

# Political pledge a must to ensure rights of people with disabilities

Says Rasheda K Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Choudhury yesterday said political commitment is a must to ensure the rights of the differently able people and actions should be taken in this regard through specific plans.

The adviser also expressed her optimism in changing the rules of business during the tenure of the caretaker government.

She was speaking as the chief guest at a roundtable on 'Right to information: State of persons with disability and our duties' jointly organised by Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) and the Weekly 2000 at the National Press Club in the city.

The speakers at the programme said as the government activities are run by the rules of business and it affirms the social welfare minis-

try to supervise all the issues of the differently able people; education, health, sports and other ministries do not address this vulnerable group at all.

They demanded the government incorporate the representatives from differently able people's groups in implementing the Right to Information (RTI) Ordinance.

The RTI Ordinance was approved by the advisory committee of the government on September 20 to ensure people's right to information.

The speakers also urged the government to ensure dissemination of the law, regulations, declarations and programmes regarding rights of the disabled people to the concerned ministries and directorates and also to ensure their implementation.

The programme supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation also

highlighted the difficulties facing by the physically and mentally challenged 1.40-lakh people of the country for lack of information inflow.

CDD Executive Director AHM Noman Khan in his keynote paper said though the policy regarding disability was prepared in 1995 and the Disability Welfare Act was passed in 2001, very few of the policymaking level are aware of it and its implementation.

"Even a district committee regarding disability issue was formed and ministrywise plan of action was taken. But the executive body has little information about it that leads the physically and mentally challenged people to be deprived of getting their rights," he added.

For lack of information inflow and the implementation of the law, still a huge number of differently

able children do not get chance in the mainstream public education institutions and cannot enjoy the quota system in public services and rehabilitation programme of the government.

The speakers said the issue of services for the people with disabilities mentioned in the ministrywise citizens' charters are not satisfactory and often absent.

They also underlined the importance of amending Disability Welfare Act 2001 and the policy. At the same time, political parties should also incorporate the issue at their electoral manifesto.

Karmojibi Nari President Shirin Akhter said, "Local government can play an important role in disseminating the information regarding disability and the rights of the disabled. Even area-based list of such people can be prepared by the government."

Industry and Commerce Secretary of Awami League Farook Khan said ensuring total rights of the disabled people depends on political commitment much.

"A parliamentary caucus should be formed to facilitate the activities regarding disability," he added.

Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam said political leaders should also play a pivotal role in passing the ordinance in the parliament.

"Manusher Jonno Foundation has already formed an RTI forum to work with the issue and is now busy with preparing draft rules of the ordinance that is approved by the government," she added.

IT expert Mostafa Jabbar stressed the need for spending much money for research works on how to originate new software that would facilitate the learning capacity of the disabled people.

Editor of Weekly 2000 Mainul Ahsan Sabar moderated the programme which was addressed by Jatiya Probandhi Foundation Executive Director Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury, Jatiya Probandhi Forum President Khondokar Zahurul Alam and TIB Executive



A Hindu woman worships at the altar of the idol of Goddess Durga on the day of Mahanabami of the Durga Puja, the fourth day of the five-day festival. The photo was taken from Dhakeshwari National Temple in the city yesterday.

## Unite to rebuild country with spirit of secularism

Razzak urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) presidium member Abdul Razzak yesterday called on the people irrespective of all races, colours and creeds to get united to rebuild the country with the spirit of secularism under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

Visiting Puja mandaps (worship pavilions) in the city's Ram Krishna Mission and Dhakeshwari Temple, he said secularism is the tradition

of the Bangladeshis and the country was liberated based on their spirits.

Saying that the anti-liberation war forces have been conspiring to create a division among the people, the AL leader called on the countrymen to resist the conspiracy unitedly.

Another presidium member Tofail Ahmed said the spirit of secularism was destroyed with the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Puja Uddapan Committee President Dr Nim Chandra Bhawmik urged all to work unitedly to ensure victory over the next general election.

He demanded re-establishment of 72 Constitution fully to remove all differences in the country.

AL leaders Mukul Bose, Abdul Mannan, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Habibur Rahman Siraj were also present at the programme.

## Preliminary test of 28th BCS exam in end-Nov

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Public Service Commission (PSC) will hold the preliminary test of the 28th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations in the last week of November and invite applications for the 29th batch in January next year.

"The preliminary test of the 28th BCS will be held on the last Friday or Saturday of November. We've pencilled in November 28," PSC Chairman Dr Saadat Hussain told a press conference at the commission yesterday.

He said, "We've taken a string of initiatives to ensure that applications for BCS exams could be invited every year. We'll try to issue the circular for the 29th batch in January in line with this," he said.

PSC member Brig Gen (retd) Abdur Abidur Reza Khan will act as the chairman for the 29th BCS exams, he added.

"Besides the BCS exams, the commission arranges 125 types of other examinations every year," he said adding they had arranged 133 types in the past one year.

The PSC invited applications for the 28th BCS exams after three years on January 23 this year. The delay prevented thousands of job seekers from competing as they crossed the age limit of 30 years.

## 'Conspiracy on to foil polls'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Kalyan Party (BKP) Chairman Maj Gen (retd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim yesterday said a vested quarter is hatching a subtle conspiracy to foil the upcoming national election, says a press release.

He said this while addressing a view exchange meeting at the secretariat of the party chairman at New DOHS in the city.

BKP chairman further said when the country is marching towards the long-awaited national election, a vested quarter is involved in a secret conspiracy to foil it, fearing failure in the polls.

He vowed to resist the conspiracy with the countrymen.

Ibrahim urged the government not to keep people in the dark, saying that the government itself is responsible and accountable to the people.

BKP chairman greeted the Hindu community warmly on the occasion of Durga Puja.

## 747 sacks of urea fertiliser seized

UNB, Dhaka

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized 747 sacks of urea fertiliser from a melamine factory at Ashulia and arrested its production manager and four others.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-1 raided Quality Melamine factory at about 5:00pm and seized the urea. Production manager Shahbuddin and four employees were taken into custody.

A Rab officer from the spot told UNB by phone that the factory illegally uses urea as raw material. It procured the urea from Ashuganj and Ghorashal fertiliser factories in connivance with the local dealers who are supposed to sell the urea to farmers.



Shahidul Islam, a person with disability, speaks at a roundtable at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is Mainul Ahsan Sabar. Rasheda K Choudhury, extreme right, was present as the chief guest.

## ASIA EDN SUMMIT ENDS

# US to give 5 new Fulbright positions for Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US government authorises five new Fulbright positions for Bangladesh in the area of food security, said US Ambassador in Dhaka James F Moriarty yesterday.

"The US government through the State Department's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, has just authorised Fulbright positions for Bangladesh who will pursue master's degree programmes in the US in the area of food security," he said at the closing ceremony of Asia Regional Higher Education Summit at a city hotel.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in association with Dhaka University (DU) and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) organised the summit which was attended by around 150 academics and officials from public and private sectors in Asia and the US.

Speaking at the closing ceremony as the guest of honour, Moriarty said the summit has opened the next chapter for new partnerships, new networks and new ideas, and this new chapter started with a pledge from participants to support and expand partnerships between various sectors of society to meet the development challenges of the future.

"I hope all participants have

gained an appreciation for the critical role that higher education institutions play in addressing some of the world's most pressing development issues -- food security, women's entrepreneurship, teachers' training and natural disaster management," he said.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz said modern societies now entrust universities with greater responsibilities than ever before

## \$1,20,000 Polish support for Sidr victims

BSS, Dhaka

Poland provided 120,000 dollars to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in aid of the Sidr victims.

It was handed over to Red Crescent Chairman Prof Dr Abdur Rab yesterday by councillor at the Polish Embassy in India Arthur P Lompart when called on him during a visit to the society's headquarters.

The money would be used for house building of the victims of hurricane Sidr.

Honorary consul of Poland M Zakul Islam accompanied Lompart, a release of the Red Crescent Society said.

## Four get life for killing girl in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court here sentenced life term imprisonment to four people for killing a teenage girl after raping her yesterday.

The convicts were identified as Khairul Islam Juboraj, Jamshed Alam Samrat, Jamshid Uddin and Anwar Hossain. Of them, Juboraj was behind the bars while others were absconding.

First Additional District and Sessions Judge Sharif Uddin Ahmed handed down the verdict.

The court also fined Tk 5,000 to each of them, in default of which they will have to suffer six months more in jail.

According to the deposition of the case, they raped Najma Begum, a teen of freedom fighter Nurun Nabi, of Azam Nagar village under Mirsarai upazila in the early hours of January 18 in 2001 when the victim went out of her house to go to the toilet.

The miscreants then killed the girl and left the body on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Father of the victim filed a case with Mirsarai Police Station on the same day while the charge sheet was framed on July 28 in 2004.

The court awarded the verdict yesterday after hearing 12 witnesses.

## 2 city roads renamed after Menon, Shamsul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two city roads have been renamed after Communist Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon and Bir Uttam Shamsul Alam in recognition of their contributions to the liberation war, says a press release of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

The road from Maghbazar intersection to Banglamotor has been renamed as 'Rashed Khan Menon Sarak' and the road from Malibagh intersection to Kakrail as 'Bir Uttam Shamsul Alam Sarak'.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka formally unveiled the name plaques of the two roads yesterday.

"With the renaming of the two roads, our next generation will be able to know the history of the liberation war and will be inspired by patriotism," the mayor said.



Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC) Chairman Saadat Hussain speaks at a press conference at the PSC hall room in the city yesterday.

## 27th BCS EXAMINATIONS 1pc result may be incorrect

Says PSC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only one percent of the results of the controversial 27th BCS Examinations published afresh may not be correct due to complications of the quota system, claimed Public Service Commission (PSC) Chairman Dr Saadat Hussain yesterday.

"We took again the viva voce of the 27th BCS examinations following the request of the government. The 99 percent of the results published afresh was accurate while only one percent may be incorrect due to complications of the existing quota system," said the PSC chairman at a press conference at the commission auditorium in the capital.

He laid emphasis on the simplification of the quota system with a view to making the results cent percent accurate.

He also claimed that more candidates from the freedom fighters' quota got chance in the second-phase result.

"After the publication of the second-phase result, some candidates alleged that candidates from freedom fighters' families had been excluded, but these allegations were totally baseless," said the PSC chairman.

"In the first-phase result only 307 candidates from freedom fighters' families passed and of them only 230 candidates were recommended for recruitment in different civil services, while a total of 526 candidates from freedom fighters' families passed and of them 331 candidates were recommended for recruitment in different services in the second-phase results," Dr Saadat pointed out.

"We made the viva boards with former secretary, ex-ambassadors, editors of different dailies and academics of different universities so that no question could be raised against the boards," he added.

Meanwhile, some 27th BCS examinees whose names were in the list of successful candidates as per first result, but failed to come out successfully as per afresh result will form human chain at Aparajeyo Bangla of Dhaka University today at 11:00am and hold a press conference at the National Press Club on October 11 raising questions to the legality of the second-phase result.

These candidates have been holding protest programmes like press conference, memorandums to the chief adviser and hunger strike since the PSC published the result on September 23.

## 4th teachers' registration exams Nov 14-15

BSS, Dhaka

The fourth teachers' registration examinations for qualifying for appointment to private education institutions under monthly payment order (MPO) will now be held on November 14-15 instead of October 17 and 18 at 20 district headquarters across the country.

The dates for the exams have been re-fixed due to unavoidable circumstances, a press release of Non-Government Teachers' Registration and Attestation Authority (NTRCA) said yesterday.

The schedules and venues of the exams will be unchanged. The exams will be held in Dinaipur, Rangpur, Bogra, Rajshahi, Pabna, Kushtia, Jessore, Khulna, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Tangail, Dhaka, Faridpur, Comilla, Noakhali, Chittagong, Barisal, Patuakhali, Sylhet and Rangamati, an official handout said. The lists of the examinees and the exam venues/sub-centres will be posted on the NTRCA's website 'www.ntrca.gov.bd' one week before the tests.

The admit cards of the examinees will be sent to their respective exam venues/sub-centres at the same time. The test on school-level compulsory subjects will be held on November 14 (Friday) from 9:00am to 12:00pm and the optional subjects from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

In the same way, the exam on college-level compulsory subjects will be held on November 15 (Saturday) from 9:00am to 12:00pm and optional subjects from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.



Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka offers munajat after unveiling the plaque of a road renamed after Comrade Rashed Khan Menon at Bangla Motor intersection in the city yesterday. On his right is Rashed Khan Menon.