

# Launch anti-corruption drive in edn sector

## Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a view exchange meeting yesterday said oppressors of teachers and corrupt officials under BNP-Jamaat alliance government are still active in education sector as they are not touched under the anti-corruption drive of the caretaker government (CG).

They alleged that these corrupt people were responsible for sacking 2000 teachers, firing 8000 cases, and stopping salary of over 3000 teachers.

The National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE), a platform of 11 teachers' organisations, arranged the meeting with the leaders of Peshajibi Samonny Parishad at Dhaka Reporters Unity

auditorium in the city.

At the meeting, NFTE leaders disclosed the list of the corrupt people that included minister, state minister, deputy minister, parliament members, secretary, director generals, vice-chancellors and chairmen.

Prof Kazi Faruque Ahmed, chief coordinator of NFTE, said these people were involved in all sorts of irregularities in education sector including embezzlement of funds and favouritism in the process of recruitment and promotion.

Former president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said the CG should immediately launch anti-corruption drive in education sector and take stern action against

corrupt people for the greater interest of the nation.

Economist Prof Abul Barakat said the budget allocation for madrasa education increased 742 percent in last 30 years while the mainstream education remained neglected decreasing the allocation.

NFTE Convener Prof Asadul Haq moderated the meeting which was also addressed by The Bangladesh Observer Editor and Peshajibi Samonny Parishad Convener Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Parishad Member-Secretary Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan, Dhaka Lawyer Samity President Khandaker Abdul Mannan, Parishad Co-convener Abdur Razzak Mia, NFTE leaders M Arzu, MASattar and Bilkis Zaman.

## Advisory Council meeting in Khulna today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The advisory council is expected give priority to seven issues at its meeting in Khulna today, ranging from reopening of newsprint and jute mills to construction of the Padma Bridge.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will preside over the meeting at the Circuit House.

Gas supply in the Khulna City through pipeline, unloading forty percent of the country's grain imports at Mongla Port in order to keep it alive and kicking and speeding up the construction of Khandajhan Ali Airport are also expected to come up for discussion.

Besides, the advisers would discuss paying arrears to the workers of seven state-owned jute mills in the Khulna-Jessore industrial belt and a durable solution to the perennial water-logging at Bhabadaha.

The closed-down mills are Khulna Newsprint Mills and Daulatpur Jute Mills.

Meantime, the Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) demanded that the government declare Khulna a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in order to help flourish private-sector industry there.

An SEZ in Khulna would encourage the donor-funded Private Sector Development Support Project (PSDSP), KCCI President Shaharuzzaman Martuza told The Daily Star yesterday.

## Minor boy dies in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A minor boy was killed in a road accident on Brahmanbaria-Dhaka highway at Ghatara village in Brahmanbaria Sadar yesterday.

The victim was identified as Md Babu Mia, 10, son of Ali Mia.

The accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound speeding truck from Sylhet knocked Babu from behind while he was crossing the road.

Seriously injured, he succumbed to his injuries on the way to a local hospital.

Local people seized the killer truck and its driver.

## ULAB admission test Aug 28

METRO DESK

Admission test for the fall semester 2008 of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) will be held on August 28 on its Dhanmondi campus, says a press release.

Interested candidates are requested to collect admission forms and submit the filled forms before August 27.



TIB Treasurer M Hafizuddin Khan speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Trustee Board Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad and Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman. (Story on Page 16)

## Bangladeshis held in Kuwait

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told the Arab Times that 'some' Bangladeshi nationals involved in other criminal activities as prostitution, gambling, illegal internet telephony have also been arrested on the basis of information provided by the embassy.

He, however, was unable to say exactly how many Bangladeshis have been arrested since the campaign began two months ago.

The official said that some cleaning companies are also involved in the shady visa trade and that they charge Bangladeshi workers as high as Kuwaiti Dinar (KD) 1,200 per work visa and then pay them a paltry salary of Kuwaiti Dinar (KD) 20 per month.

'Most of these workers are not aware when they leave Bangladesh that they will be working for such low wages,' the official added saying that the embassy was sharing information about such unscrupulous activities with relevant authorities and that this was bringing some action from the Kuwaiti side.

The official however elucidated the objective of the campaign against illegal practices saying, 'We

do not want the image of Bangladesh to be sullied by only a handful of our nationals.'

Kuwait employs some 241,000 Bangladeshis many of whom are working in cleaning companies. They had recently demonstrated over low wages or irregular payment of salaries.

At least 1129 workers have also been deported following the strikes in Kuwait in late July. Many upon their arrival home in Bangladesh claimed that they did not take part in the strikes, but were still beaten up, arrested and deported.

The embassy is in the process of establishing a database of Bangladeshi nationals residing in Kuwait and has sought records of Bangladeshi criminals from the local authorities so as to enable the Bangladesh government to take action against them.

The KSDD's call for abolishing the 'sponsorship system' comes at a time when many workers in Kuwait have staged noisy protests against unfair treatment and payments.

Under the current system, which applies in all the oil-rich Gulf States, the movement and freedom of

foreign workers are considerably restricted, putting them at the mercy of employers.

'We call for abolishing the sponsor system and adopting a system similar to the ones in more developed countries,' KSDD head Nasser al-Abdali said at a news conference, according to the Arab Times report.

'The only people who benefit from the sponsor system are the visa traders who use their influence to maintain the status quo,' he said.

He termed the sponsorship system akin to slavery.

Influential people are accused of charging expatriates large sums to have their residence permits renewed every year in Kuwait. Kuwait has 2.4 million foreign workers in contrast to its just over a million citizens.

More than two-thirds of these foreign workers are from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

Abdali said the minimum monthly wage for foreign cleaning workers at KD 40 was very minimum and demanded that it be raised to at least KD 100 (375 dollars).

## MANPOWER EXPORT HC issues rule on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule on the government to show cause why the activities of the ministries concerned regarding safe manpower export will not be considered a failure and why directives would not be given to take measures to ensure safe manpower export.

A division bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Farid Ahmed issued the rule on the ministries of foreign affairs and expatriates' welfare, the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) and Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira).

The rule came following a writ petition filed by Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), IMA Research Foundation and three victims who went to Malaysia, said a press release of ASK.

The writ petition said Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Abu Hanif Hawlader and Enamul Haque Talukder went to Malaysia through recruiting agencies Ardent International Ltd and Al Fateha Overseas in 2007, but the local agents in Malaysia took away passports of over 100 workers, including the three petitioners, and kept them confined to a room for five months.

Later, the local agents sold the workers to another company and embezzled their salaries.

The Bangladeshi workers then filed a case with a Malaysian court, but the court declared their work permits fake.

The workers then went to Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, but it did not cooperate them.

'The helpless workers were then forced to take shelter under an over bridge near the High Commission,' the case statement said, adding that the Bangladeshi agents also extended no assistance to the workers.

At a point of time, the three petitioners and some others returned home with help of IMA Research Foundation.

## 12 more bigwigs get HC bail

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fund embezzlement case.

The people who were granted bail include former information minister M Shamsul Islam and former agriculture minister MK Anwar, BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, his close friend and controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun, former BNP state minister Barkat Ullah Bulu, former BNP deputy minister Asadul Habib Dulu and former BNP lawmakers Shahidul Islam Master, Mashur Rahman and Abul Khair Bhuiyan and former Awami League lawmaker Ali Reza Raju.

The HC bench comprised of Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad granted anticipatory bail to 11 people.

The HC bench comprising Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Sheikh Abdul Awal granted six-month's ad interim bail to Tarique Rahman in the Tk 1-crore extortion case filed by Amin Ahmed, owner of Al-Amin Constructions Ltd.

Tarique has 13 cases filed against him. He filed six petitions with the HC yesterday for bail in six cases filed against him. He earlier obtained bail in seven other cases.

Meanwhile, another HC bench

stayed proceedings against former BNP minister Mirza Abbas and former BNP state minister Lutfuzzaman Babar in separate cases filed by the ACC in connection with amassing wealth illegally and concealing wealth information to the ACC.

The HC bench of Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mashuque Hossain Ahmed stayed proceedings of the case against Mirza Abbas for three months. An HC bench headed by Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader stayed the proceedings of the case against Lutfuzzaman Babar.

The HC bench comprised of Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad granted anticipatory bail to M Shamsul Islam and MK Anwar until framing of charges in the Barapukuria coalmine scam case.

The bench did the same for Barkat Ullah Bulu, his wife Shamima Akhter and son Omar Sharif Md Imran in a case filed by the ACC in connection with amassing wealth illegally and concealing wealth information to the ACC.

Bulu, who was absconding for about 19 months, appeared before the HC bench yesterday to obtain bail.

The HC bench also granted ad interim bail to Asadul Habib Dulu in a corruption case filed in connection with misappropriating government relief materials.

Former BNP lawmaker Mashur Rahman, also Jhenidah district BNP president, obtained anticipatory bail from the bench in a murder case filed in connection with the killing of Subodh Kumar Kundu, a local businessman, in September, 2007.

Shahidul Islam Master also got anticipatory bail valid until police submits report on four extortion cases and one relief material misappropriation case filed against him.

The HC granted three-month's bail to Ali Reza Raju and Abul Khair Bhuiyan in separate cases filed by ACC in connection with amassing wealth illegally and concealing wealth information. The court also stayed proceedings against them for three months.

The HC bench granted six-month's ad interim bail to Giasuddin Al Mamun in four extortion cases. Mamun is accused in 14 criminal cases and obtained ad interim bail in five cases earlier.

**KHALEDA'S BAIL PETITION**  
Khaleda Zia, arrested in four corrup-

tion cases, filed a bail petition yesterday with the HC for the first time since her arrest on September 3 last year.

She filed the petition with the HC bench of Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad in the 'Zia Orphanage Trust' fund embezzlement case filed by the ACC.

Tarique is also an accused in the case.

A counsel for Khaleda and Tarique yesterday told The Daily Star that hearings on the bail petitions of Khaleda and Tarique could be held today. He said Khaleda would soon file petitions for bail in the Gato, Niko and Barapukuria graft cases.

The ACC on July 3 filed a case against Khaleda Zia, Tarique Rahman and five others in connection with embezzling over Tk 2.10 crore by forming Zia Orphanage Trust, which only existed on paper.

The five other accused in the case are former BNP lawmaker Kazi Salimul Haque, Syed Ahmed alias Sayeed Ahmed, Gias Uddin Ahmed, Sharifuddin Ahmed and Mominur Rahman, son of Khaleda's sister.

## Iceland president cancels Dhaka visit

UNB, Dhaka

Iceland's President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson has cancelled his five-day visit to Bangladesh.

He was scheduled to arrive in Dhaka tonight from China, but he returned home from Beijing.

A new schedule of his visit to Bangladesh was not yet known.

## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Sheikh Motahar Hossain, a resident of Satkhira, has sought financial assistance for the treatment of his wife who has been suffering from blood cancer.

The patient, Nazmun Ara Hossain Rumi, has been undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for the last one month. The couple hail from village Agardari in Satkhira.

'Around Tk 30 to 40 lakh is required to continue the treatment of my wife, but it is not possible for me to manage such a huge amount,' said Motahar Hossain who is an office assistant at an English medium school in the city.

He has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save the life of his wife.

Contributions can be sent to Abdul Al Mamun, Savings Account No. 009005076, Janata Bank, Janata Bhaban Corporate Branch, Motijheel, Dhaka. Interested persons can also call at 01717213687 to contact Motahar Hossain.

## Water Resources Engrs' Assoc executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Humayun Kabir and Md Mahfuzur Rahman were elected president and executive secretary of Bangladesh Water Resources Engineers' Association, says a press release.

Other office bearers are: vice-president -- Engineer Selim Bhuiyan; treasurer -- Md Anisur Rahman; organising secretaries -- TM Rashidul Kabir, Dewan Ainul Huq, Partha Pratim Saha and Mohammad Mahtab Hossain; social and cultural secretary -- Ahmed Nurul Alam; joint secretary -- Gazi Md Altafuzzaman and publicity secretary -- Sayeed Abu Shoab.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mahmud Hasan, a banker and son of Mafizuddin Ahmed of Choudhagram, passed away on Sunday at the age of 71, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at Gulshan-1 Jame Masjid in the city after Asr prayers on August 28.



PHOTO: STAR

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and other leaders wait outside the prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital in the city yesterday to see Tarique Rahman, senior joint secretary general of the party. (Story on Page 1)

## Low-cost medicare at Birdem

DU CORRESPONDENT

With a view to providing low-cost quality health care services to the patients Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB) set up a 'specialist-chamber-complex' on the Ibrahim Medical College (Birdem) campus.

From the complex people will get specialist medical tips at a low-cost. The complex would also receive blood and other samples round the clock for testing of diabetes and other diseases.

DAB leaders highlighted these facilities at a press conference at DAB office in the city yesterday.

DAB President Prof AK Azad Khan, Joint Secretary Dr Sarwar Ali, Prof Hajera Mahtab and Prof Najmun Nahar were present at the press conference.

Dr Sarwar Ali said ex-ray facilities and operation theatre would be kept open for 24 hours at the complex. A team comprising specialist doctors has already been formed to facilitate the treatment.

The fund, which would be generated from the complex would be spent for the treatment of poor patients at Birdem through cross-financing method, Dr Ali said.

Birdem would introduce one-stop service, to extend outdoor activity, emergency services, high-dependency unit and day care unit at the hospital within next six months.

Currently around three lakh diabetic patients are enrolled with Birdem outdoor unit and at least three thousand patients receive treatment from the hospital daily.



## Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 34.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 24.1 degrees Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:22pm today and rises at 5:38am 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	33.5	27.4	80	71
Chittagong	29.5	25.1	93	83
Rajshahi	33.5	27.1	84	76
Khulna	33.2	27.0	77	80
Barisal	31.8	26.5	76	86
Sylhet	28.8	25.0	94	89
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.5	80	83

## DHAKA TODAY

### Seminar

Legal Education and Training Institute, Bangladesh Bar Council in association with International Organisation for Migration (IMO) will organise seminar on 'Trafficking in persons: Emerging need for comprehensive legal framework'. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium. Time: 4:30am.

### Debate

The inaugural ceremony of the three-day Inter School Debate Competition 2008 will be held. Venue: St. Gregory's High School. Time: 10:00am. Gregorian Debating Club and Debate for Democracy jointly organise the competition.

### Discussion

Bangladesh-Bharat Friendship Society organises a discussion marking the 33rd death anniversary of Bangabandhu. Venue: Diploma Engineers' Institute. Time: 4:00pm.

### Seminar

Women in Small Enterprises organises a seminar on opportunities and prospects of business expansion for women entrepreneurs. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

### Education exhibition

Australian Trade Commission of Australian High Commission and IDP Education jointly organise a two-day education exhibition. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10:00am.

### Seminar

A seminar on aquaculture development, fish feed and fish process system in Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Bhasani Novo Theatre. Time: 3:00pm.

### Workshop

VSO and RDC jointly organise a workshop on rights of indigenous people on land and forest. Venue: LGED conference room. Time: 9:00am.

### Rotary Dhaka

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

## Pay bribe, get pension

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functionaries' side, and low level of awareness, initial delay in processing pension applications and poor personal documentation at pension seekers' end are the reasons that spawn corruption, it says.

Chairing the news conference, TIB Trustee Board Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said pension is considered as a sort of charity in Bangladesh, but it is a right of the retired employees.

'Unless we consider it a right, corruption is unlikely to end in the sector,' he said, adding the government in Bangladesh pays the pension money from the taxpayers, but

in the developed countries, this pension money is generated through investments.

'It's unfair that future generations will pay for the older generations,' Prof Ahmad observed.

The TIB will prepare a policy document on the basis of the study and go for advocacy programmes to check corruption in pension sector, he said.

Endorsing the study, former diplomat Waliur Rahman said he retired from the diplomatic service nine years ago but has not yet received pension.

'My representative was asked by the officials concerned for more

than Tk 50,000 in bribe. I simply didn't agree,' he said.

He added the accounts office is the most corrupt office and majority of the audit officials who go abroad for auditing are not honest. In a mission abroad audit officials threaten with issuing audit objections if they are not provided with alcoholic drinks, he said.

TIB Treasurer M Hafizuddin Khan, former comptroller general of audit (CAG), said auditing in a mission abroad does not require more than four to five days, but auditors take more than a month to do the job.

He however said the government

## Major parties find it hard to fulfil criteria

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conditions of the Representation of the People's Order (RPO). This would require most of the political parties to make changes in their constitutions.

Both AL and JP leaders have said that they want to discuss the matter with the government as well as the EC before the registration. BNP suggested that EC register political parties within six months to one year after the national election.

Talking to The Daily Star, AL Presidium member Amir Hossain Amu said it would not be possible for AL to register the party with the EC within the stipulated time as they cannot change their constitution within this period.

'It won't be possible to fulfil the conditions of the RPO without holding a party council. It is not possible to hold a party council within this period amidst a state of emergency,' he said.

'As we have already written to the EC for another round of talks, we will take a final decision on the matter through the talks,' he added.

BNP vice president MK Anwar said that it is not possible for BNP either to hold a party council to amend their constitution to qualify for registration within this timeframe.

'The presence of our party chairperson is also a must to change the constitution of BNP,' he told The Daily Star.

He said that the conditions stipulated in the Representation of the People's Order's (2008) were impractical and termed it a plot to control political parties and politics in the country.

Jatiya Party (JP) Acting Chairman Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud said, 'It is not possible to hold a council during Ramadan and so we lose a valuable 30 days

here.'

'It won't be right to take any decisions centrally without consultation with the grassroots level leaders,' the JP acting chief told The Daily Star.

JP (Manju) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam urged the EC not to take initiatives to register political parties ignoring the parties' opinions.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu also said that it is not possible for his party to incorporate the clauses of RPO into the party constitution within the given timeframe.

Inu suggested that the EC relax conditions for registration.

Meanwhile Chief Election Commissioner Dr ATM Shamsul Huda has said, 'If anyone faces any problems in holding party council amidst the state of emergency or face problems in understanding the provisions of RPO related to

registration, then they should come to us. We are ready to help them.'

He said the EC could even urge the government to