

## Bangladesh fails to restore CPA membership

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh failed in its appeal to restore its membership in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) as the parliamentary government has not yet been resumed.

Delegates at the general assembly of the 54th CPA conference in Kuala Lumpur voted against the appeal, according to a report released by the Malaysian based Staronline.

The report said Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar made the appeal against the decision of executive committee of the CPA to place it in abeyance since April 7 last year pending the resumption of parliamentary government.

The committee placed the Bangladesh branch in abeyance as its branch ceased to function as a parliamentary body.

The Parliament of Bangladesh was dissolved in October 2006 and polls were scheduled for January 22 last year. However, the election was postponed pending reforms to the political and electoral system and the caretaker government announced that voting would be held by December this year.

In a statement, the executive committee said it was likely that the parliamentary government would resume in 2009 and it would then be able to return the Bangladesh CPA branch to full active status.

## Sylhet local body elections were free, fair

Says Democracywatch

BSS, Dhaka

Democracywatch, a leading election monitoring organisation, yesterday said the local body elections in Sylhet were held in a free, fair and peaceful atmosphere.

It said the elections were held with the spontaneous participation of all, a press release said.

Democracywatch, which deployed 380 stationary observers on behalf of Election Working Group (EWG), covered 380 booths

and 65 centres in Sylhet City Corporation.

Besides, a group of mobile observers covered 30 other centres to monitor the election environment, voting and counting process as well as to act as a civil society watchdog build public confidence in this historic election.

About 99 per cent observers of Democracy watch reported that voter's did not face any obstruction on way to their polling centres to cast their votes, the release added.



BNP leaders and activists gather in the Sangsad Bhaban area in the city yesterday after rumour had it that party Chairperson Khaleida Zia would be released.

## 30th meeting of CPD Board of Trustees held

METRO DESK

The 30th meeting of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) was held at CPD Dialogue Room yesterday, says a press release.

The Board reviewed CPD's research, publication and dialogue activities at national, regional and international levels during the period January-July 2008.

The Board expressed its satisfaction over the performance of the CPD in this period.

BOT approved CPD's half yearly accounts for the year 2008 and the revised budget for the year 2008.

The meeting also discussed and approved its research, dialogue and publication plan for the rest of the year 2008. In this connection, the BOT members advised CPD to undertake research in a number of areas, including food security and energy, problems of migrant workers and monetary policy.

Presided over by Rehman Sobhan, chairman, CPD, the meeting was attended by CPD Trustee Syed Manzur Elahi, chairman, APEX Tannery; Nurul Haq, former member, Planning Commission; Khushi Kabir, coordinator, Nijera Kori; M Syeduzzaman, former finance minister, Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, managing director, Grameen Bank and Mustafizur Rahman, executive director, CPD and member secretary of the CPD Board.

Anisulul Fatema Yousuf, director, Dialogue and Communication Division, CPD, attended the meeting on invitation.

## MD COURSE IN CCM AT BIRDEM

### Death of critical patients to reduce, hope experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctor of Medicine (MD) course in Critical Care Medicine (CCM) was introduced at Birdem hospital in the city yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion at Birdem auditorium, the experts said the CCM is a new development in medical science where special care is provided for patients with potentially reversible and life threatening conditions.

The CCM can go a long way in reducing death of critical patients and preventing irreparable damage to vital organs of patients in hospitals, they said.

The qualified CCM specialists can take urgent decisions under any emergency situations and assume the primary responsibilities of the patients, they added.

The speakers said in developed countries the CCM has been operational for a long time easing hassles of patients in hospitals.

They said the CCM is a procedure-oriented specialty involving intensive care, observation and sophisticated treatment with a view to revert critically ill patients to normal life.

A qualified critical care specialist who is also often termed as "intensivist" serves as a team leader of specialist doctors in discharging treatment to a patient suffering from multi-organ failure or dysfunction as this treatment needs medical reports of different specialties like cardiology, nephrology, infectious diseases, pulmonology and neurosurgery, said the speakers.

MD course in CCM will bring a new horizon in professional skills, they said, adding that the CCM department of Birdem will conduct the course.

Birdem Director General Maj Gen (ret'd) Prof Ziauddin Ahmed presided over the programme where Prof MO Faruq, head of the CCM department, delivered the welcome address.

President of Bangladesh Diabetic Association Prof AK Azad Khan, Principal of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital Prof Kazi Deen Mohammad, Chairman of the Board of Management of Birdem Prof Hazera Mahtab, and

Prof AKM Nurnabi Chowdhury, head of Anaesthesiology department of Birdem also spoke on the occasion.

## Manjurul, Mujahidul CPB president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manjurul Ahsan Khan was re-elected president and Mujahidul Islam Selim general secretary of the 51-member central executive committee of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at the 9th national congress of the party in the city yesterday.

The newly elected central committee declared the names of seven members of presidium committee, four members of control commission and 191 members of Jatiya Parishad at the three-day congress at Mohanagar Natya Mancha, says a press release.

Presidium members are Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Shahidullah Chowdhury, Md Shah Alam, Sayeed Abu Zafar Ahmed, Shahadat Hossen and Sheikh Moniruzzaman, while control commission members are Shishir Majumdar, Morshed Ali, Md Nabi and Shah Abdul Motaleb.

Other members of the central committee are Jasim Uddin, Hena Das, MM Akas, Mrinal Chowdhury, Shamsuzzaman Selim, Azharul Islam, Rafiquzzaman Layek, Shaheen Rahman, advocate Montu Ghosh, Enamul Huq, Dr Dibalok Singh, Mahub Alam, Ruhin Hossain Prince, Ahsan Habib Lablu, Sajjad Jahir Chandra, AN Rasheda, Biplob Chaki, advocate Emdadul Huq Millad, Altaf Hossain, Mostafizur Rahman Milon, Akhter Hossen Raja, Shahidul Islam, Lina Chakrabarti, Rebeka Soren, Monira Begum, Abdul Kader, Dr Fazlur Rahman, Abdullah-hel-Kafi Ratan, Sayeed Ahmed, Mihir Ghosh, Md Hanif AK Azad, Idris Ali and Dewan Badiuzzaman.

## 'Dowry degenerates self-dependent attitude of men'

METRO DESK

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said dowry is a social malady that degenerates the self-dependent attitude of men and this practice hinders a good relationship between the provider and receiver.

They further said dowry system creates problems between the families and within the society, says a press release.

Matador Director R Jamir said,

"Every year this practice causes a number of women to live a degraded life."

Speaking as the chief guest, he said this at the seminar organised by Rainbow Nari O Shishu Kalyan Foundation in the city with an aim at creating awareness about the dowry system.

Representative from Qatar Charity Found Md Sohel Alam and PKSF representative Rashal Md Iqbal Khan were present at the

seminar as the special guests.

Rainbow Director Md Altaf Hossain Mahabul presented a keynote paper at the seminar.

PPRC Scientific Officer Md Mizanur Rahman, Chairman of Rainbow Kazi Nafisa Sultana and social worker Mahub Alam also spoke at the seminar.

People of all walks of life from Lalbagh, Hajiribagh and Kamrangirchar areas participated in the seminar.

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