

## Sources of funds

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Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain told The Daily Star yesterday.

The sources said the commission might ask the banks concerned to furnish it with political parties' account statements.

The commission is also considering seeking assistance from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) for checking the authenticity of the financial statements, the sources added.

To scrutinise large contributions and their sources, the EC might seek assistance from intelligence agencies, one of the EC sources said.

The EC already announced that political parties willing to get registered with it must apply by October 15 for the next parliamentary poll, meeting a number of criteria including the financial ones.

The parties however will be exempted from the requirement of submitting financial audit reports of the immediate past year, as they were not registered with the EC during the period.

But after getting registration, every political party must submit yearly audit reports to the EC by July 15 of each year, according to the new rules.

The new provisions in the Representation of People's Order (RPO) allow political parties, also for the first time, to receive donations or grants officially.

According to the new electoral law, a registered political party is entitled to receive donations or grants from any person, company, and group of companies.

A registered political party may receive a donation of Tk 5 lakh or property or service equivalent to it from an individual in a calendar year, while it may receive Tk 25 lakh or property or service equivalent to it from a company or an organisation in a calendar year.

No registered political party

## Tigers crash

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Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful said his team's poor top order batting ruined a good effort in the field.

"Our bowlers bowled well and we fielded well also, but we didn't bat well," Ashraful said.

"Once we lost five wickets quickly it was very difficult to come back."

Left-arm Mitchell Johnson did the early damage for the hosts with 2-10 from six overs, while leg-spinner Cameron White wrapped up the tail with 3-5 from just 1.4 overs.

Only three Bangladesh batsmen made double figures, with opener Tamim Iqbal top-scoring with 21, and their best partnership just 16.

Earlier, youngster Shaun Marsh anchored the Australian total with 76 at the top of the order, while fellow West Australian Mike Hussey made a typically industrious 82.

Stand-in Australian captain Michael Clarke was pleased with the total in the conditions.

"It's a very good score," he said.

"It was hard at the start, there was a little bit of swing."

"Marsh batted fantastic and Mr Cricket (Mike Hussey) was at his best again today."

Transparency will be ensured once the system of registration of political parties is introduced," the CEC added.

Political parties however have been vehemently opposing the EC's move to register them before the stalled ninth parliamentary election planned for December, arguing that it is not possible for them to complete the preparations for registration within such a short time.

Under the circumstances, the EC is about to open a series of dialogues with 16 political parties on September 6 to discuss the matter of mandatory registration.

The erstwhile EC could not make political parties register with it before the 2001 parliamentary election due to strong opposition from them.

## CA calls for urgent steps

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impact, and the costs of doing nothing are simply too great to allow," he said at the concluding session of a five-day international symposium on climate change and food security in South Asia at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital.

Jointly sponsored by the government of Bangladesh, University of Dhaka, Ohio State University, World Meteorological Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-Escap), the symposium was attended by around 250 delegates from 17 countries.

The greatest challenge that Bangladesh faces is lifting some 50 million people out of poverty, but this already-formidable challenge is made all the more difficult for Bangladesh because global warming has started to affect food production, helping to raise food deficit over the last two decades, the chief adviser (CA) said in his address as the chief guest.

He went on, "Counties like Bangladesh will otherwise suffer the most from a problem to which we have contributed little -- this is not just a practical issue, but a fundamental moral issue."

Fakhrudin emphasised defining the impact of climate change on key aspects of food production and rural populations at risk. He called for implementation of farm-level adaptation strategies to maximise food production, united actions by scientists, farmers, fishermen, civil society, businesses, media and policymakers and researchers to develop high yielding and drought, flood and salinity-tolerant crops, capacity building of people and construction of multi-purpose shelter houses in coastal zones.

Iceland President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson also addressed the concluding session.

Other speakers at the session, chaired by Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Dr SMA Faiz, included FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific Changchui He, special assistant to the CA on environment and forests Raja Debashish Roy, Education Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Ohio State University Professor Rattan Lal, MVK Sivakumar of World Meteorological Organisation and AHM Mustafizur Rahman, chief coordinator of the organising committee.

Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to climate change in its given geography, he said. "As a low-lying mega-delta with three large river systems, accompanied by heavy rainfall, floods have become an annual calamity. The melting of the Himalayan glaciers and huge sediments carried by the rivers coupled with restricted drainage will further worsen the situation," he said.

Australia were also without captain Ricky Ponting and paceman Brett Lee.

As a result, Tasmanian seamer Brett Greeves was gifted his international debut, with the Australians expected to name a replacement for Symonds.

Greeves capitalised by claiming 2-11.

Marsh, the son of former Australian opener and vice-captain Geoff Marsh, looked on target for his maiden international century when left-arm spinner Abdur Razzaz slipped one through his defences and rattled the stumps.

In just this sixth one-day international, the emerging West Australian batsmen showed great application on a slow deck more conducive to singles than boundaries.

He survived a confident appeal for caught behind from Shakib Al Hasan on 25, and hit four boundaries in his 106-ball knock.

Hussey faced 87 balls, hitting five fours and one six.

**Bogra Medical**

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Police said the clash ensued on the night when Shibir cadres attacked the dining room manager of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Hostel at one stage of altercation over quality of food of the canteen.

The other recommendations include initiating and strengthening cooperation among academic and research institutions, international organisations, and NGOs to provide opportunities for strengthening institutions, human resource development and capacity building.

The symposium also suggested developing innovative financial mechanisms to scale up technical and financial support for the adaptation efforts of the South Asian countries and strengthening regional institutional and policy mechanisms to promote and facilitate implementation of location-specific adaptation and mitigation practices.

The Declaration says, "Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia Network and South Asia Climate Outlook Forum both to be maintained by the WMO will share information on management of climate change and related science, data, tools and methodologies in South Asia."

They will also generate data on solar heating as it relates to the effects of soot, aerosols and particulate material emissions on radiation balance, rainfall patterns and regional climate change.

The proposed network and the forum will develop seasonal climate predictions to assist farmers to optimally adjust their planting dates, crop varieties and management practices to reduce agricultural vulnerability to hydro-meteorological hazards, it notes.

These will promote adoption of proven sustainable technologies related to better soil, crop, livestock and fishery and water management in order to increase food productivity by enhancing efficiency of inputs such as fertiliser, water, energy and labour, it adds.

They will create mechanisms to pay farmers for ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration in soils and reductions of gaseous emissions related to deforestation, degradation of agricultural soils, grasslands and water quality improvement, and reduced emissions of methane and nitrous oxide from agricultural and forestry land.

According to first information report (FIR) of the ACC case, Haque in his wealth statement to the ACC held back information about moveable and immovable properties worth around Tk 97.37 lakh and his accumulated assets did not match with his known sources of income.

## Coordination body

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"We have taken various steps to provide passengers with better service at the airport and modernise the infrastructure," Mahbub Jamil, special assistant to the chief adviser on civil aviation and tourism ministry, told reporters at a press conference at ZIA.

He said the whole airport is being modernised with renovation of existing structures.

The security system at the airport has already been tightened, he said claiming that smuggling through the airport has now dwindled.

The civil aviation authority along with 22 other agencies including police and customs had been working at the airport without any central coordination," said Mahbub Jamil.

A separate committee has been formed comprising members from various agencies working at the ZIA to ensure coordination between them, he said.

The committee will hold a meeting every month to review the activities of the agencies. Moreover, the secretary to the civil aviation ministry will sit with the committee every three months to evaluate the entire process.

Mahbub Jamil said it was very disappointing that successive governments over the years failed to uphold country's positive image abroad by ensuring better service at ZIA.

He said they took the initiative to bring about changes at the airport to free the passengers from all sorts of fundamental moral issues."

The international departure area at the terminal has been divided into two parts -- Terminal-1 and Terminal-2 -- to streamline the operation of international airlines at the airport.

CAAB Chairman Air Commodore Sakeb Iqbal Khan Majlis said the air traffic control radar has been repaired while carpeting of the runway would begin soon.

## China

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Five others died in Chuxiong Prefecture, Yunnan Province, said Mengfu, a prefecture government official, according to Xinhua.

The were no reports of casualties in Panzhihua city.

The Yunnan Seismological Bureau said the quake and its aftershocks were also felt in Yongren county, Yunnan.

Xinhua quoted Zheng Zhouwei, a local legislator in Yongren, as saying "Locals in the county rushed out into the open. Cracks appeared on house walls and many windows were broken."

It was also felt in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan, according to Xinhua, which added that many residents stayed outside after the quake.

A massive 8.0 magnitude quake hit Sichuan province on May 12, leaving nearly 70,000 dead, with about 18,000 people still missing.

## Biman

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"My flight to Dubai was scheduled for August 23. But I still don't know when I'll be able to leave at last," Abu Taher from Chittagong told The Daily Star at ZIA yesterday.

"They have changed schedule for at least seven times since August 23," said Zahid Hossain, another passenger of the flight.

"Schedules for Biman flights barely work these days. None of its flights can depart ZIA on time," a high official of Biman told The Daily Star yesterday. He was at the airport to calm down the incensed passengers.

Members of the joint forces rushed to the spot to diffuse the tension at ZIA.

Of the Biman aircraft in use, two are DC-10-30s, one Boeing and one Airbus.

There are two more DC-10-30s and an Airbus, but most of the time they are down due to mechanical problems.

Besides, a Boeing-747 has been sent for maintenance check-up that will take at least a month.

## Delwar

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meet us and we went there at the invitation of the jail authorities," he said.

"It was not a meeting of the coalition, this allegation has been made with an ill-motive," he said in reply to criticism by the Awami League and its political allies that such meeting was illegal.

He questioned the procedure of releasing Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, the advisers' meeting with her on Friday night and floodwaters flowing through it inundated about 300 houses in the area.

Our correspondent in Gaibandha reports, the rising Brahmaputra submerged crops and vegetables in Goderhat, Boali, Badiakhal, Rasulpur, Bhaserpura, Balashi, Kerkhat, Kalasona, Ratanpur, Mashamari and Nilkuthi areas.

Chairperson Khaleda Zia at the makeshift jail in the parliament-building complex on Thursday.

"How can an alliance meeting take place in jail?" he asked the caretaker government, saying there is no such instance anywhere in the world.

Ashraful condemned the government decision allowing the meeting to take place "in violation of all rules".

He pointed out that BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar used to blame Awami League for entente with the caretaker government. But, he said, "Now it is proved that BNP and Jamaat have made an underhand deal with this government".

The AL leader observed that the anti-corruption drive of the interim government was virtually eyewash to bring Awami League with "corrupt BNP" to the same level.

On the question of amending AL constitution for the party's registration with the Election Commission under the electoral rules, he said to amend the party constitution they need to convene a council session. But it is not possible for a big party like Awami League to hold the council under the state of emergency.

On the other hand, if the party constitution is not amended, Awami League will not be able to get registered with the commission, he said about the difficult situation they are facing.

The Election Commission has given the parties up to October 15 to apply for the registration while set October 30 as the last date for finalising the task, making it mandatory for participating in the December general election under provisions of the amended Representation of People Order (ROPO).

Chaired by Zillur Rahman, the meeting was attended, among others, AL presidium members Amir Hossain Amu, Suranji Sengupta and Motia Chowdhury.

## Call for saving hills

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should clearly lay out the jurisdiction of town planners.

He said the CDA proposed including planning parameters in the Building Code (BC) to check unplanned development.

The last draft BC, he said, suggested formation of committees taking members from the authorities concerned and the civil society to approve development plan in hill areas.

AM Ziauddin Khan, deputy managing director for AK Khan Group, stressed coordination among development authorities.

Echoing him, BGMEA vice president MA Salam called on the affluent to help proper management of hills and bring the families living beside hillsides out of danger.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said political will coupled with commitment on the part of the people and professional bodies is needed for hill management.

The combine could put pressure for immediate implementation of the protective measures to save the hills and prevent deaths from landslides, he observed.

He said the media could help create awareness and commitment among all in this regard.

Social scientist and Vice Chancellor of Premier University Prof Dr Anupam Sen, Daily Bhoror Kagoj Editor Shamay Dutta, Prof Abdul Haque of Chittagong University, Prof AQM Mahbub and Prof Nurul Islam Nazem of Dhaka University, city editor at regional Daily Suprabhat Bangladesh M Nasirul Haque, Daily Bhoror Kagoj Chittagong in-charge Omar Kaiser, Chittagong City Corporation ward councillor F Kabir Chowdhury Manik, general secretary for Chakta Canal Excavation Action Committee Shahriar Khaled, Community Development Centre (Codec) deputy executive director Kamal Sengupta, YPSA programme manager Md Masud Rana, Jano Udyog coordinator Sharif Chouhan and advocate Salauddin Haider Siddiqui were present.

## Flood grips North

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The monsoon is likely to remain active over Bangladesh and adjoining Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in India for the next two to three days, it said.

Our staff correspondent in Sylhet, reports, the road link between Gowainghat upazila and the Sylhet district headquarters was suspended as the Sari-Gowainghat road went under water on several points yesterday.

Over 20,000 hectares of Aman and Aus crops in Companiganj, Golapganj, Jaintapur, Kanaighat, Gowainghat, Fenchugan and Beinbazar upazilas have been inundated.

Our correspondent in Netrakona quoting local WDB sources reports, more low-lying areas including five kilometres of Gutora-Barkhupon road and four kilometres of Udyopur-Rika Bazar road went underwater.

Half a kilometre of the approach road to the Kalmakanda bridge and about 50 houses at Keshabpur village are also flooded by the River Ubdkhali.

Govt has no moral

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