

Selected names of NHRC chair, members await president's nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second meeting of the committee to recommend the names of the chairman and members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was held at the judges' lounge of the Supreme Court yesterday.

Sources said the meeting of the high-profile committee finalised the names of the chairman and members of the NHRC and they would soon recommend the names to the president for their recruitment.

However, the names of chairman and members of the NHRC were not known immediately.

A member of the committee yesterday told The Daily Star that it is a confidential matter. So, the names should not be published in the media at this moment.

Presided over by Appellate Division Judge Justice MA Matin, the meeting was attended by committee members PSC Chairman Dr Saadat Hussain, Cabinet Secretary Ali Imam Majumder, Attorney General Salauddin Ahmed, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and a joint secretary of law ministry.

The NHRC will be comprised of a chairman and two members. One of them will be a retired Supreme Court judge.

National Human Rights Commission Ordinance-2007 came into effect on September 1 for constituting the NHRC, which would investigate human rights violations and advise the government on the enforcement of international human rights covenants.

Ctg losing its importance to local, foreign investors

Speakers tell CJFD discussion

UNB, Dhaka

Port City of Chittagong and economic hub of the country is not getting proper attention in terms of development and gradually losing its importance to local and foreign investors.

business community as well as tourists, said speakers at a discussion meeting in the city yesterday.

They lamented that most of the multinational companies, big business houses of Chittagong have shifted their head offices to Dhaka due to lack of proper infrastructure.

The discussion on 'Development and Prospect of Chittagong in National Interest' was organised by Chittagong Journalists Forum Dhaka (CJFD) at a city hotel.

Special correspondent of the Daily Jugantar and its Chittagong Bureau Chief Jasim Chowdhury Sabuj presented the keynote paper.

The port city as the second biggest city and economic hub of the country, endowed with natural harbour, should be given more

importance in overall development plan to the expectation of the people of the region, said the speakers.

Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser, Barrister Raja Debasish Roy attended the discussion as the chief guest with CJFD President Silabratu Barua in the chair.

Raja Debasish said economic progress of Chittagong should be seen as part of overall development of the country. There is no scope to ignore the political and administrative importance of Chittagong as it contributes the highest revenue to the exchequer. It is also the gateway for import and export of the country.

General Secretary of Chittagong Samity Dhaka Mohammad Jokaria, Managing Director of Well Group Syed Nurul Islam, AP bureau chief Farid Hossain, former general secretary of Chittagong Samity ATM Pearl Islam, vice president Nazim Uddin, CJFD Vice President Nizam Uddin Ahmed and General Secretary Saif Islam Dilal took part in the discussion.

They lamented that the port city did not get due attention in terms of development although it is called the 'commercial capital' of the country. It is gradually losing its commercial and economic importance, as successive governments failed to grasp the importance of the city. The discussion was followed by Iftar.

Two held with firearms, 237 bullets in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-2) yesterday arrested two criminals from Hazratibagh in the city and recovered two firearms and 237 bullets from their possession.

The criminals identified as Ahsanul Farid alias Roni and Pappu were arrested from Baddanagar in Hazratibagh, Rab officials said.

They said Roni and Pappu carried out a gun attack on Lalbagh Chhatra League leader Shahin on August 27.

President receives nat'l ID card

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed received his national identity (ID) card at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Aziz Hasan, Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka M Zillur Rahman and Dhaka district Election Officer M Delwar Hossain handed over the ID card to president.

"Issuing national ID cards to all voters is an epoch-making event in the history of the country," said Iajuddin, receiving his ID card.

Thanking all concerned, he expressed satisfaction over the completion of the extravagant job properly.

Secretary of the President's Office Md Sirajul Islam, Military Secretary to the President Major General Mohammad Ruhul Amin and President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howledar were also present.



National Front of Teachers and Employees form a human chain at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday prior to submitting a memorandum to the chief adviser demanding their salaries.

Jamaat against UZ polls within less than one week of JS election

UNB, Dhaka

Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh yesterday said the government's notion to hold upazila elections within less than a week of national polls was "unrealistic".

The party, a key partner in the BNP-led four-party coalition, welcomed holding national polls on December 18 but was unhappy with the announcement of polls in upazilas on December 24 and 28.

"It's illogical," Jamaat's acting secretary general Mohammad Qamaruzzaman told reporters in a formal reaction to the Chief Adviser's latest address to the nation.

"After (national) polls there are some constitutional bindings including reelection to the disputed constituencies," he said, adding that they have no problem if upazila elections come within one or one and a half months after completion of whole process to the national polls.

He demanded the EC reconsider the decision and fix new dates for upazila polls.

His briefing came after Jamaat's central executive leaders held a two-hour meeting at about 10:30am to discuss the CA's address with acting Jamaat Amir Abul Kalam Mohammad Yusuf in the chair.

Jamaat central leaders Mokbul Ahmed, Maulana Mohammad Abdus Sobhan, Prof Mojibur Rahman and Maulana Rafiqul Islam Khan were present at the briefing.

Rainwater harvesting, drinking water project launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Coca-Cola Far East Ltd in partnership with Plan Bangladesh yesterday launched an innovative rainwater harvesting and drinking water project to ensure water sustainability and to provide safe drinking water at the schools.

The project includes installation of Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) systems, storage tanks and water filters in five primary schools in Mirpur area under Dhaka City Corporation and Barguna Sadar Upazila, says a press release.

Coca-Cola and Plan Bangladesh

are also partnering to raise awareness amongst the school children and their families for better water resources management.

The RWH systems once commissioned will have an overall harvest capacity of 32,50,000 liters of rainwater per year, the release added.

The entire 'Rain Water Harvesting and Drinking Water Project' will get commissioned at a total cost of \$20,000 by September 2009.

The unique initiative would benefit over 1000 children with access to potable water throughout the year and in addition millions of litres of harvested water can also

utilised for secondary purpose like washing and sanitation, the press release said.

Thomas Espey, country director of plan Bangladesh, said Plan Bangladesh is committed to provide deprived children with access to basic amenities.

Launching the project in partnership with Coca-Cola is a unique initiative in this direction, he added.

Debasish Deb, country manager of Coca-Cola Far East Ltd, said this initiative will harvest 3250,000 litres of rainwater, additionally resulting in over 1000 children having better access to safe drinking water.

Driver, helper burnt alive as covered van catches fire

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Both the driver and the helper of a covered van were burnt alive after the vehicle caught fire following a collision with a sand-laden truck at Shalmondi on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Narsingdi in the early hours of yesterday.

The driver was identified as Ismail Hossain, 35, but the identity of the helper could not be known immediately.

Police and fire fighters said the Sylhet-bound covered van of Ruchi biscuit from Dhaka and Madhabdi-bound truck from Ghorashal collided at about 1:30am after the driver of the truck lost control.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP-Circle) in Narsingdi, Bijoy Kumar Singha told The Daily Star, "Both the driver and the helper were burnt alive as they were trapped inside the driver's cabin."



Awami Swachchhasebak League stages a demonstration at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday demanding permanent release of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and withdrawal of false cases against its president Bahauddin Nasim.

Deputy Managing Editor

The Daily Star, the English national daily with the highest circulation in the country, is going to appoint a DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR. Ideal candidate must be an MBA or Masters in Management/Human Resource or equivalent degree in Economics or Commerce with outstanding leadership qualities and proven track record of achievements to lead a highly motivated and talented team to raise revenue and circulation. She/He must also create new products to capture hitherto untapped markets. She/He must possess high-level management experience. Applicants must have minimum 10 years practical experience with any reputed national or international organization to qualify for the post. Highly active, dynamic candidates with innovative, creative minds and familiar with modern IT based management system would be given preference. Attractive pay package with 24-hour office car will be provided to the selected candidate. Applicants with above qualities are requested to apply along-with complete bio-data and a passport size photograph to reach the following address by 25 September, 2008.

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Envelopes must be marked "Application for Deputy Managing Editor" at the top.

INT'L PEACE DAY OBSERVED 'Establish non-violent society for peace'

DU CORRESPONDENT

With a call to establish a non-violent society across the world, Peace and Conflict department at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday observed the International Peace Day.

To mark the day, the department took out a peace procession on the campus where teachers and students of the department took part.

Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz and Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh Bea M Ten Tusscher led the procession that paraded through different streets on the campus.

The department also organised the sixth Gan-Shohagi lecture at RC Majumder auditorium at the university.

Tusscher delivered the key lecture on 'War, peace and justice: Sharing international experiences from the capital of international justice the Hague' on the occasion.

Tusscher said the primary responsibility for building peace and stimulating sustainable develop-

ment after conflicts lies with national authorities.

"But at the same time an international trend can be maintained whereby protection makes way for justice," she said, adding that the trend is illustrated very well by the concept 'Principle of the responsibility to protect' adopted by the United Nations General Assembly as an outcome of the world summit in 2005.

She further said this concept stresses that each individual state has the responsibility to protect its population, but it follows that when a government cannot or does not effectively live up to its responsibility, the international community must act.

Addressing the lecture session as the chief guest, Prof Faiz said all the nations have an obligation to contribute to promoting peace, security and a sustainable environment and fight poverty, disease and hunger.

Sustainable peace depends on the existence of legitimate national authorities, adequate security and equitable distribution of both benefits and burdens and the opportunity for ordinary people to take part in the political processes, he added.

Founder chairman of the department Prof Dalim Chandra Barman said it is impossible to establish worldwide peace in a day or two.

People from all sections of the society have to participate in the process. Only then the social goal can be achieved, he added.

JU admission tests begin Dec 27

METRO DESK

The admission tests for undergraduate courses under the session 2008-09 of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will begin on December 27 and will continue until January 15, 2009, says a press release.

The schedule of admission tests will be published throughout newspaper advertisements.

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