR earlier, the name of Bangabandhu Memorial Trust (BMT) curator Sayed included in the charge sheet.

The other accused are former energy secretary Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, former Power Development Board chairman Noor Uddin Mahmud Kamal, Managing Director of Summit Industries and Mercantile Corporation Private Ltd Aziz Khan and Director Farid Khan, United Group Chairman Hasan Mahmud Raja and Director Abul Kalam Azad.

### HC stays injunction on function of SCBA secretary

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday stayed for three days operation of an adinterim injunction by the lower court directing newly elected Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Secretary Advocate Nurul Islam Sujan not to continue his function.

Passing the interim order of stay, upon a petition filed by Sujan, the HC issued rule upon the respondent to explain why the temporary injunction order "should not be quashed". It fixed May 22 for hearing on the

On May 12, the 9th Asstt Judge's Court, following a civil suit filed by Barrister Abdullah Al Mamun, who was declared defeated after a recount of votes, passed the ad-

interim injunction. The lower court also issued a show cause notice upon nine defendants, including Sujan, in connection with the results of the SCBA election held April 28-29.

### Youth found dead in Wasa pond

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the floating body of an unknown youth from a Wasa pond

at Shyampur in the city yesterday. Locals informed the police after finding the body of the youth age about 30 who retrieved it and sent to Mitford Hospital morgue for

Several marks of bruise were seen in his body.

### 13 criminals held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen alleged criminals were arrested in separate drives at Pallabi and Kafrul area in the city yesterday. Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) early yesterday arrested seven alleged robbers from Kafrul in the city and recovered firearms and ammunitions

from their possession. The arrestees are Mohammad Hanif, 40, Alamgir Hossain, 24, Mahim Bhuiyan, 20, Suman Kazi,-28, Mohammad Anwar, 25, Milon Sheikh, 19, Lal Miah, 28.

Rab said they also seized a pistol, two magazines, 32 rounds of bullet, eight knives, a chapatti from their possession. Meanwhile, the detective branch

(DB) of police arrested six members of another gang of criminals from Pallabi and Kafrul area in the city.

The arrestees are Mohammad Akram, Billal, Mamun, Farid, Suman, and Rabiul.

### Christian Assoc demands punishment to killer rapist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Christian Association demanded punishment of the culprits who have raped a mother and her daughter and killed the daughter at South Vadarti village under Kaliganj upazila in Gazipur on April 30.

urged the intervention of the chief adviser and the army chief to arrest and punish the culprits. They said the incident has created anxiety among the minority community people of the country. They also sought compensation

In a statement president and

secretary general of the association

### Death anniversary

for the family of the victims.



Prof QAIM Nuruddin, a pioneer in communication and journalism education in Bangladesh, says a press

Today is the

sixth death

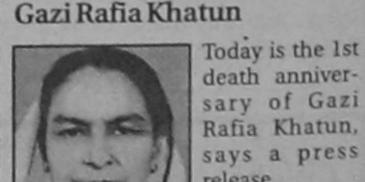
anniversary of

Madrasa and Orphanage at Fatullah in the city after Asr prayers and food will be distributed to

orphans after Zohr prayers.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil

will be held at Raujatul Saleheen



death anniversary of Gazi Rafia Khatun, says a press release. Rafia died a

age of 92, leaving behind five sons and five To observe the day, special prayers and milad mahfil will be

Esha prayers. Friends, well-wishers and relatives have been requested to join

## In Engn M Shahjahan Talks will not be fruitful

dialogue will bring then?" Communications Adviser Ghulam District 315 B-2, Quader said while talking on the fate of the dialogue if the two parties boycott it for not releasing their chiefs to lead their delegation.

Hossain Zillur Rahman said the talks with political parties that begin May 22 would end by June. He said the government would sit with Workers Party, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu)

separately. The Awami League yesterday received official invitation to join the dialogue.

At the Secretariat yesterday morning, Ghulam Quader replied to a number of queries from newsmen about the political dialogue, especially the issues to come up in the national charter and release of the two former premiers.

who were assigned to conduct the pre-dialogue talks. signed on receipt of consent from all [participants of the dialogue]," he said when asked about the charter

had mentioned in his May 12 address need for adopting a national charter to establish a proper and fair electoral

framework "which will help launch a Meanwhile, Commerce Adviser healthy and stable democratic process in the country". Quader said the issues to come up in the charter would include how the government will run after the elections, a decision regarding hartal and problems of economy. "Decisions

will be taken after discussion with

all," he added. On the demand for release of former prime ministers Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia, he said, "The political parties have to realise that there are legal procedures [for this]."

The Workers Party, Bikalpadhara and JSD-Inu will be the first three political parties to sit in the dialogue Quader is one of the five advisers with the government and Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman said, "The three parties have responded to the "The national charter will be a invitation and sent us their delegation lists. We hope to finish the talks with them by May 25."

Zillur said they are preparing the

basis of responses from the parties. When reminded of the uncer-The chief adviser had stressed the tainty about major political parties' participation, Zillur expressed hope,

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed schedules of the dialogue on the

would make it a success. "Once the dialogue begins, it will help create an atmosphere of trust...We believe the political parties are eager to work out solutions to the crises facing the nation," he said.

saying participating in the dialogue

While the talks with these three parties will be bilateral, the government is collecting information if other political parties want to sit together, Zillur said. ALRECEIVES INVITATION

The AL yesterday received caretaker government's official invitation for dialogue. The letter issued from the chief adviser's office asked the AL to send five to seven names of party representatives within a week to sit for the dialogue with the govern-

AL acting general secretary Syed Ashraful Islam received the invitation, which makes no mention of specific date and place for the talks, at about 11 am at his NAM flat.



offered at the Gazi Bhaban auditorium at Naya Paltan in the city after

the prayers.