

# End dialogue soon to hold polls within timeframe

## Dr Kamal urges govt

UNB, Dhaka

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said the government's dialogue with political parties should find a quick finale in order to hold the national elections within the declared timeframe.

He called on the caretaker government to complete the ongoing trial of the corrupt as soon as possible as per the law of the land as the previous governments had remained inactive towards curbing corruption.

"The election should not be delayed and the dialogue process has to be completed quickly to hold the election in the specified time," said Dr Kamal, also an eminent jurist, in reply to a question at an opinion exchange meeting at his Bailey Road residence.

Gono Forum organised the meeting with teachers' representa-

tives from the city's non-government schools and colleges.

Dr Kamal, one of the proponents of massive socio-political reforms in the interim period, presided over the meeting.

Describing the government's ongoing dialogue with the political parties as a democratic process, he said the dialogue should not be disrupted, as the opinions of all parties would be known to all through the talks.

"If the process of dialogue is disrupted, the objective of the election can be disrupted," he said replying to a question.

Awami League and BNP have taken an identical stance that they wouldn't go to the dialogue or election unless their detained party chiefs and former premiers -- Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia -- were set free to lead their

respective sides.

Gono Forum president also said meaningful changes in different arenas through mopping up corruption, partisanship, terrorism and use of black money would come through a free and fair election. "Our aim is to get a free and fair election held."

Dr Kamal said the people would choose their representatives to determine their future through election. "The eight crore voters will choose the representatives to determine the fates of the 15 crore people of the country."

He stressed the need for creating awareness among the people about their rights and also emphasised empowering them to build a consensus on national interests. "This initiative should be taken to protect the greater interest of all."

## 123 students expelled on first day of HSC exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 123 examinees were expelled on charges of cheating in English first paper examination on the first day of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent Alim and Business Management examinations yesterday.

Three teachers were also expelled for abetting the students in cheating.

According to sources at the HSC examination control room, three examinees were expelled under Dhaka Board, 15 under Rajshahi Board, six under Jessore Board, two under Chittagong Board, three under Comilla Board, seven under Barisal Board and two under Sylhet Board.

Besides, 71 examinees under Technical Education Board and 14 under Madrasa Education Board were also expelled.

A teacher under Rajshahi Education Board and two other teachers under Technical Education Board were expelled for assisting students in the cheating, the sources added.

Meanwhile, our Sirajganj correspondent said Belkuchi Upazila Nirbahi Officer Khairul Alam allegedly assaulted college teacher Sushil Kumar while the latter was discharging his duties at Belkuchi Degree College centre.

Sirajganj Belkuchi College Teachers' Association yesterday declared that they would refrain from their duties unless the UNO is stripped of his responsibilities at the centre and given exemplary punishment.

## Alleged criminal killed in encounter with Rab in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal was killed in an 'encounter' between his accomplices and Rab in the capital's Adabar early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Manik Khan, 29, of Mohammadpur in the city.

Rab-2 officials said Rab members challenged a group of youths who were roaming suspiciously on Road-14 at Adabar at about 2:30am.

They youths suddenly opened fire on the law enforcers, prompting them to retaliate.

Manik was killed in the encounter while his cohorts managed to escape.

Rab recovered two revolvers and two rounds of bullet from the scene.

Rab said Manik had been accused in three cases on different charges including murder.

Manik's uncle Shahjahan said Manik, who was once a rice trader at the Camp Bazar in Mohammadpur, later became a member of a criminal gang.



Professor Kabir Chowdhury, centre, launches a book of memoirs by poet Mahbub Ul Alam Chowdhury -- 'Smritir Sandhane' -- at its publication ceremony at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. On his left are Prof Rafiqul Islam and writer Selina Hossain and on his right are Mahbubul Haider and writer Hasnat Abdul Hai.

## Allocate special funds for local govt in budget

### Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged the caretaker government to allocate special funds in the national budget for strengthening the local government and decentralising its activities.

They also called on the government to make public all the initiatives for the reforms of the local government, saying that good governance would not be established without the participation of common people in the process.

The Governance Coalition organised the roundtable on 'Local government and its reform' at Cirdap auditorium in the capital. Representative of 27 non-government organisations took part in the roundtable.

Speaking as the chief guest, Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) President Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad called for allocation of special funds in the national budget for the local government.

He also said that the local government would not be strengthened if the proposed commission act just as an advisory committee.

Justice Golam Rabbani said the caretaker government should

bring about reforms in the local government with a view to empowering common people.

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Director General M Khairul Kabir said the local government commission should be a truly independent body so that the central government cannot interfere in its activities.

DemocracyWatch Executive

Director Taleya Rehman, human rights activist Sarder M Asaduzzaman, Steps Towards Development Executive Director Ranjan Karmaker, Nari Uddug Kendra Executive Director Mashuda Khatun Shefali and Governance of Coalition Project Coordinator M Abdus Shukur also spoke at the roundtable presided over by Governance Coalition Coordinator Mahsin Ali.

# Provide job opportunities for char dwellers

## Experts tell govt at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should introduce an array of job opportunities in char areas in a bid to change the lot of the char dwellers, speakers suggested at a seminar yesterday.

They also urged the government and development organisations to introduce crop varieties that grow well in char lands.

The Institute of Microfinance organised the seminar titled 'The Wretched of the Earth: A Look into the Dimensions of Poverty in Island and Chars of Northern Bangladesh' at PKSF Auditorium in the city.

Five to six millions of people live in char areas, of which 77 percent are extremely poor, the speakers said.

"We know that rice doesn't grow well in char lands, but there are many crop varieties which grow in plenty in those areas. The persons and organisations concerned should take initiative for growing the char-friendly varieties," said Dr Mahabub Hossain, an expert in agriculture economics.

Contract farming is also needed in collaboration with NGOs and development organisations, which will help the char farmers to ensure good production and market access, suggested Hossain, also the executive director of BRAC and member of the Governing Body of InM, an independent research and training organisation.

The incidence of poverty at the national level stands at 43.8 percent, while in the char areas the rate is 86.4 per cent, said Prof Atiur Rahman, professor at the

department of Development Studies of Dhaka University, in his keynote presentation at the seminar.

He also said that in the char areas 61 percent people suffer from food insecurity occasionally while 31 percent people face food scarcity round the year.

He urged the government to formulate a separate Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper (PRSP) for the well-being of char people, as the national PRSP fails to conceive the nature of their problems.

Prof MA Baqui Khalily, executive director of InM, also spoke at the function.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 38.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.9 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:41pm today and rises at 5:11am 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	35.0	25.2	78	65
Chittagong	31.5	24.3	76	82
Rajshahi	37.8	27.9	77	54
Khulna	37.3	27.5	77	62
Barisal	35.0	27.4	79	70
Sylhet	29.5	22.9	91	77
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.0	75	76

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#### Programme Schedule: Dhaka

**Individual Counselling:** 3rd June 2008, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm  
Meeting Room, British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka

**Seminar:** 3rd June 2008, 5.30 pm, Meghna, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka

**Open Day:** 6th June 2008, 10.00 am to 3.30 pm, Surma, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka

**Interviews:** 8th June 2008, 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Bangladesh Liaison Office, London Metropolitan University

#### Programme Schedule: Chittagong

**Individual Counselling:** 7th June 2008, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

**Seminar:** 7th June 2008, 3.30 pm

**Venue:** Auditorium, British Council Chittagong, 77/A East Nasirabad (Behind Chittagong Shopping Complex), Chittagong

#### For further information and appointments:

**Bangladesh Liaison Office:** Room L 361, 2nd Floor, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka 1215  
**Direct:** 0088 02 9122404, **Facsimile:** 0088 02 9121028, **Mobile:** 0088 01919101234  
**Email:** bangladesh@londonmet.ac.uk

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#### Appointments also available at:

British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka 1000, Direct: 8618905-7, 8618867-8  
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Date: 31 May 2008 (2.30 pm - 6.30 pm) :

Dhaka British Council Teaching Centre, 754b Shatmosjid Road, Dhanmondi.

Center for Foreign Studies (CFS)

1/12, Lalmitia, Block-C, (2nd floor), Dhaka-1207  
Phone: 8159612, 0199121331, 01922594037, 01922594038  
email: info@cfs-world.com www.cfs-world.com

## HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, DHAKA ESTABLISHMENT SECTION

### Sale of old office equipment and furniture / furnishings

The High Commission of India, Dhaka invites sealed bids for sale of its old office equipment and furniture / furnishings on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". The items would be on display at Plot No. 2A, United Nation Road, Baridhara, Dhaka on June 3 & 4, 2008 between 10 AM and 4 PM. The prospective buyers can submit their bids in the office of Head of chancery on June 3 & 4, 2008 (between 10 AM and 4 PM) and on June 5, 2008 (between 10 AM and 12 PM). The bids shall be submitted alongwith cash deposit of Tk. 5000/- representing refundable earnest money. The quotations shall be opened in the presence of all the participating bidders at 12 PM on 5th June, 2008. The successful bids would be announced at 3 PM and the bidder shall have to pay the final amount after deducting the earnest money latest by 5 PM on 5 June, 2008. It is mandatory that the successful bidder makes arrangement for removal of the various items from the Mission premises latest by 5 PM on 6th June, 2008. The High Commission reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without assigning any reason thereto.

Head of Chancery



## Search for future leaders.....

### Job Opportunity:

BRAC, a non-profit development organization currently employs more than 57,000 staff to implement multifaceted development programs including micro-finance, education, health, social development and human rights and legal services. BRAC also operates in a number of countries in Asia and Africa. Under its leadership development program, BRAC will recruit a number of **young professionals** who will be trained to take up mid-level management positions for its operation in Bangladesh and abroad. Selected candidates will undergo training for a period of two years including a research internship program under the supervision of the Research and Evaluation Division of BRAC. After completion of training, Young Professionals will work for a minimum of two years at the district level as BRAC Local Representatives to maintain liaison with government officials and Regional Managers of BRAC, in order to gain deeper understanding of rural development issues and operations of BRAC at the field level. They will then be eligible to take up mid-level management positions in the Headquarter in Dhaka and BRAC international operations.

### Educational Requirements:

Graduates from any reputed public and private universities in Bangladesh or abroad with first class degrees in bachelor and masters or CGPA 3.3 and above.

### Age Limit: Maximum 27 Years

### Salary and terms of employment:

Successful candidates will receive a remuneration of Taka 25,000/- per month during the period of training and will sign an indemnity bond to serve BRAC for at least two years after completion of training.

If you feel you are the right person for this position please send your CV with a Photocopy of SSC Certificate, telephone number, two recent passport size color photographs and a cover letter expressing why you are interested to make a career in BRAC to **RS&P Section, BRAC-HRD, BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 by June 30, 2008.** You can also send your CV to **recruitment@brac.net**

Please mention the name of the position and ad#31/08 on top of the envelope. the application. Only short-listed candidates will be communicated. To know more about BRAC, Please visit **www.brac.net**

Applications from women and people from ethnic minorities and of different abilities are encouraged