

Most AL leaders

FROM PAGE 1
The Daily Star last night that the government took both the requests "positively" and assured that those would be considered.

Around 20 ALCWC members spoke at yesterday's three-hour long meeting held at AL President Sheikh Hasina's political office at Dhamondi. AL acting President Zillur Rahman chaired the meeting.

At the meeting a small number of ALCWC members, however, termed the local government polls "stage-managed drama" and suggested not participating in any election under the present caretaker government.

Sources said all the AL leaders opined that the caretaker government must not hold the upazila parishad elections before holding the parliamentary polls.

The meeting was adjourned until 4:00pm today and the AL will make a formal decision at today's meeting.

According to party leaders, at the dialogue the AL will ask the government to create a congenial atmosphere for holding the city corporation and parliamentary elections.

They said the prime conditions for creating such an environment would be complete withdrawal of the state of emergency and unconditional and permanent release of the AL chief who is now in Canada.

AL Commerce and Industry Affairs Secretary Col (retd) Faruk

Khan said, "For the elections the government must create a congenial atmosphere by withdrawing the state of emergency and releasing our party chief permanently and unconditionally."

The AL will also ask the government to hold the parliamentary polls first.

Talking to The Daily Star, a number of AL leaders said they would not take any decision to boycott or resist the local government elections even if their demand is not settled at the dialogue because the grassroots level leaders in the four city corporations and nine municipalities have already made preparations for the polls. It would also be tough to prevent them from contesting the elections, they said.

"Those who will take part in the polls would rather be given green signal," an AL leader told The Daily Star after the ALCWC meeting.

Another AL organising secretary, Abdul Mannan, said they should join the election to see if the government holds the polls in a free and fair manner and also to see the government's intention regarding holding the parliamentary polls.

AL Publicity Secretary Asaduzzaman Noor said on the first list of corruption suspects published by the ACC.

On August 29 last year, a Dhaka court sentenced Alam to 10 years' RI for extorting Tk 20 lakh from a market owner in August, 2003.

Chy Alam

FROM PAGE 1
6 months more in jail.

They are on the run now.

The court also ordered the authorities concerned to confiscate Alam's illegal wealth.

The court acquitted four of his family members as charges against them were not proved, but said that the ACC, which had filed the corruption case, can send notice to them asking for their wealth statements.

The acquitted are Alam's wife Hasina Chowdhury, daughters Mahmuda Akhter Monica and Mahfuzia Akhter Mukta and son-in-law Salim Miah.

Chowdhury Alam was handed down 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for accumulating wealth illegally and three years' simple imprisonment for concealing information about his actual wealth in the wealth statement submitted to the ACC. The sentences will run consecutively.

ACC Assistant Director Abdul Latif filed the case with Khilgaon Police Station on June 13 last year, stating that the ward commissioner made a fortune of over Tk 6.94 crore beyond his known sources of income and concealed information about his property worth about Tk 93.29 lakh.

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Biman

FROM PAGE 1
Bangladesh Biman, MA Momen said the deal with Boeing is a milestone in the history of Biman.

The ceremony was attended by a good number of business people from the US and Bangladesh, congressional aides, high officials from the departments of State, Commerce, Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration, US Trade and Development Agency, and a cross-section of Bangladeshi expatriates.

Boeing on April 22 signed a deal with Boeing to procure eight new aircraft--777-300ERs and four 787-8s--at a cost of Tk 8,728 crore (\$1.26 billion). The deal included an option on purchasing four more planes--two 777-300ERs and two 787-8s.

The same day the national flag carrier also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Boeing on buying two 737-800s. The MoU also had the option on purchasing two more 737-800s.

2,272 schools

FROM PAGE 1
Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB),

The number of schools and madrasas having cent per cent success was 1,429 in 2006 and 537 in 2005, statistics of Education Board Computer Centre show.

Besides, the number of least performing institutions in SSC, Dakhil and SSC (Vocational) exams has also come down to 91 from previous year's 248.

Six schools from Dhaka, eight from Rajshahi, four from Jessor, two from Chittagong, 11 from Barisal, three from Sylhet, 17 under the BTEB and 40 under Madrasa Board failed to have any successful candidate this year.

In Sylhet Board, Blue Bird High School topped the chart in both categories, followed by Jalalabad Cantonment Public School and College and Jalalabad Cantonment High School in pass percentages and by Sylhet Government Pilot High School and Government Agragami Girls' High School in GPA-5.

Based on GPA-5, Barisal Government Girls' High School, Barisal Zilla School and Barisal Cadet College secured the top three places under Barisal Board.

Considering pass percentages, Jhalakathi Government Boys' Secondary School, Bhola Government Secondary School and Barisal Cadet College had the best success rates.

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In the Comilla Board, the number of educational institutions having no success is nil.

The number of least performing schools and madrasas was 193 in 2006, 424 in 2005, 548 in 2004 and 979 in 2003.

The number of expelled examinees has also been falling sharply for the last five years.

A total of 707 students were expelled this year, while the number was 985 last year, 1,291 in 2006, 1,746 in 2005, 3,381 in 2004, and 13,217 in 2003.

FROM PAGE 1
school and in the village is nothing but admiration for Emdad and his son.

Sabir used to walk the seven kilometres to the high school everyday from his home in the village of Gobindpur until a generous neighbour donated him a bicycle.

His poor father could not afford to buy him textbooks but Sabir scavenged through the local old paper recycle shops and bought the sheets of books salvaged from there. His teachers donated him others.

Meanwhile, the ACC is going to file a case against detained Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu for his alleged irregularities in allocating land for construction of shops and markets.

The ACC director general told the press briefing that the commission has approved the filing of the case against Minu, also a former BNP lawmaker.

RCC chief executive officer M Shajahan will also be accused in the case that will be filed under section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

Responding to queries about recent remarks of the home adviser and chairman of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) on serious crimes and corruption, Manif told the briefing that the NCC has been created through a government circular on March 8 last year and its legality has been stated in the circular.

Despite all odds Sabir has come out with flying colours in the exams, but he is wary of his dreams, as he is not sure if his tears that await him in his pursuit of higher studies.

He said as per the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 and Anti-Corruption Commission Rules, 2007, the ACC could seek assistance from any organisation.

Govt wants

FROM PAGE 1
Referring to the achievements of the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government, Khaleda said, "Now the economy has seen a slide and the GDP has come down to 5 percent from 7 percent."

Coming back to local government polls, she said BNP wants other elections too but those will have to be held after the parliament elections.

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Rohingya

FROM PAGE 1
The visit was tentatively scheduled to take place last year but, for unavoidable circumstances, was postponed, according to an official.

But the defence lawyers sought adjournment again, saying the hearing on charge framing would be ineffectual (ineffective) if the HC stays the trial proceeding.

The defence lawyers told the court that they yesterday received the HC order saying the petition would be dealt with when the HC resumes on June 29 after the summer vacation.

The prosecution said the defence can surely go to the higher court but there was no obstacle to opening the case yesterday. They

Govt to beef

FROM PAGE 16
Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and other trade bodies, Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and importers and suppliers of essential commodities.

Noting that coordinated market monitoring can bring down prices of essential commodities to a great extent, the adviser said, "We're going to further strengthen the market monitoring so we could glean market information in advance in order to keep the marketstable," he said.

Pointing to rice-prices differences between the local market and the international market, he said, "Rice prices on the international market are very high, but in Bangladesh they are not so steep."

On food safety, Zillur said the government has 9 lakh tonnes of rice in its warehouses across the country, adding that 3 lakh tonnes more would be imported from India by the end of next month.

"So food reserves are enough to deal with any situation on the local market," he said.

The adviser said the government will prioritise the upcoming Aman cultivation like the Boro crop in order to ensure a bumper harvest.

Pointing to a recent IMF report on wheat prices, he said prices of the corn would go down soon as the prices were increased on speculation.

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SSC exams result

FROM PAGE 1
56,042 students came out successful with pass percentage of 73.00 and 13,679 GPA-5.

In Sylhet Board, 75,209 students or 71.43 percent were successful with 4,079 GPA-5 achievers. Chittagong Board has seen 39,944 examinees passed with success rate of 72.62 percent and 4,316 GPA-5.

In Barisal Board, 33,458 students became successful with pass percentage 68.77, while number of GPA-5 achievers is 1,659. Under Sylhet Board 17,100 students came out successful with the pass percentage of 53.88 and 592 GPA-5.

The madrasa board produced tremendous good results among the nine boards with a pass rate of 82.62 percent. About 1.48 lakh students came out successful and of them, 5.83 percent or 10,526 students obtained GPA-5.

The vocational board scored a pass rate of 62.88 percent. Some 51,801 students passed the exam, while 57 students or 0.7 percent got GPA-5.

Today Sabir is very grateful for all the help and encouragement he received to continue his studies.

His mother, Morzina Begum, told The Daily Star that her husband was often out of work with his pains and Sabir was forced to go out on his fathers van to earn for the family.

Abdul Mazed, acting headmaster of his school, is proud of Sabir whose talent, Mazed says, is God gifted. The school exempted his tuition fees and helped out in other ways.

His teachers say he has been a polite and hard working boy all along.

Sabir wishes to be a doctor in future but for now he wants to study in Notredame College in Dhaka. However he is not sure if poverty will prevent him from doing so.

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Malik powers

FROM PAGE 16
driven by authority.

Malik reached his sixth century, third against India, in one-day internationals off 104 balls. His last one-day century came against India two years ago.

The Indians were scrappy in the field as they let off Malik twice in one over from Yusuf Pathan, first when Chawla grassed one with the batsman on 116 and then Gautam Gambhir five runs later.

Malik finally retired hurt after suffering cramp in his leg. He hit 16 boundaries and his five boundaries during his 60-ball knock.

Younis followed him in the next over when he holed out off Yusuf in the deep. He hit five boundaries during his 60-ball knock.

Both Pakistan and India crushed Hong Kong in their earlier matches to qualify for the Super League stages.

82pc pass Dakhil

FROM PAGE 16
terms of GPA 5 achievers among nine education boards.

The number of male students having GPA 5 under the Madrasa Board stands at 8,003 while 2,523 female students secured GPA 5 under the board this year.

When the court asked the prosecution to open the case the defence said, "If you [the judge] open the case in this way, it might seem to us that we will not get justice from you."

After about 30 minutes of heated exchanges, the court adjourned the hearing on charge framing and fixed July 7 as the next date for.