

Emergency no problem for next polls

Says Hafiz

UNB, Dhaka

Reformist BNP leader Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed yesterday said he sees no problem with the next elections being held under the state of emergency.

"The state of emergency could be a problem for the candidates who want to use black money and muscle power in elections. I think there would be no problem if the state of emergency remains in place during the elections," he told reporters at his Banani residence.

The statement from a former BNP lawmaker, came at a time when major political parties, including BNP, have renewed the demand for the withdrawal of emergency in the run-up to the next elections.

Hafiz referred to the recent statement of the chief election

commissioner that they did not get clean and competent candidates as expected in the August 4 elections. "Black money had an influence on this election. But, I hope, it won't have any influence on the next elections," he said.

He echoed similar views expressed by reformist BNP leader Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan recently that their party has fallen behind because it avoided taking part in the August 4 elections to four city corporations and nine municipalities.

"I think, the BNP has fallen behind for not taking part in this election. I personally think the party should contest all elections," Hafiz said.

The BNP leader also said he wants the national elections to be held first, as all major political parties have been demanding so.

Replying to a query on possible release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, he said there was no discussion between him and the government side about the process. "But I demand unconditional release of Begum Khaleda Zia," he said.

About the 72-hour ultimatum given by BNP Secretary General Khondaker Delwar Hossain for the release of Khaleda, he said there was no need for such strong words, since the government has already said she would be freed soon.

Maj (ret'd) Hafiz also said they wanted "one BNP... we (reformists) have almost stopped our activities so that there remains one BNP."

He added: "We are waiting for the release of Khaleda. There is misunderstanding among us, but everything will be clear after her release."

Sri Lankan navy chief passes busy day

UNB, Dhaka

Sri Lankan Navy Chief Vice Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda passed a busy day by participating in different programmes yesterday.

The Sri Lankan Navy Chief laid wreath at 'Shikha Anirban' to pay tributes to the memory of the members of Armed Forces martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Wasantha called on Navy Chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam at Naval Headquarters, said an ISPR press release.

He exchanged discussed matters of professional interest with the Bangladesh navy chief.

Earlier, on his arrival at the Naval Headquarters the Sri Lankan navy chief was presented a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out naval contingent.

Wasantha paid a courtesy call on Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal S M Ziaur Rahman at Air Headquarters and Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division Lt Gen Md Abdul Mubeen at AFD.

Later, Vice Admiral Wasantha visited Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation and Training (BIPSOT) at Rajendrapur Cantonment in Gazipur.

Release Khaleda, send Tarique abroad for treatment: JCD

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of BNP, staged a demonstration on Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday demanding unconditional release of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

They also demanded that the government send Tarique Rahman abroad for better treatment.

JCD leaders and activists brought out a protest procession from Madhu's Canteen at around 12:00noon that paraded different streets on the campus and held a rally at the footstep of Aparajeyo Bangla.

Leaders at the rally alleged that despite their repeated

demand for the release of Khaleda and Tarique, the government is yet to take any specific step to this end, rather it is hatching conspiracy against BNP and Khaleda.

They demanded specific date and steps for the release of Khaleda and Tarique and threatened to force tougher movement across the country if their demands are not met immediately.

Talking to The Daily Star, JCD President Azizul Bari Helal said they would not accept any sort of dialogue or election in the country without Khaleda.

JCD General Secretary Safiul Bari Babu, DU unit President Hasan Mamun and General Secretary Saiful Islam Feroz also took part at the programme.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT Give priority to earthquake issue: Adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food and Disaster Management Adviser Dr AMM Shaukat Ali yesterday stressed the need to give priority to the earthquake issue while formulating the Disaster Management Act-2008.

As earthquake is now frequently jolting the country, this issue should be considered with priority during the formulation of the act, the adviser said at a national workshop on 'Disaster Management Act-2008' at Biam auditorium in the city.

He also said that the draft law has too many provisions, which should be curtailed.

The Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) in association with UNDP organised the workshop.

Director General of Disaster Management Bureau KH Masud Siddiqui said a national disaster volunteer force would be formed under the act who would help the victims during any disasters.

Joint Secretary of Food and Disaster Management Ministry Md Shafiqul Islam and Assistant Country Representative of UNDP Md Tariqul Islam also spoke.

Mobile courts fine food outlets Tk 2.35 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five mobile courts, jointly operated by Dhaka City Corporation and Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI), yesterday in several drives in business establishments realised Tk 2.35 lakh as fine for adulteration in food and cheating in weight.

The mobile courts conducted the drives at various shops, hotels, restaurants and bakeries at Gulshan, Khilkhet, Cantonment area, Kamrangirchar, Jatrabari, Kotwali, Mirpur, Kafur and Tejgaon in the city.

Shah Alam's Tk 498cr

FROM PAGE 1

Agency is authorised to dig into the wealth corrupt-suspects have whitened so far.

"Almost every corrupt-suspect accused by ACC has taken benefits under the sections and SROs and we're unable to take action against them. The government offered them a chance and they utilised it," says ACC Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam.

"You'll find varied interpretations of the laws passed with the spirit to encourage investment in business and create employment opportunities."

The governments offered the opportunity and people just seized it," comments another ACC Public Prosecutor advocate Syed Shamim Ahsan.

"We can't do anything when different governments gave them opportunities to whiten black money and they did it legally," ACC Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Iqbal told The Daily Star.

"We're following the existing laws. We can't bypass the law when it restricts us to go into some matters," Hanif said, adding they don't have any plan to go to the higher court to get direction in this regard.

Lawyers however underline the necessity of directives or interpretations by the apex court to deal with the issue of corrupt-suspects facing investigation.

"Another problem in dealing with cases relating to NBR is that it's the first time people are ever charged with issues concerning tax. And some confusion still lies with the NBR laws. Even in India example of dealing with such cases is rare and a very few of such examples can be found in the subcontinent," adds Salam.

"So it has become a must to get direction from the apex court to reduce confusion and ensure that the issue is dealt properly."

"Investigations show black-money-whitening schemes only came in as help to the corrupt to have their ill-gotten wealth clean. The schemes encouraged them every year."

Speaking anonymously, an ACC investigator says: "It's not possible to come out successful in the drive against graft when various governments over the years passed laws helping the corrupt whiten ill-gotten property instead of investigating sources of their income."

Soon after the money-whitening schemes were announced on different occasions, income of many corrupt-suspects, businesspersons, former ministers as well as lawmakers were linked to graft-suspects and made quick bucks using the money-whitening laws.

The case of the Bashundhara Group chairman can be cited as an example. The ACC on Sunday submitted charge sheet against Shah Alam accusing him, his wife and four sons of accumulating about Tk 107 crore beyond known sources of income. However, ACC investigations found him guilty of amassing Tk 606 crore beyond known sources of income.

Alam had whitened Tk 498 crore ill-gotten wealth by making investment in business and establishment purposes during the rules of both



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed presides over the sixth meeting of National Taskforce on ICT Affairs in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

Seminar on 'nano technology' held at MIST

METRO DESK

A seminar on 'nano technology' was held at Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) seminar hall yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) and Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) joint organised the seminar.

Brac University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury attended the seminar as the chief guest. Dr Joydeep Dutta, director of Centre of Excellence in Nano Technology and associate dean for New Development at SET of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand, presented the keynote paper in the seminar.

Senior military and civil officials, and students of MIST attended the seminar.

Road crashes kill 5

METRO DESK

Five people were killed in separate road accidents in Jhenidah and Rajshahi in the last two days.

Our correspondent in Jhenidah reports: A man was killed in a road accident in Jhenidah yesterday.

The victim was identified as Alauddin, 25.

The accident occurred when a noson from Gurpara village turned turtle at Rudrapur village on its way to Kotchandpur Bazar at about 10:00am, leaving the victim seriously injured.

He succumbed to his injuries on the way to a Kotchandpur hospital.

Our RU correspondent adds: Four people were killed in separate road accidents in Rajshahi on Sunday night.

Sources said a rickshawpuller and its passenger were killed in a road accident on Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi highway in the

city's Court Station area.

The accident occurred at about 9:30pm when a Chapainawabganj-bound bus knocked a rickshaw, seriously injuring Monjur Ali, 30, the rickshawpuller, and Lovely, 22, a passenger of the rickshaw.

Locals rushed them to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) where they succumbed to their injuries.

In another accident, a man and his son were killed in a road accident on Tanore-Rajshahi highway at Tanore upazila in Rajshahi on Sunday night.

The victims were identified as Afsar Ali, 50, and his son Raju, 25, of Naogaon district.

The accident occurred when the motorcycle the victims were riding on lost control and hit a roadside tree at about 8:00pm.

They were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) where they succumbed to their injuries.

Biman's Haj flight schedule by mid-Oct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited will declare the Haj flight schedule by the middle of October.

Biman in a press release said declaring the Haj flight schedule depends on General Authority of Civil Aviation of Saudi Arabia as they are the sole authority to approve Haj flight schedule of all the airlines,

including Biman.

Meanwhile, Haj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab) condemned Biman for not declaring the Haj flight schedule saying that it would create problem to carry aspirant Hajis to Saudi Arabia.

Religious affairs secretary on Sunday told reporters that his ministry will sit with Biman to discuss Haj flight schedule.



Sri Lankan Navy Chief Vice Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda lays wreath at Shikha Anirban in the city yesterday to pay tributes to the memory of the members of Armed Forces martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971.

PHOTO: ISPR

Bangladesh Services Limited (Owner of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel)

1, Minto Road, Dhaka-1000

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Bangladesh Services Limited (BSL) for Auction sale of Engineering items, Housekeeping items, IT items, old Elevator items and old Transformer "As it is where it is" basis and removal of these from Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Premises at 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000.

Terms & Conditions:

- All offers must be accompanied by earnest money, which is 5% of the total quoted amount, without which the offer shall outright be rejected.
- Particulars of the auction including terms and conditions (Schedule) may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of Tk.500.00 (Taka five hundred) only in cash (nonrefundable) during office hours from 13/08/2008 to 26/08/2008.
- Offers will be received at the office of the undersigned on 31/08/2008 upto 12:00 noon and shall be opened at 12:30PM on the same day at the same place in presence of the bidder(s) (if any).
- Interested bidders after purchasing the document may visit the site and inspect the auctionable items on 27/08/2008 at 11:00 AM at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.
- The bidder may quote price for a group or all groups. Rates should be quoted for each item of a group as per BOQ, otherwise the offer will not be accepted. The individual group highest will be considered for selection of the highest bidder of that group.
- The quantity mentioned in the BOQ may vary.
- The successful bidder will have to take delivery of all the auctioned items from BSL/DSH premises positively within 10 (ten) days from the date of issue of work order.
- BSL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason.

(Md. Aminul Bar Chowdhury)
Secretary

NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

Career Assured, Future Ensured

ADMISSIONS ON

For 2 yrs FOUNDATION DEGREES validated & affiliated to NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY, U.K. with credit transfer facility to their other international centres

- NTU foundation degree in Fashion design & Clothing Technology
- NTU Foundation degree in Fashion merchandising & Production Technology

ALSO OFFERING

- 1 year Industry Oriented Diploma Courses
- Knitwear Merchandising & Technology
- Apparel Manufacturing & Production Technology
- Fashion Merchandising & Marketing

Evening short time courses also available

PEARL FASHION INSTITUTE

H-11, R-6, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212 Ph: 8857763, 9887419, 9899074 info@pearlinstitute.com

www.pearlinstitute.com www.pearlacademy.com

Independent University, Bangladesh

ADMISSION

Master of Public Health

Starting September 7th, 2008

Curriculum:
Modeled after Harvard, Johns Hopkins.

Employment Scope:
Health manager/analyst in: WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, other NGOs, Public Sector, Pharmaceutical firms, Hospitals, etc. internationally and within Bangladesh.

Faculty:
Reputed national & international public health experts.

Director: Professor M Omar Rahman
Adjunct Faculty member at Harvard.

Special Features

- Duration: 12/24 months.
- Classes: 6-9 pm; small size & individual attention.
- Financial Aid:**
Up to 100% Scholarships for meritorious students
- Payment: By installments.

Admission Eligibility

- MBBS or equivalent Dental Degree
- Master's or Four-year Bachelor's Degree in any discipline

MPH Program Office:
House-27, Road-12, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212
Phone: 8852720, 9884498, Ext: 223
Website: www.iub.edu.bd/chpd/mpd.htm
Email: nipon04@iub.edu.bd

Last date for Submission of Application: **August 14th, 2008**

Written Admission Test: **August 18th, 2008**