

UNITED NATIONS DAY

Dhaka remains committed to UN goals: Iftekhar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said Bangladesh remains unwaveringly committed to the goals and aspirations enshrined in the charter of the United Nations.

He said this while addressing as chief guest at a function celebrating the United Nations Day at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

Mentioning about the role of Bangladesh at the UN peacekeeping mission Iftekhar said, "Our soldiers and policemen are serving the cause of peace in distant trouble spots all over the world."

He also laid emphasis on the leadership role of Bangladesh in social and economic issues including climate change, poverty allega-

tion, women's empowerment and micro-credit.

About the present situation of the country, the foreign adviser said, "We have overcome many impediments. We are today on the threshold of great changes. Elections are due on December 18 which hopefully will provide Bangladesh a democracy that will be durable, stable and sustainable."

He said upon his request as chairman of the least developed countries, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon had set up a task force recently to address the food security issue.

He thanked the secretary general for this and appreciated the fact that the task force has already submitted a comprehensive report for action.

The adviser said Ban Ki-moon will soon visit Bangladesh and hoped that this distinguished visitor would rejoice with Bangladeshis at their success.

He expressed his confidence that "the UN would stand by Bangladesh as we strive to realise the fruition of our dreams with the path of our destiny lit by the torch of hope."

Speaking as special guest Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said it is very tough to establish democracy in every underdeveloped country of the world.

"Bangladesh can be an example among the low-income countries that we will be able to move toward the democracy to reflect the desire of the people although we are under poverty, excess population and shortage of resources," he added.

UN Resident Coordinator in Dhaka Renata Lok Dessallien said in a few weeks time the UN secretary general will be visiting Bangladesh at which time he himself will be conveying his deep appreciation for Bangladesh's many important contributions to the UN and the principles for which it stands.

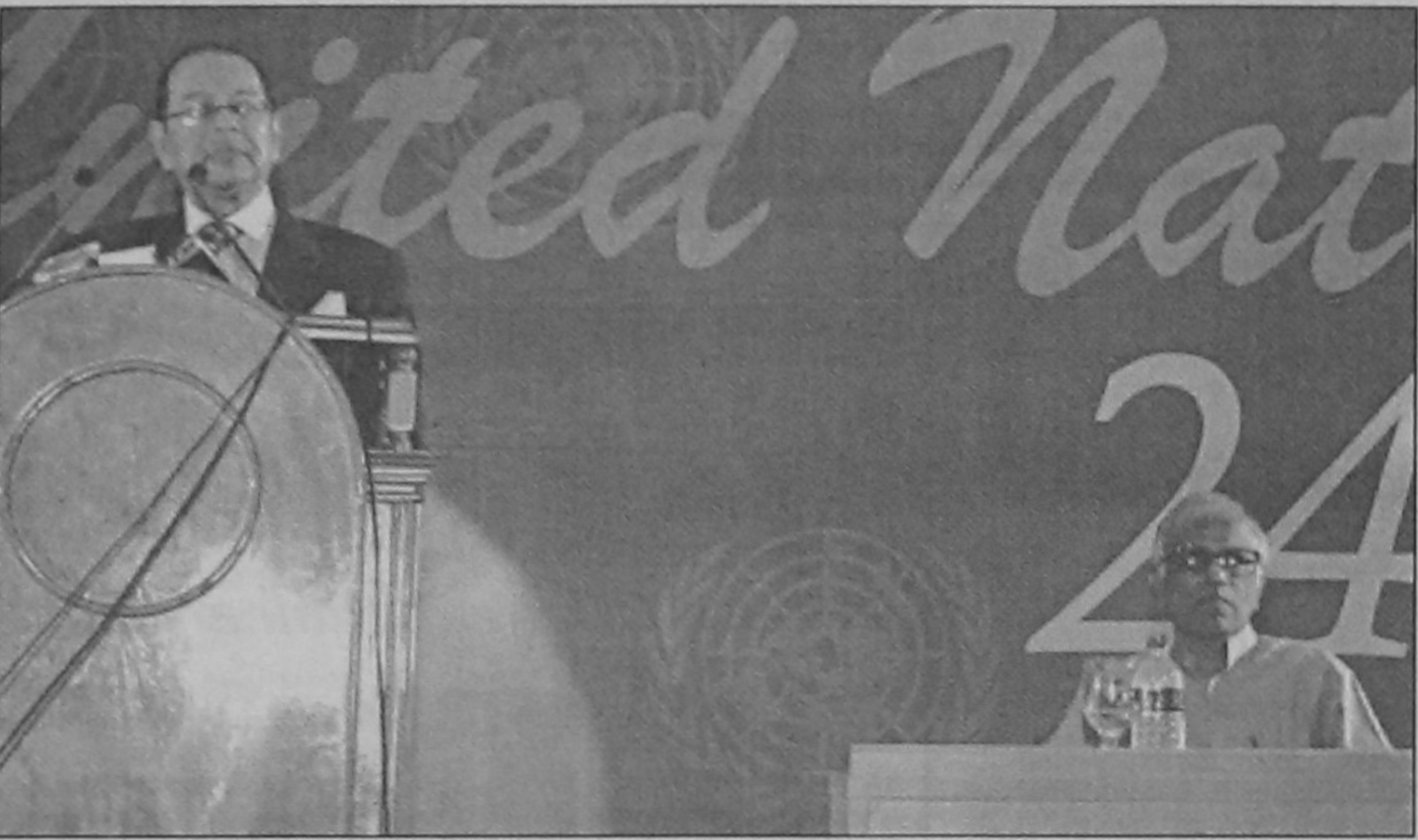
"I am sure he will come away from his visit with a deep sense of admiration and appreciation for what Bangladesh has accomplished, the rich and beautiful culture that this country is blessed with, and the deep values for which Bangladesh stands," she added.

Renata also read out this year's message of the UN secretary general where he said, "This is a crucial year in the life of the United Nations. We have just passed the midpoint in the struggle to reach the Millennium Development Goals-our common vision for building a better world in the 21st century."

"We can see more clearly than ever that the threats of the 21st century spare no one. Climate change, the spread of disease and deadly weapons and the scourge of terrorism all cross borders. If we want to advance the global common good, we must secure global public goods," he added.

Mentioning that many countries are still not on track to reach the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015, the secretary general said, "I am deeply concerned about the impact of the global financial crisis. Never has leadership and partnership been more important."

Sumaiyan Anjum, a student of Manarat, and Izaz Ahmed Sadi, a student of Notre Dame College, also addressed the programme expressing their dream for a better Bangladesh.



Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury speaks at a programme celebrating the United Nations Day at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday while Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud looks on.

'Bring war criminals to book'

METRO DESK

Acting president of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee Shahrir Kabir has reiterated his demand for the trial of the war criminals, says a press release.

He made the demand at a press conference organised by the US chapter of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee in association with Sammita Sangskriti Jote at a restaurant in New York on October 22.

Shahrir said his documentary 'War Crimes 1971' depicts what Jamaat did in 1971, and his next documentary will tell about what Jamaat is doing now and its local, regional and global terror network.

"War Crimes 1971 tells our young generation what happened in 1971, and it is a proof against the war criminals," he added.

In this context, Shahrir said that Lord Eric Aveybury in London said, "The documentary is an eye opener for the West. Those who did not know about the genocide will now believe it."

The documentary was shown in London on October 18.

In reply to a question, Shahrir said, "Our liberation war was not a

civil war, rather a genocide, because the Pakistanis targeted Hindus and Bengalees for elimination."

He quoted Prof Ben Kiernan of Yale University as saying that 'Pakistan failed to try the generals responsible for 1971 genocide, and they ultimately became powerful and created al-Qaeda.'

Replying to another question, he said the dropping of sedition charges against him by the government proves that he was politically vindicated.

The press conference was attended by President of Nirmul Committee US chapter Dr Mohsin Ali, Secretary Fahim Reza Noor and

Adviser Sitangshu Guha. Others who were present on the occasion included Dr Thomas D Roy, president of Oikya Parishad, USA and Al-Mamun, secretary of the Nirmul Committee, Sweden chapter.

On last Sunday, Shahrir attended a view exchange meeting with the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, USA.

Nabendu Dutta, Ratan Barua, Thomas D Roy, Dr Samir Sarker and Sitangshu Guha were present on the occasion.

On Saturday, his documentary was shown in New York.

3 students held for attack on media men

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested three students of BCIC College on Thursday night for their alleged involvement in vandalising some vehicles and beating two TV crew of ATN Bangla.

The arrestees - Abdul Latif alias Suman, 18, Ariful Islam, 19, and Golam Kibria, 19 - were produced before a court and then sent to Dhaka Central Jail.

On Wednesday, a group of students of the college at Mirpur blocked Mirpur-New Market road and damaged a number of vehicles, demanding expulsion of six female students for their alleged campaign against the college teachers.

The students said the female students used to attend a coaching centre opened by Selim Mazar, a former teacher of the college.

Police said instigated by the former teacher, the students launched the malicious campaign against their teachers.

The demonstrators also attacked ATN Bangla reporter Maimul Hasan and his cameraman Sentu for televising interviews of the female students.

Lawyer murder

FROM PAGE 1

told The Daily Star, "The locals and even Amin's mother said that they knew about his criminal acts and imprisonments."

The OC said Amin tortured his wife and had made advances to Tuli and being refused he got angry. This could have led him to kill her, the OC said.

His mother Rokeya Begum said after Amin's return from Saudi Arabia, they arranged marriage of Amin with Yasmin taking Tk 80,000 as dowry.

Locals also said Amin was addicted to drugs and was involved in various anti-social activities.

Meanwhile, Tuli's brother Salauddin Pappu filed a case accusing six people, including Amin, of killing his sister.

In the case statement, Pappu mentioned that Amin killed his sister in cooperation with Amin's father Abdul Matin, mother Rokeya Begum, wife Yasmin and his two sisters Fatema and Murni.

The OC said they have not arrested anyone else yet. Sub-inspector Amirul Islam of Shabbagh Police Station, the investigating officer of the case, said they had been interrogating Amin.

Tuli, 28, was living as a sub-let tenant in the same house that Amin lived in for the last three months. She had been practising law as an apprentice at the judge court under a senior lawyer. She was killed Thursday and Amin was seen showing off her chopped-off head in broad daylight.



A Baul sings during a demonstration organised by the students of Institute of Fine Art at Suhrawardy Udyan in the city yesterday. They protested the removal of Baul sculptures from the roundabout in front of Zia International Airport.

Workers' festival celebrated with high hopes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The first-ever 'Workers' Festival 2008' was celebrated in the country with participation of huge numbers of garment workers in a festive mood with their hopes high at Osmani Stadium in Narayanganj yesterday.

Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) President Fazlul Haque formally inaugurated the festival by releasing pigeons.

BKMEA organised the programme with an aim to increase friendly relationship between the industry owners and workers.

Wearing colourful dresses and holding banners and fests, around 50,000 workers from different garment factories flocked to the

festival premises and enjoyed different entertainment events, including puppet show, bioscope and merry-go-round.

They also participated in a number of entertainment programmes like fashion show, stage drama, dance and musical events.

Talking to this correspondent, Ayesha Khatun, worker of Fakir Apparels, said, "I am so happy to be present at the festival that was really enjoyable. It is still unbelievable that such type of programme was arranged for the poor like us."

Selina Khatun, worker of Metro Garments, and Shefali of Model D Capital Garments, requested the arrangers for arranging such festival every year.

Meanwhile, protesting the

festival, some garment workers led by Mahbubur Rahman Ismail, leader of Garment Sramik Sangram Parishad, staged a symbolic hunger strike at the Chashara Central Shaheed Minar.

Demanding immediate implementation of the tripartite agreement among the government, workers and owners, they said it is necessary to re-fix salary and wage scale instead of holding a festival.

They also demanded withdrawal of all restrictions on trade unionism immediately.

Education and Commerce Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman distributed awards among the participants. Artistes Mamataj and Bari Siddique rendered various popular numbers.

Ctg Eye Infirmary celebrates 25th anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

With a commitment to providing specialised and professional treatment of international standards to eye patients, Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex (CEITC), locally known as Pahartali eye hospital, at Pahartali celebrates its 25th anniversary today.

Equipped with latest surgical and other necessary instruments and facilities, the hospital has so far provided treatment to over 30 lakh patients and conducted surgical operations restoring vision to three lakh people, said Managing Trustee of the hospital Dr Rabiul Husain.

CEITC is a subsidiary of Bangladesh National Society for Blinds (BNSB).

Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman will be present at the celebration programme as the chief guest and Rosi Gollmann, founder president of Andheri Hilfe, as the special guest on the hospital premises at 10:00am.

CEITC started its activities as a 40-bed eye hospital on the rented premise of Government General Hospital Building at Anderkilla back in 1973. It is now a full-fledged 130-bed eye hospital standing on its own premise at Pahartali.

Sources said CEITC conducts surgical operations on some 70 eye-patients in six modern and spacious operation theatres (OTs) with over 10 patients being operated upon in each OT daily.

CEITC hospital has a special arrangement for conducting cornea transplantation with the help of an international eye bank. The US-based ORBIS is involved in the service of the hospital providing

electronic and other apparatus for the paediatric department and training manpower for the hospital.

The paediatric department is designed to have an inter-link with some top-notch US eye centres to get advice and suggestion for the treatment of critical diseases.

CEITC Board of Trustees Member MA Malek, also editor of local daily Azadi, said the hospital by now stands as a model in the sub-continent in term of providing treatment of international standards.

Foresight Australia, Royal Common Society for Blind and Norwegian Association for Blind have also extended a helping hand to the hospital.

A get-together of the alumni of the Institute of Community Ophthalmology under the CEITC will be held at 10:00am tomorrow.

7-yr-old girl strangled after rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seven-year-old schoolgirl was raped and strangled at Ashulia sometime between Thursday evening and early yesterday morning.

The killers wrapped the body in a sack and dumped it in a vegetable garden near her house in Badail.

Local people found the body of Ema, daughter of tea vendor Imam Hossain, at around 6:30am yesterday and then informed the police who sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

The police picked up two people for interrogation. One of them is Abdul Bhuiyan, a neighbour.

Morgue sources said the girl was raped before being murdered.

Jatiya Party asks candidates to collect forms for nomination

BSS, Dhaka

Jatiya Party (Ershad) candidates, who are interested to contest the upcoming parliamentary election, have been asked to collect their nomination forms between October 26 and 30.

The intending candidates for all constituencies can collect nomination forms from Maj (ret'd) Mohammad Khaled Akber, treasurer of the party, from Banani office of the party.

The fee for each nomination form has been fixed at Tk 5,000 which should be submitted to the party treasurer by October 31, said a press release yesterday.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Prof ML Chowdhury of Netrakona, an organiser of the Liberation War and noted social worker, says a press release.

He was the founder of Khila College, former vice-principal of Bangabasi College and ex-secretary general of Bangladesh-UK Friendship Society. Religious programmes will be held at his village home at Barabari in Paharpur, Madan.



Meritorious candidates and children of freedom fighters who were dropped from the list of successful candidates selected according to the fresh results of the 27th BCS examinations demonstrate on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding their appointment.

WEATHER TODAY logo with sun and cloud icons.

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporarily gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over Rajshahi division, Met office said, predicting that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and Kutubdia and the lowest of 20.5 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:24pm today and rises at 6:01am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Low over Bay intensifies

UNB, Dhaka

The low over west-central Bay and adjoining area moved slightly west-northwestwards and intensified into a well marked low over west-central Bay and adjoining north-west Bay.

It is likely to intensify further and move in a north or northwesterly direction. Squally weather may affect the maritime ports, said a special Met office bulletin.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number three.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay and deep sea have been advised to come close to the coast and proceed with caution till further notice.

Authorickshaw drivers threaten indefinite strike

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka District Autorickshaw Sramik Union yesterday threatened to go for an indefinite strike from November 23 in the city if its 11-point demand is not met immediately, says a press release.

The demands include withdrawal of all cases filed against the distribution of registration of additional 5,000 CNG-run autorickshaws among drivers, punishment to the CNG corruptionists, including Fazlul Haq, Mokhesur Rahman, Golam Faruq and Barkat Ullah Bulu and implementation of the deposition money at Tk450 daily.

The union leaders also demanded parking stands for autorickshaws in the city and stopping of renting the rickshaws to the drivers with false licences.

They alleged that due to lack of adequate autorickshaws in the city, the owners are taking extra charge from the drivers. So, the drivers are also taking extra fare from the passengers.

State-run mills begin sugarcane crushing

UNB, Natore

Sugarcane crushing at state-owned 15 sugar mills began yesterday with a target to produce over 1.73 lakh tonnes of sugar by crushing 22.72 lakh tonnes of sugarcane during the current fiscal year.

Chief Adviser's Special Assistant Mahbub Jamil inaugurated the sugarcane crushing programme at North Bengal Sugar Mills in the morning, said a press release.

DHAKA TODAY Seminar section with details of various seminars and discussions.

Red tape major barrier

FROM PAGE 1

The commission chairman is doubtful whether any major changes can be brought to Bol and the environment ministry, which issues clearance certificates for setting up industries.

"The Board of Investment has yet to understand that there is a duality between business promotion and regulation. The employees of Bol have been transferred from the Department of Industries, which used to regulate business, and behave as if they were still there to regulate business."

On the environment ministry's role he said, "Ours is a small country, it'll not be possible to strictly enforce all the safe environment regulations here. If we want to do this, many industries on the Gazipur road won't be there. We'll have to compromise for the sake of business."

Though the ministry did not give any concession, thousands of industries have mushroomed defying the regulations, he observed.

"The issue has to be settled at

political level so that recurrences of further defiance can be stopped," he said.

Akbar Ali said it is a major success of the commission that the government has not turned down any of its recommendations so far.

"But there is delay in implementation of the recommendations. And it is not at the bureaucratic level only but also beyond it," he noted.

Seven top bureaucrats including the cabinet, establishment, law and home secretaries are working with RRC. "We don't make a decision without consensus, which means that there shouldn't be any problem from bureaucracy," he said.

But a significant recommendation like pre-publication of drafts of rules and regulations for taking public opinions before finalising those has yet to be implemented.

"This provision is there in the 1897 General Clauses Act, and doing this is nothing revolutionary. The rules and regulations can be published in newspapers or the government can just put those on

website," he said.

He went on to say: "All the draft rules of Securities and Exchange Commission are published before those are finalised. Then why can't other rules and regulations?"

"If the government thinks there is a problem with publishing any draft, the cabinet or the advisory council may make the decision and can even address the defect, if there is any. But presently, the secretaries solely make the decision."

On what keeps the recommendation off implementation, he said, "When it went to the government, some opinioned it involves a lot of money. Such a minor cause has blocked such an important move."

Dr Akbar said he would remind the CA about it because he (CA) himself is very much interested to see it done.

Pointing out two major bottlenecks for business, he expressed frustration that the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms could not be convinced for verifying stamp duties, needed for registering a new company, after giving registration to avoid delay.

The recommendation for introducing a computer-based programme so that the aspirant investors can choose a name never used before has yet to get the Registrar's consent, he added.

On compiling all the rules and regulations to let people get those on a specific topic easily, he said different ministries have failed to provide them with complete lists. "The law ministry doesn't have the list of the rules and regulations dating before 1966 and has also failed to provide texts of all those since 1966."

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has agreed to provide technical assistance, and after the government reaches a deal with it, it will start uploading the rules and regulations on the establishment ministry website.

Dr Akbar Ali said all the RRC recommendations can be implemented in one year if all offices concerned cooperate. The commission is not only formulating recommendations but also cautiously playing an advocacy role, he added.