

Ensure honest leadership in JS for good governance

Speakers tell discussion

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said it is impossible to establish good governance unless participation of honest and competent leadership is ensured in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS).

They said political parties should not give nomination to corrupt and dishonest persons in the upcoming national election while the voters should not cast vote in favour of them.

The discussion titled 'National parliament election and expected leadership' was organised by the

daily Hridaye Bangladesh at the National Press Club in the city.

Shahidul Haq Khan, publisher and editor of the daily, presided over the discussion where Dr M Asaduzzaman, executive director of Bangladesh Science Foundation, presented a keynote paper.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique of Dhaka University said the spirit of the liberation war was to establish a secular state with a democratic government.

People hoped that the country would be run under the leadership of honest and competent people to meet their expectations, he

added.

But after the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, the country gradually drifted away from that spirit, he observed.

Faruk Khan said media can play a vital role in electing competent leaders for parliament.

Former Jatiya Party lawmaker GM Kader, former adviser to a caretaker government GM Shafi Sami, former information secretary Syed Margub Morshed, and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbadh Sangstha Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.



Envoys of eight Muslim countries call on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her party office at Gulshan in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

EDUCATION WATCH REPORT LAUNCHED

86pc secondary students have private tutors

Madrasa edn conducted on poor curriculum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 86 percent of students at secondary level have private tutors because their parents think education provided by high schools or madrasas is not enough for their preparation, said Education Watch Report 2007.

The students on an average get supports from their private tutors for 5.7 months and spend Tk 2775, it added.

Schools run by the government are mostly in urban areas and are better equipped in respect of staffs and facilities, it added.

According to the report, there is a huge difference between the general and madrasa educations in terms of what is taught.

"The secondary-level madrasa education is conducted on the basis of a poorly constructed curriculum in the context of the current competency needs for the young genera-

tion," it mentioned.

The report said socio-economic barriers like marriage and poverty pull girl students away from further education and job market.

Kazi Fazlur Rahman, chairperson of Education Watch, presided over the launching programme where Badrul Alam Tarafdar, secretary-in-charge of primary and mass education ministry, and Samir Ranjan Nath, a researcher of Education Watch, were present.



Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty calls on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Ten students get Sitara Parvin Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten students of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University were awarded Prof Sitara Parvin Award for their excellent performance in the BSS (Honours) examinations 2006, says a press release.

The award giving ceremony was held at RC Majumdar auditorium of the university yesterday.

The awardees are Ibrahim Bin Harun, Mahbub Alam Rony, Nafida Adib, Md Yusuf, Nandita Tabassum Khan, Md Abul Kalam Azad, Sabekun Nahar, Bidhan Chandra Saha, Sajib Kumar Srakar and Shahin Akhter.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz handed over the awards to the students.

Prof Giti Ara Nasreen of the department chaired the programme while Prof Harun-ur-Rashid, and Prof Sakawat Ali Khan attended it as special guests.

GRAFT CHARGE

ACC to sue ex-BNP lawmaker Wahab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved the filing of a case against former BNP lawmaker Abdul Wahab for amassing huge wealth through illegal means and concealing wealth information in the wealth statement submitted to the commission.

The ACC also approved submission of ten proposed charge sheets against 16 people, including six government employees.

Besides, the commission approved issuing of a notice to former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa's wife Nurun Nahar Parul asking her to submit a statement of wealth, Md Shahjahan, director general, Special Enquiry and Investigation, ACC, said at a press briefing at the ACC headquarters.

The case will be filed against Abdul Wahab, former BNP lawmaker from Jhenidah-1, on charges of amassing wealth worth Tk 45.97 lakh beyond his known sources of

income and hiding information about his wealth worth Tk 89.92 lakh in the wealth statement.

The charge sheets will be submitted against 16 people, including six government employees, in money embezzlement and bribery cases.

The government employees are former temporary upazila postmaster of Louhajang Ebnul Hasan, Union Assistant Land Officer of Sreenagar Dewar Mohammad Abu Taleb, customs inspector at Zia International Airport Ali Akand, Building Inspector of Rajuk, Dhaka, Amir Khasru, Executive Engineer of Desa Shamsul Alam Bhuiyan, and copier of sub-registry office in Nakla, Sherpur, Alamgir Prakash.

Other accused include Senior Vice-president and Manager of Jamuna Bank Habibur Rahman, former manager of Butterfly Marketing Ltd, Chittagong branch, Rajibul Hasan Chowdhury, former senior officer of Rupali Bank Faruque Jahangir Khan and Hafez Ahmad Masud.

Noor Hossain Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political and student organisations yesterday observed Shaheed Noor Hossain Day to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of the activist of pro-democracy movement.

Noor Hossain, a worker of Awami Juba League, was killed in police firing at Zero Point in the city during a procession against the then autocratic regime of HM Ershad on November 10, 1987.

The killing of Noor, whose bare body was inscribed with the slogan 'Swarachar Nipat Jak, Gonatantra Mukti Pak' (Down with autocracy, let democracy be freed), fuelled the ongoing movement leading to fall of Ershad and paving the way for restoration of democracy.

Zero Point was later renamed as Noor Hossain Square.

Different political parties and student organisations placed wreaths at the footstep of Noor Hossain Square.

Leaders of different organisations at their discussion meetings held at different places in the city to observe the day recalling the glorious sacrifice of Noor in establishing democracy.

They said the sacrifice of Noor cannot go in vain and urged all to work unitedly to restore democracy.

ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH

Charges pressed against ex-MP Nadim Mostafa

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against former BNP lawmaker advocate Nadim Mostafa in a case filed in connection with amassing wealth worth Tk 2.86 crore illegally and concealing information about wealth worth around Tk 2.52 crore from the commission.

ACC Assistant Director SM Rashedur Reza, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Dhaka, showing 66 people as prosecution witnesses.

In the charge sheet, IO mentioned that Nadim amassed wealth worth Tk 2,86,17,157 through illegal means and concealed information of wealth around Tk 2,52,53,205 in his statement submitted to the commission.

However, the IO dropped the name of Nadim's wife Nurunahar Parul from the charge sheet and appealed to the court to discharge her as charges brought in the first information report (FIR) were not proved.

The ACC assistant director also prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against Nadim and orders to attach his properties as he has been absconding since the case was filed.

Earlier, Nadim's mother-in-law Jahannara Begum and Rajshahi University Assistant Registrar Shamsunahar had given judicial statements to magistrates on different dates in connection with the case. However, details of the statements were not revealed.

Hearing on petition seeking stay on UZ elections today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A petition has been filed with the High Court (HC) seeking stay on the process of holding the upcoming upazila elections in the country.

Abdus Samad, a lecturer at Putia Ideal Degree College in Rajshahi, who earlier filed a writ petition with the HC challenging the legality of some provisions of three local government election ordinances prohibiting the teachers from contesting the upazila polls, filed the petition as a supplementary application on November 9.

His counsel Advocate Tajul Islam yesterday told The Daily Star that hearing of the petition might be held today at the HC bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Farah Mahbub.

Samad filed the writ petition on August 31 challenging the legality of Section 9(2) of the City Corporation Election Ordinance 2008, Section 19(2) of the Poursabha Election Ordinance 2008 and Section 16(2) of the Upazila Parishad Ordinance 2008, which prohibit teachers of the institutions getting government's MPO from contesting polls.

Following the writ petition, an HC bench comprising of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Mamoon Rahman issued on September 2 a rule upon the government and Election Commission (EC) to explain why certain provisions of three ordinances prohibiting the teachers from contesting upazila polls should not be declared illegal.

Samad had stated in the writ petition that he was earlier elected a ward commissioner of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) but he could not contest the RCC elections this year because of these provisions of the ordinances.

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JP (Manju) yet to join new electoral alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (Manju) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam yesterday claimed that his party received a proposal from leaders of new electoral alliance initiated by AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Dr Kamal Hossain but yet to join.

However, leaders of the new alliance at a press conference on Sunday claimed that the new electoral alliance has been formed comprising B Chowdhury led Bikalpo Dhara Bangladesh, Dr Kamal Hossain led Gono Forum, Bangabir Kader Siddiqui led Krishak Samik, Janata League, Sheikh Shahidul Islam led JP (Manju), Major General (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim led Bangladesh Kalyan Party, and Sekendar Ali Moni led Bangladesh Labour Party.

"The future course of Jatiya Party will be decided in presidium meeting of the party," says a JP press release.

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Tribute paid to MN Larma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday paid tributes to Manabendra Narayan Larma, founder general secretary of Parbatya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity, on the occasion of his 25th death anniversary.

They said MN Larma, a leader of indigenous community, had dedicated himself to establishing the rights of deprived people who ever they may be - a member of ethnic community or a Bengali.

The National Committee to observe the 25th death anniversary of MN Larma organised the discussion at the National Press Club in the city.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury said MN Larma was not only the best leader of hills people but also the leader of all deprived people.

Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said, "We could not yet achieve the freedom we wanted and MN Larma dreamt of, because we could not try the war criminals and recognise the ethnic minority people."

"We and MN Larma dreamt of the same dream - a secular democratic Bangladesh - but it is yet to be accomplished," said Prof Islam.

Journalist Kamal Lohani delivered the MN Larma memorial lecture at the programme.

Former adviser to the caretaker government Advocate Sultana Kamal, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Workers Party leader Haider Akbar Khan Rano, Prof Dalem Chandra Barman, Prof Sadeka Halim, writer Selina Hossain and Sanjeeb Dron, secretary general of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, also spoke at the programme moderated by Associate Professor Robayet Ferdous of Dhaka University.



A policeman coaxes a child to give up demonstration as she joins her father, a teacher of Tejgaon College, and his 17 colleagues who formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding their reinstatement.

Ophthalmological Society eye camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Community Ophthalmological Society has treated 450 eye patients at an eye camp in the city's Kamrangir Char area free of cost.

The eye camp was held at Haji Abdul Awal High School on Saturday in observance of the World Vision Day 2008.

A total of 150 patients were given spectacles and 84 poor cataract patients were selected and sent to Salauddin Specialised Hospital for cataract surgery free of cost.

Doctors from the National Institute of Ophthalmology, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Birdem, Dhaka Medical College and Sir Salimullah Medical College treated the patients.

A discussion was also held at the inaugural ceremony of the eye camp.

President of Bangladesh Community Ophthalmological Society Prof Awa Hossain presided over the discussion attended by Prof M A Matin, Prof Syed Modasser Ali, Prof Dr Deen Mohammad Nurul Haq, Dr Sharfuddin Ahmed and Dr Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, secretary general of the Society.

HC RULE ON GOVT

Why Bangla should not be used in all offices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain within four weeks why it (government) should not be directed to take necessary steps to implement 'Bangla Bhasha Procholon Ain 1987' (an act to enforce the use of Bangla language) and why Bangla should not be used in all government, autonomous and private organisations.

An HC bench of Justice Tariqul Hakim and Justice Farah Mahbub passed the order upon a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST).

The petitioner stated that Bangla Bhasha Procholon Ain was enacted in 1987 but it has not yet been implemented.

Although the government has enacted the law for using Bangla, the government organisations are using English in most cases, the petitioner added.

Advocate Idrisur Rahman appeared for the petitioner.

Mahbub-Uz-Zaman made HC to Sri Lanka

Mahbub-Uz-Zaman, a diplomat from Bangladesh Civil Service (Foreign Affairs), has been appointed new High Commissioner to Sri Lanka.

Mahbub-Uz-Zaman, after completing his MSS from Dhaka University in Economics, joined the Foreign Service in 1968, said a press release.

Obituary

Prof Mohidur Rahman, chairman of Department of Accounting at Manikganj Government Devendra College, passed away due to heart attack on Sunday at the age of 55.

He left behind his wife, a son and two daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at his village graveyard under Satoria upazila in Manikganj.

Advocate Ali Reza

Advocate Ali Reza, public prosecutor of Bogra, passed away at Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday at the age of 55, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, a daughter, a son and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Mohammed Delwar Hossain

Mohammed Delwar Hossain, a section officer of examination controller's office of the National University, passed away due to cancer yesterday at the age of 55, says a press release.

His body was taken to his village home in Barisal for burial.

Death anniversary

Today is the 51st death anniversary of Major (ret'd) A Ghani, founder of the East Bengal Regiment and its sister wing Bangladesh Infantry Regiment, and a Language Movement veteran, says a press release.

On the occasion, Major Ghani Parishad organises a discussion at Diploma Engineers' Institution auditorium at 3.00pm. The book 'Founder of East Bengal Regiment Major Ghani: Life and Deed' by Prof Titus Chowdhury will also be launched at the programme.

Shahabuddin Musharraf

Today is the first death anniversary of Dr Shahabuddin Musharraf Hossain (Munir), a former economist of the IMF, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quirankhwani and milad mahfil will be held. Besides, food will be distributed amongorphans.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

ARM Enamul Haque

Today is the 31st death anniversary of Engineer ARM Enamul Haque, a social worker, says a press release.

He was the first posthumous eye donor in Bangladesh and one of the founders of Dhanmondi Club.

DHAKA TODAY

Ittefaq roundtable
The Daily Ittefaq organises a roundtable on police ordinance. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

Meena award
The award giving ceremony of the Meena Media Award 2008 will be held. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 11:00am.

Seminar
Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh organises a seminar on role of the authorities in preventing road accidents and necessity of amendment of related laws. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban. Time: 11:00am.

Workshop
Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute organises a workshop on TRIPS agreement and certain topical issues in regard to intellectual property. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9:30am.

Roundtable
Shujan organises a roundtable on electoral manifesto of political parties and expectation of people. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 32.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundi and Cox's Bazar and lowest 14.6 degrees Celsius at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:14pm today and rises at 6:12am 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	30.6	19.9	70	71
Chittagong	30.6	20.0	82	73
Rajshahi	30.5	16.6	87	82
Khulna	31.7	21.4	70	73
Barisal	30.0	19.5	75	87
Sylhet	30.7	18.9	73	71
Cox's Bazar	32.6	21.3	71	71

Foundation stone of Hanif Community Centre laid

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka laid the foundation stone of the six-storied Mayor Md Hanif Community Centre at Kazi Alauddin Road in Siddique Bazar area yesterday, says a press release.

The DCC mayor at the programme recalled the contribution of his predecessor to different sectors for developing the city.

The city life has become uncomfortable with increasing population and if the problem continues like this, soon the city will be inhabitable, he said.

"And to address this problem, we have to make a plan keeping the next 50 years in our mind," he added.

He urged all to recognise the deeds of the noble people regardless of their political identity to set an example before the nation.

The mayor also declared that the healthcare centre at the 2nd floor of the community centre will be named after Nasimun Bewa.

Ward Commissioner Haji Ahmad Hossain, Kazi Abul Bashar, Alhaj Liakat Ali, Haji Azizullah, women commissioners and Chief Executive Officer of the organisation Md Alauddin were also present on the occasion.

US mission closed today

The American Embassy, including the Consular Section and the Public Affairs Section with the Archer K Blood American Centre Library and the Student Advising Centre will remain closed today on the occasion of Veterans Day, an American national holiday, says a press release.

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

New accreditation council for quality control stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no need for a new private university ordinance to ensure quality in higher education, said the vice-chancellors of different private universities yesterday.

At a roundtable in the city they stressed the need for a new accreditation council for quality control in private universities.

The roundtable titled 'Quality in Higher Education' was organised by the Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) at Cirdap auditorium.

"It is not possible to ensure quality in higher education through ordinance. If the quality education can be ensured at secondary and higher secondary levels, then the quality in higher

education will surely be ensured," said Dr Zafarullah Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of Gono Bishwabidyalaya.

The private universities should not be blamed for the absence of teachers in public universities, he said, adding, the public universities should formulate a policy so that a teacher cannot take classes in more than one private university.

While presenting the keynote paper Prof Dr M Alimullah Miyan, vice-chancellor of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), said quality assurance is necessary to promote and safeguard public confidence in higher educational institutions in terms of standards, quality, employability and skills of graduates.

He said quality assurance can be promoted through establishment of an independent, autonomous, non-government body for accreditation of degree programmes in all universities of the country.

"The accreditation should be voluntary and must be targeted to promote quality in university education through proactive activities and establishing norms of institutional conduct," he added.

Presided over by Abul Quasem Haider, vice-chairman of APUB, the roundtable was also addressed by Prof Shamsul Haq, vice-chancellor of Northern University, Dr Rahim B Talukder of Eastern University, M A Mannan Chowdhury, Mohammad Abdullah and Mohammad Sabur Khan.