

# Establish alternative political force for good governance

Academics, civil society members say at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A strong alternative political force represented by true patriots has to be established in the country to ensure good governance, consolidate democracy and combat corruption, said academics and civil society members at a discussion yesterday.

Some speakers proposed forming a national government while others said those who are contributing immensely to nation building but have remained neglected so far should unite to establish a strong political force in order to rid the nation of politics of corruption.

Dr Raisuddin Foundation organised the discussion titled 'Combating corruption and establishing good governance for national development' at the National Press Club in the capital.

"We are passing through a critical time. Therefore, we should forget

all political divide and form a national government represented by all political parties and members of the civil society at least for five years," said Prof Momtazuddin Bhuiyan, a former teacher of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), in his keynote address.

"If necessary, we can frame laws in this regard. We firmly believe that such national government can help us overcome the crisis and move forward," he said.

There are many thinkers, politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen and professionals who will contribute to nation building under the national government, he hoped.

Prof Momtazuddin also said the present government should formulate stringent laws so that the politicians who were involved in corruption in last 36 years cannot take part in the politics in the next 10 years.

"We have noticed that some

politicians are not repenting for their corruption even after many politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen were arrested and convicted. They believe that they would get back their power after the present government hands over power to the next government. But this should not be allowed," he said.

Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University said there is a consensus among all on the need to remove corrupt people from power, but at the same time they are also not confident about the alternative forces.

"The alternative forces should unite. These forces could be farmers, migrant workers, small and medium enterprises, labour-intensive industries or women," he said.

An alternative platform in the political arena cannot be established without these forces being united, he said, adding that those who have been engaged in looting

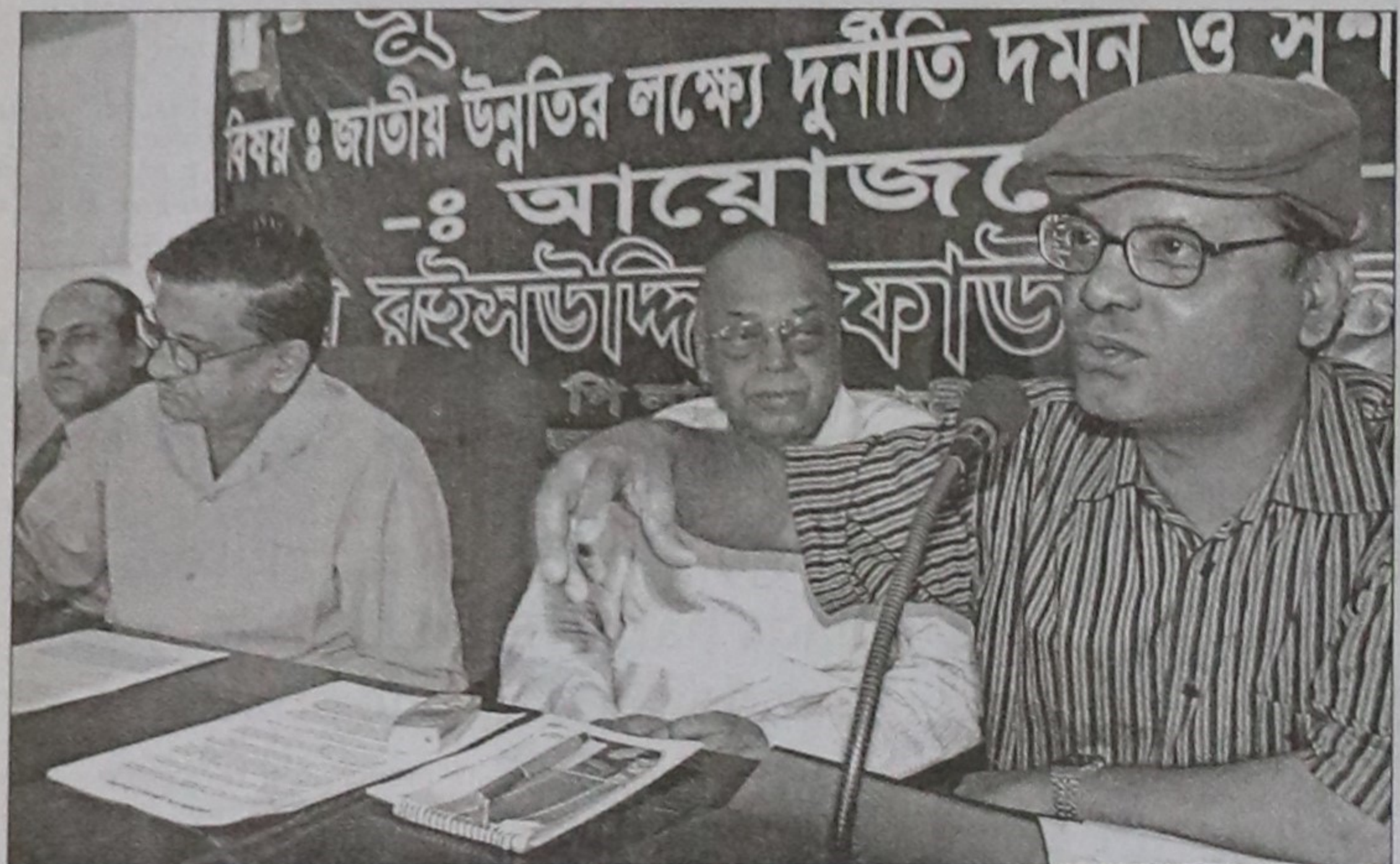
public properties are now in trouble and that a scope has been created to bring about a positive change in society.

But it is not possible to establish democracy and good governance by only putting some people in jail, he said.

Prof Dr Syed Anwar Hossain of Dhaka University said the ongoing anti-corruption drive has become a farce as only a few have been arrested while corruption had taken on massive proportions.

Imposing reforms would not bring any result, he said, adding that qualitative changes are a must for better democracy and good governance.

Dr Raisuddin Ahmad, founder of the Foundation, journalist Ataus Samad and Principal Mia Mohammad Moniruzzaman also spoke at the discussion presided over by Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque.



Prof MM Akash speaks at a discussion at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are journalist Ataus Samad, Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque and Dr Raisuddin Ahmad.

## Criminal killed in gunfight with Rab in Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A notorious leader of a gang of robbers was killed in a gunfight with the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the Sundarbans last night.

The dead was identified as Taslimuddin, 40, the leader of the notorious Taslim Bahini.

The gunfight between Rab members and accomplices of Taslim took place during a special combing operation in the Sundarbans at around 7:15pm, according to Rab-6.

The Rab also recovered nine foreign firearms and ammunition from his possession.

Taslim was wanted in over a hundred of several criminal cases, including murder, extortion, abduction and robbery, the Rab said.

Rab-6 had been continuing the combing operation in the Sundarbans as of 8:15 last night.

According to a source, Taslimuddin, who was known as 'BDR Taslim', was arrested on Sunday morning from his father-in-law's house at Akhaura in Brahmanbaria.

## Pvt varsity officials sued for violating UGC rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An official of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh yesterday filed a case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) court against chairman of the West Coast Panama University Bangladesh Centre in Khulna city and thirteen others.

UGC official SM Khanjahan Ali filed the case against Md Akbar Hossain, chairman of West Coast Panama University Bangladesh Centre and 13 others for illegally running the university.

The complainant stated in his petition that they have been running the university without permission of the UGC, which violates section 20(D)1 of the private university ordinance.

They did not stop running the university despite an order issued earlier by the UGC, the complainant said in his petition.

The CMM after hearing on the petition has asked the officer-in-charge of Sonadanga Police Station to enquire into the allegation and submit a report on findings within one month.

The other defendants are vice-chairman of the university Akhter Hossain, Secretary Prof Khalilur Rahman and Regional Director A Parche.

## Call to introduce nursing courses at private varsities

The Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) of Dhaka University in collaboration with DRC on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty organised a national consultation on Institutional and Regulatory Reforms for Training of Nurses for Overseas Employment at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Health Adviser Dr AMM Shawkat Ali attended the programme as chief guest while Dr Mohammed Farashuddin, the founder vice-chancellor of East West University, was in the chair.

Dr Tasneem Siddiqui, professor of political science department and executive member of RMMRU, and Margaret Appiah of the University of Ghana presented the keynote paper.

The programme was attended by the representatives of various nursing institutes, private universities, ministry officials, Baira and international organisations working in this sector.

In his speech, Dr Shawkat noted that there is a great demand for nurses in Bangladesh and abroad.

Highlighting the government's initiative, he said over the last couple of years the government has amended the guidelines for establishing nursing institutes and the guidelines for introducing nursing courses at the private initiative.

The adviser mentioned that there is no bar on the private universities in introducing the BSc in nursing, and he suggested offering scholarships to students to meet the

cost of education in the private universities.

He concluded by saying that his ministry has already decided to constitute a task force to remove the existing gap in demand and supply of nurses both at home and abroad.

In their keynote presentations, Dr Tasneem Siddiqui and Margaret Appiah stated that the global demand for nurses is increasing as the aging population in the West is on the increase and drastic fall in enrollment of nurses.

To avail of this huge opportunity, Bangladesh should take necessary steps in producing high quality nurses.

They stressed that Bangladesh can take lessons from the Philippines and Ghana in this respect.

They recommended that both public and private sector should come forward with massive investment in this sector.

They also suggested formation of an inter-ministerial and inter-agency sub-committee along with the representation from private universities and experts to develop a five-year action plan to access the global market of care-givers.

In his address, Dr Farashuddin observed that current infrastructural requirements are more of hindrance rather than encouragement.

He stressed on making the infrastructural requirement more flexible for introducing courses on nursing at the private universities.

## ACC to lay 'traps' to catch bribe takers

UNB, Dhaka

Intensifying its drive against corrupt officials, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has decided to lay traps to catch bribe-takers red-handed in places where bribing is rampant.

On Friday, an ACC team caught a sub-inspector of Cantonment Police Station red-handed using trap as he was taking Tk 5,000 in bribe from an accused in a case the SI was investigating.

Referring to the decoy, ACC Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal told the commission's regular briefing, "The commission is of the opinion that traps should be carried out at different times."

Hanif, also the commission spokesperson, said to conduct a trap the approval of an ACC commissioner, one team and inventory of money and two neutral witnesses will be used.

The director general said the ACC will not confine its activities to inquiries, investigations and charge sheets. It will also deal with others offences under its schedules, he said.

## Rab seizes G-3 rifle, ammo in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered one G-3 rifle with 80 bullets and ten guns from Hathazari and Rangunia upazilas in separate raids early yesterday.

Sources said a Rab team, acting on a tip-off, raided Syedpara in Mirzapur union of Hathazari upazila at around 2:30am and found the abandoned G-3 rifle, 80 bullets and a magazine.

No one has been arrested in this connection.

Rab sources said the G-3 rifle is a more sophisticated weapon and can fire 30 to 35 rounds of bullet per second through its automatic shoot option, they said.

It can hit a target to a distance of 1000 to 1,000 metres, the sources said.

"The G-3 rifle used to be manufactured in Germany but now it is also made in Pakistan. We are trying to find out how the weapon landed in the hands of any terrorist gang in Chittagong," Major Sheikh Ruhul Amin, deputy commandant of the Rab, told reporters.

Another Rab team recovered a sten gun with four bullets, all wrapped in polythene, from a remote place at Mohajnapara in Rangunia upazila at around 1:30 am yesterday.

## Appeal for help



Dr A K M Shaheen Akber, a medical officer at dental department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), is suffering from rectal cancer.

He is now under the treatment of Prof Dr Zahidul Haque at Room No 406 of the Cabin Block of the university.

The carcinoma is fast spreading to adjoining parts of his body.

If treated in time, the cancer can be contained, or even cured.

But a young professional, he cannot afford the colossal treatment cost.

So he has appealed to his friends from Dhaka College '92 Batch, Dhaka Dental College and philanthropists of the society for financial assistance.

Contributions can be sent to his bank account: SB 12834, Pubali Bank, Shahbagh Avenue Branch, Dhaka.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed holds talks with the representatives of pourasava, city corporation and union parishad as part of the on-going national dialogue.

## WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SECTOR Proposed nat'l budget fails to meet expectations

Speakers tell press confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday said the proposed national budget for 2008-09 fiscal has failed to meet the expectations of the water supply and sanitation sector.

They said this sector needs to be brought under a separate budget line in the national budget.

The press conference was organised by the representatives of the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity to make an analysis of the fund allocation in the draft national budget for this sector.

Country Representative of Water Aid Bangladesh, Dr Khairul Islam presented the keynote paper in which he urged the government for specific allocation in the budget for local government bodies to manage water supply and sanitation.

He said the approved social development programme shows Tk 2674 crore as annual sector investment requirement, but the ADP (Annual Development Programme) allocates only Tk 774 crore.

This allocation is 29 percent of the total requirement, he said, urging the government to take initiative to bridge the huge gap of allocation in this sector.

Eminent economist Dr Abul Barakat, who was present at the press conference, said, "Fifty percent of the total population is at the risk of arsenic contamination, and poor people are more vulnerable to this contamination."

He urged the policy makers, politicians and civil society members to rethink about the budget for water supply and sanitation.

Dr Barakat suggested the government to impose supplementary duty on tobacco and tobacco products to manage funds for water supply and sanitation sector.

The government can earn Tk 500 crore more each year from this enhanced duty, he said with a call for discarding some unproductive projects to manage the budget deficit for water supply and sanitation.

The speakers however said the approval of 20 percent ADP allocation for meeting the sanitation needs of the hardcore poor is a very timely and progressive step of the government.

They stressed the need for proper monitoring and evaluation system to implement the decision.

They said efforts have to be made for arranging more funds, otherwise there is every possibility that the country will miss the national water supply and sanitation target.

The speakers said the process of formulating the national budget should be more transparent and accountable to the people.

To achieve this objective, they urged the government to ensure massive community participation in it.

## Rajuk chairman transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) and two joint secretaries have received their transfer orders yesterday in the latest reshuffle in the administration.

Rajuk Chairman KAM Haroon (additional secretary) has been transferred to Bangladesh Land Port Authority as its chairman while Joint Secretary of the Cabinet Division Md Shafiqul Islam was made chairman of Rajuk, said an official announcement.

Besides, Joint Secretary of Communications Ministry Safiz Uddin Ahmed was made chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC).

When contacted, Haroon told The Daily Star that he received his transfer order yesterday afternoon and will join his new place once the new Rajuk chairman joins.

## Low over north Bay intensifies

UNB, Dhaka

The low over north Bay and adjoining area intensified into a well marked low over north Bay and adjoining Bangladesh coast and is likely to intensify further.

Under its influence, Squally weather is likely to continue over north Bay and the maritime ports, said a Met office bulletin yesterday.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number three.

All fishing-boats and trawlers over the north Bay and deep sea have been advised to take shelter immediately.

## OIC FMs meet in Kampala tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

The three-day Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will begin in Kampala, Uganda tomorrow.

The meeting will throw light on Islamophobia and review the implementation of 10-year plan of action adopted in the special summit in Mecca in 2005, official sources said yesterday.

The revised charter of the OIC, which was adopted at the Dakar Summit this year, will be open for signature by ministers of the member countries during the CFM, the sources added.

Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossain will lead the Bangladesh delegation in the meeting.

Mosud Mannan, director general (International Organisation) and one director from the International Organisation Desk will be the other members of the delegation.

## JCD demands release of Khaleda, her sons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and activists yesterday formed a human chain in front of the Aparajeya Bangla of Dhaka University demanding unconditional release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her sons Tarique Rahman and Arifat Rahman Koko and their better treatment abroad, says a press release.

JSD Acting President Sultan Salauddin Tuku and General Secretary Shafiqul Bari Babu, Joyanta Kumar Kundu, Nurul Islam Nayan, Shahidul Islam Babul, Mostafa Khan Safari, Ekramul Huq Biplab and Azherul Huq Mukul, Abdul Kader Bhuiyan Jewel and Amirul Islam Khan Alam attended the programme.

They also demanded release of president of the organisation Azizul Bari Helal.

## Obituary



Md Alauddin, one of the activists of the six-point movement and vice president of Bangabandhu Smriti Sangrakkhan Parishad, passed away due to old age complications at his residence in the city yesterday at the age of 71, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four daughters, grand sons and grand daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at the Azimpur graveyard.

President of Bangabandhu Smriti Sangrakkhan Parishad Md Afsar Rahman and General Secretary Md Kashem expressed shock at his death.

## 5 ex-DU teachers to be honoured as Professor Emeritus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Academy Parishad on Sunday selected five prominent former teachers of the university for the honorary title 'Professor Emeritus' for their contribution to teaching and research.

They are Prof Dr A F Serajul Islam Chowdhury of English Department, Prof Dr ATM Anisuzzaman of Bangla Department, Prof Mohammad Kibria of Institute of Fine Arts and Dr Sayed Zahir Haider of Chemistry Department.

The Parishad at a meeting at Dhaka University Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban on Sunday selected them with Vice Chancellor Dr ASM Faiz in the chair.

A four-member committee, including vice-chancellor, dean of the departments concerned or director of the institute and two experts, will examine the recommendations and place it to the syndicate meeting.

According to the guidelines of Dhaka University, the titles are given to the nationally and internationally famous teachers for their contribution to teaching and research.

Prof Dr Mafiz Uddin Ahmed of the Department of Chemistry and Prof Dr Md Abdul Jabbar of Pharmacy Department of the university were awarded the title 'Professor Emeritus' in 1984.

### DHAKA TODAY

**Roundtable**  
Bangladesh Private Clinic and Diagnostic Owners' Association organises a roundtable on 'Role of private hospitals, clinics and diagnostics in health care development of Bangladesh'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

**CPD dialogue**  
Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organises a dialogue on 'State of the Bangladesh economy and budget responses 2009'. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9:30am.

**Video show**  
Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will arrange a video show of Bishnu image of archeological importance. Venue: Asiatic Society auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

**Workshop**  
The inaugural session of the two-day annual research review workshop 2008 of Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) will be held. Venue: BLRI conference hall. Time: 10:00am.

**Book launching**  
The launching ceremony of a book on the Quran, health and long life will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

**Seminar**  
ICDDR,B organises a seminar on 'Bio-fortified sweet potato and kamala sundari for alleviation of vitamin-A deficiency and food security in Bangladesh'. Venue: Sasakawa auditorium, ICDDR,B. Time: 9:00am.

**Workshop**  
Concern Universal-Bangladesh and Terre des Hommes Italy Foundation jointly organise a workshop on 'Rights based and victim centred counter trafficking interventions'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 9:00am.

**Seminar**  
Disaster Management Bureau in association with CDMP will organise a national seminar on 'Combating land degradation for sustainable agriculture'. Venue: LGED Bhaban. Time: 10:00am.

**Roundtable**  
The Editor organises a roundtable on student politics. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

**Rotary Dhaka**  
The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30pm.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Barisal, Khulna and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions, Met Office said.

Day temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country. Highest temperature 36.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.6 degrees Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:48pm 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	32.6	26.5	67	70
Chittagong	29.6	25.4	96	93
Rajshahi	34.1	26.8	80	97
Khulna	31.0	27.0	83	90
Barisal	30.8	26.1	92	93
Sylhet	36.2	26.9	61	99
Cox's Bazar	28.0	24.7	98	94