

# Consult constitution to avoid mistakes

Justice Rabbani urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Mohammad Ghulam Rabbani yesterday called on all concerned, including the chief adviser (CA) of the caretaker government to read the constitution at least for three times to avoid mistakes.

"Mistakes are being made in all activities of the government since it is not consulting the constitution. So I urge all including the chief adviser to read the constitution at least for three times before doing anything to avoid mistakes," he said while presiding over a seminar.

The seminar titled 'Dialogue, reform, national unity and trial of war criminals' was organised by Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee at WVA auditorium in the city.

Journalist Shahriar Kabir, acting president of the committee, said

the trial of war criminals has become a mass demand but no initiative has so far been taken for trying them.

He said the CA did not say anything about the trial in his televised address to the nation, and the issue is also ignored in the ongoing dialogue.

Neutrality of the government is now under question, he said, adding, the war criminals, fundamentalist groups and people appointed in the civil administration on partisan ground remain untouched.

"Free, neutral and acceptable election is not possible without eliminating the partisan people from the civil administration," he said.

The government and political parties should reach consensus on the issues of war criminals' trial, women development policy and Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Treaty, he added.

Prof Ajoy Roy, president of Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minority, demanded ban on communal and religion-based politics.

He urged the political parties not to nominate any people involved in mass killing or war crimes.

Noted historian Prof Muntasir Mamun, also vice-president of the committee, said it is possible to try the war criminals if we boycott them in all sectors.

Ayesha Khanam, vice-president of the committee, said the government is playing a 'mysterious role' on women development issue.

It seems that the government is hostage to some fundamentalist groups, she added.

Committee Vice-presidents Shaheedjaya Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury and Ferdousi Priya Bhashini, and committee General Secretary Kazi Mukul also spoke.

# 50-day road show opens

UNB, Dhaka

A road show, styled 'Let's build a new Bangladesh', started from the capital yesterday in order to encourage all classes of people, including farmers, to boost production and fight corruption.

Agriculture Adviser CS Karim formally inaugurated the road show, which will travel to 55 districts in next 50 days and then return to the capital. Eleven trucks joined the road show.

The slogans of the road show include more production to meet the food deficit, fighting corruption, free and fair election, and installing honest leadership.

Inaugurating the road show, the adviser said the programme is designed to express gratitude to the farmers for bumper Boro production this year, encourage them to pull out all the stops for more production next year and cultivate arable lands, stamp out corruption and elect honest representatives through the next elections.

During the road show, the organisers will involve common people in the campaign while passing through different districts. Fairs and cultural shows will be arranged to create public awareness to build Bangladesh as a beautiful nation.



Leaders and activists of BNP led by Khandaker Delwar Hossain place wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman in the city yesterday on the occasion of his 27th death anniversary.

# Saarc Food Bank in the offing

Member states can utilise it to face food crisis

UNB, Dhaka

The Saarc Food Bank is likely to be operational soon with the completion of ratification by the member states, reliable sources said.

So far, four member states of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (Saarc) -- Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka -- have ratified the declaration for establishment of the proposed food bank, according to a highly placed source.

Now the declaration is awaiting the ratification by the other Saarc states.

The declaration for establishing a Saarc Food Bank was made at the last Saarc summit in India held on April 3, 2007.

Initially, the idea was to set up a Saarc Food Reserve. But later it was moved to a food bank considering the growing concern about the looming food crisis worldwide.

A diplomatic source said the Saarc food bank would start its operation with a food reserve of two million tonnes of rice and wheat. All the member countries

will contribute to the reserve.

The food will remain in respective storage of the member nations as food stock, which will be designated as Saarc Food Bank.

The idea of Saarc Food bank is that whenever a country of the Saarc faces food shortage, it will have a scope to take food from the designated storage of its own country to face the emergency crisis. If such food is not sufficient to meet its demand, the member country will have an access to take more food from neighbouring Saarc country's designated storage as loan.

For using the food from the Saarc Food Bank, the member countries will not have to pay anything. "The country taking food loan from Saarc Food bank will have to just return the food to the storage after the crisis is over," said the source.

He mentioned that initially, a Saarc Food Security Reserve was established few years back, but that was not operational because of its complicated process and hard conditions.

He said one of the main conditions to utilise the food from the security reserve was to declare national emergency by the member-state. But no government of the member states was found to be willing to declare emergency to utilise the food.

"But when the Saarc chairmanship came to Bangladesh, we took a lead to make it effective and operational by bringing some changes in the conditions. We wanted to relax the procedures and even provide a scope for private sector's participation," said the Bangladeshi diplomat wishing anonymity.

"After our initiative, the Saarc Food bank got full-fledged support in the Delhi Saarc Summit and we're hopeful, the ratification to the food bank by the remaining member countries will be completed within three to four months," he added.

The need for an effective and operational regional food bank came to the spotlight after the recent worldwide food crisis and rising trends in the prices of rice and wheat.

# VoIP equipment seized in Chittagong

BSS, Chittagong

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized huge illegal VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) equipment after conducting a raid at a house at Jamalkhan Bylane of Kotwali Police Station in the port city last night.

The seized VoIP tools have been estimated Tk 3.5 lakh, says a Rab press release.

However, none was arrested in this connection and efforts are continuing to find out those involved in the trade.


Acting on a tip-off, a squad of the elite force seized various types of VoIP equipment from the 3rd floor of a building at 27, Jamalkhan Bylane at around 12:45am.

Rab sources said an underground trade syndicate had been running the illegal business from the location for a long time.


The traders and their employees managed to escape from the place sensing the presence of the law enforcers.






Agriculture Adviser CS Karim inaugurates a road show styled 'Let's build a new Bangladesh' at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.



বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ কমিশন



## মোবাইল ফোন সংযোগ

### রেজিস্ট্রেশন সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সকলেই ইতোমধ্যে অবগত আছেন যে ২৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০০৬ এর আগে কেনা সকল মোবাইল সংযোগের পুনরায় রেজিস্ট্রেশন বাধ্যতামূলক।

**পুনরায় রেজিস্ট্রেশনের শেষ তারিখ ৩১ মে ২০০৮**

এরপর সকল মোবাইল অপারেটরকে রেজিস্ট্রেশন না করা প্রতিটি মোবাইল সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করতে বলা হবে।

তাই প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র নিয়ে এসে আপনার অতি প্রয়োজনীয় মোবাইল সংযোগটি রেজিস্ট্রেশন করে নিন ৩১ মে ২০০৮-এর মধ্যে।

# Addresses not traceable!

## WHY?

Visit [www.chalunews.com](http://www.chalunews.com) to express your views

