

# Media-friendly environment a must to sustain democracy

## Says visiting IPI team

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A media-friendly environment is imperative to curb corruption and hold a free and fair election to sustain democracy, the visiting International Press Institute (IPI) delegation said yesterday.

They were addressing a press conference at the National Press Club in the city. The IPI delegation held the press conference after it had met journalists, members of the civil society, army intelligence, the attorney general, the Election Commission, the chief adviser and political leaders to discuss press freedom.

"Other organisations often tried to tell the media what they should follow which is not good, the editors and journalists' organisations should hold talks within themselves to prepare a code of conduct and go to the election commission which would help them cover the election fairly and effectively," IPI Director David Dudge said while replying to the question whether the code of conduct imposed by the election commission for media would harm the fairness of the election.

The IPI delegation also said that the chief adviser had assured that the state of emergency will not be in force during the elections.

The delegation urged the military forces not to influence the media saying a free media would be useful for the military itself.

The IPI also called for immediate

release of Editor and Publisher of the daily Janakantha Mohammad Atiqullah Khan Masud.

David said both Awami League and BNP have agreed to review the cases of all murdered journalists and the case of Mohammad Atiqullah Khan Masud.

The IPI delegation also called for enactment of a broadcasting law in line with international standards and containing provisions supporting freedom of the press, as well as a suitable commitment to public service.

Owais Aslam Ali, secretary general of Pakistan Press Foundation, and Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, executive editor of the daily Sangbad, were also present at the press conference.



Candidates of the 27th BCS examinations stage a demonstration at the Public Service Commission office in the city yesterday demanding their immediate appointment. These candidates passed the exams at first but were dropped from the list of successful candidates as per the second phase results.

PHOTO: STAR

## 27TH BCS EXAM 17 held on charges of vandalism on PSC campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested 12 candidates, who came out successful in the first phase result of the 27th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations but was later dropped from the list of successful ones as per the second phase result, and five of their relatives on charges of vandalism on Public Service Commission campus.

Witnesses said the agitating candidates put the main gate of PSC under lock and key at around 9:00am and vandalised the windowpanes of the building, leaving the staffers stranded inside the building.

They also ransacked several vehicles parked in front of the PSC building.

Later, police rushed to the spot and arrested them.

Police said the PSC authorities were taking preparation for filing a case.

Manjur Hossain, personal secretary to the PSC chairman, gave newsmen a hand-out that stated that the agitating candidates filed a writ petition with the High Court against the government and the PSC.

POLICE ORDINANCE

## Website launched to elicit public opinion

UNB, Dhaka

A website was launched to elicit public opinion about the draft Police Ordinance-2008.

The Ministry of Home Affairs launched the website <http://www.mha.gov.bd/pdf/policord08.pdf> to provide information about the Ordinance and elicit public opinion.

People have been asked to download the website and send their opinion and suggestions about the Ordinance.

Letter containing opinion can be sent to Deputy Secretary (Law) at law section of the ministry.

Opinion and suggestions can also be sent to the e-mail-sujaet@gmail.com

## Delete Khaleda's name from voter list

Demands BCL DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League, yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Chief Election Commissioner demanding deletion of the name of Khaleda Zia from voter list for using false date as her birthday.

A six-member BCL team led by its vice president Golam Sarwar Kabir submitted the memorandum at election commission secretariat in the city.

Earlier, police intercepted a procession of BCL leaders and activists at around 1:00pm in front of fine arts faculty of DU when they were marching towards election commission office to submit the memorandum.

Being intercepted, BCL men held a brief rally there. BCL leaders including Mahmud Hasan Ripon, Mahfujul Haider Chowdhury Roton, Sohel Rana Tipu and Sajjad Saqib Badsha spoke at the rally.

They said Khaleda Zia has been confusing the nation using different dates as her birthday in different times.

## Cabinet secy meets president

UNB, Dhaka

Newly appointed Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

During the meeting, Aziz expressed his gratitude to the president and the government for his appointment to the post and also sought his cooperation in discharging his duties.

## UCBL guard shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security guard of Sutrapur branch of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL) was found bullet-hit mysteriously inside the office yesterday morning.

Identified as Md Mosharrif Hossain, 48, the victim was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. He received a bullet in his abdomen.

The cause behind the incident is still shrouded in mystery as he was undergoing treatment in an unconscious condition.

Other employees of the bank said they found Mosharrif bullet wounded after the office was opened at around 8:00am.

UCBL Managing Director Shahjahan Bhuiyan told the Daily Star, "Mosharrif might have been injured during his suicidal attempt." But he could not explain the cause.

## Controversial RU staff clash with police

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 'controversially-appointed' fourth-class employees of Rajshahi University (RU) were injured in a clash between police and employees in second day of the indefinite strike on the campus yesterday.

Earlier, around 200 fourth-class employees of RU enforced an indefinite strike on the campus wearing shrouds demanding regularisation of their jobs.

The employees were preparing to burn the effigy of RU acting vice chancellor. On information, law enforcers rushed to the spot and tried to snatch away the effigy.

At one stage, the police locked in a clash with the angry employees.



PHOTO: BISHWO SHAHITTO KENDRO

Unesco Director General Koichiro Matsuura presents Jan Amos Comenius Medal to Bishwo Shahitto Kendro Chairman Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed at an award giving ceremony during the 48th session of the International Conference on Education in Geneva recently. Bishwo Shahitto Kendro has been selected for the prestigious award for its outstanding achievement and innovations in the fields of teaching and educational research.

## PRIMARY TEACHERS' DEMAND

# Political leaders express solidarity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of several political parties, including Awami League (AL), yesterday assured the teachers of non-government primary schools that the demand of nationalising their jobs would be mentioned in the election manifestos of the parties.

Addressing a teachers' rally in the city, leaders of AL, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) and some other small parties also said the demand of the teachers would be implemented if they can form the next government.

Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers' Association (BNPTA) organised the rally at Central Shaheed Minar where several hundred teachers gathered from different districts.

"The standard of primary education can't be improved or ensured without providing a handsome salary to the teachers. Teaching in primary level will be made attractive so that meritorious students are eager to come there," said AL president member Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir while addressing the programme.

Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, chairman of education and human resources development sub-committee of AL, said he would try to convince AL leaders to implement the demand of the teachers if AL-led grand alliance wins the next parliamentary polls.

BDB Secretary General Abdul Manan said the issue will be mentioned in the party's election manifesto because it is a logic demand.

## Karnaphuli gas co to start operation by month-end

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Framing of a legal structure is at the final stage to set up a separate gas distribution centre titled 'Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Ltd' to ensure smooth distribution of gas in greater Chittagong and CHT areas by the end of this month.

Everything is also set to introduce double shifts in five schools in the port city from next month, said Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman here yesterday.

Talking about the progress of the development package in the port city, Hossain Zillur said a related rule is being amended to facilitate acquisition of land for the development of large projects, particularly housing, spreading over more than 20

acres of land. Besides, several projects of Chittagong Wasa and CCC got the Enec's approval for increased production of water and further development of drainage system in the port city, he added.

Zillur referred that the government had published a gazette notification on November 17 for restructuring of Bakharabad Gas Systems Ltd (BGSL) with an aim to help gas industry flourish and increase service standards of different companies through making coordination and rationalisation of the companies under Petrobangla.

KGDCI would start functioning at the BGSL building of Sholoshahar Shahar Gate No 2 area in the port city, he added.

## Arrest warrant against Falu's wife Mahbuba

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against detained former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Falu's wife Mahbuba Sultana in a case filed for abetting her husband in acquiring Tk 62.23 crore illegally and concealing information of wealth worth Tk 15.97 crore from the Anti-Corruption (ACC).

After accepting the charge sheet, Judge ANM Basir Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court took the charges into cognisance against Falu and his wife for trial.

The court issued the arrest warrant against Mahbuba as she has been absconding since the case was filed against her. It also fixed January 4, 2009 for returning a report on the arrest warrant.

Earlier, Mahbuba was sentenced to eight years' simple imprisonment on August 22, 2007 for evading a total of Tk 1,58,05,733 income tax during fiscal years 2001 to 2006.

## BDR, BSF agree to resolve disputes thru' discussion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at a meeting yesterday agreed to maintain peace along the border and resolve disputes through discussion and necessary action.

The sector commander level meeting was at Sonapatla High School in between Sonapatla and Jotderpara border under Atwaryupazailan Panchagarh.

The BDR and BSF men also agreed on joint patrolling to curb trans-border terrorism, smuggling of drug, arms and explosives and women and children trafficking.

BDR Dinajpur Sector Commander Col Rezaul Kabir led a 15-member Bangladesh team, while DIG Dr R Chandra Mohan of Kishanganj Sector headed the BSF team at the meeting.

Both the sides also reached a consensus on maintaining peaceful co-existence in the frontier areas showing maximum tolerance.

BDR Commanding Officer Col S Shahed Kamal said other issues came up for the discussion include killing or injuring Bangladeshis nationals in unprovoked firing by Indian border guards, cattle head grazing and cultivation alongside the zero line by nationals of both the countries, cutting barbed wire fences and confidence building measures to develop relationships between the two next-door neighbours.

## 'Reject anti-liberation forces in elections'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday called on all to reject anti-liberation forces in the upcoming parliament elections and vote in honest and efficient candidates.

They also urged the political parties to include plans to build a poverty-free Bangladesh by 2021 and specify development plans in their election manifestos.

Pratyasha 2021 Forum, a platform for citizens working towards establishing a poverty-free country by 2021, organised the meeting at the National Press Club.

Sports personality Kamrunnahar Dana urged all to be united to resist religious fanatics who again become active.

She said the religious fanatics also tried to stop women's football in 2004 but failed as the people from all levels of society came forward to resist them.

"After 1/11, people started to hope for a change... not for the change in politics, but for the implementation of the spirit of the Liberation War," Forum Chairman Monjurul Haque Khan said.

Eminent economist Dr Atiur Rahman said sustainable agriculture and quality

education must be ensured to materialise the ideals of the liberation war -- building an exploitation-free society.

He also called for taking steps to ensure sustainable livelihoods for the poor people.

Forum members Ruhul Islam Tipu presented a key-note paper.

Advisory Editor to the daily Destiny Rafiqul Islam Sarkar, CPB leader Ruhin Hossain Prince, Prof Dr ASM Atiqur Rahman, architect Kazi Arif and Director of Steps Towards Development Rekha Saha also spoke at the meeting moderated by Forum member Ataur Rahman Miton.

## Mumbai blasts condemned

METRO Desk

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) in a statement yesterday condemned the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, says a press release.

All governments in the region must take collective action to bring to justice the group that has claimed the responsibility for the attack, read the release.

SAHR denounces these acts of terrorism, which only serve to increase ethnic and religious tensions in an already volatile multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious society, added the statement.

These planned attacks aim to destabilise government, challenge the rule of law and present a threat, not only to the people of India, but also to the wider community in the South Asian region.

SAHR mourns the deaths of more than one hundred and seventy civilians, and expresses solidarity with the Indian government, and the families of those who were affected by this tragedy, the release also said.

## French Gala Evening tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The French Gala Evening featuring cultural shows from both France and Bangladesh over a gala dinner will be held at the Westin Hotel tomorrow, said a press release yesterday.

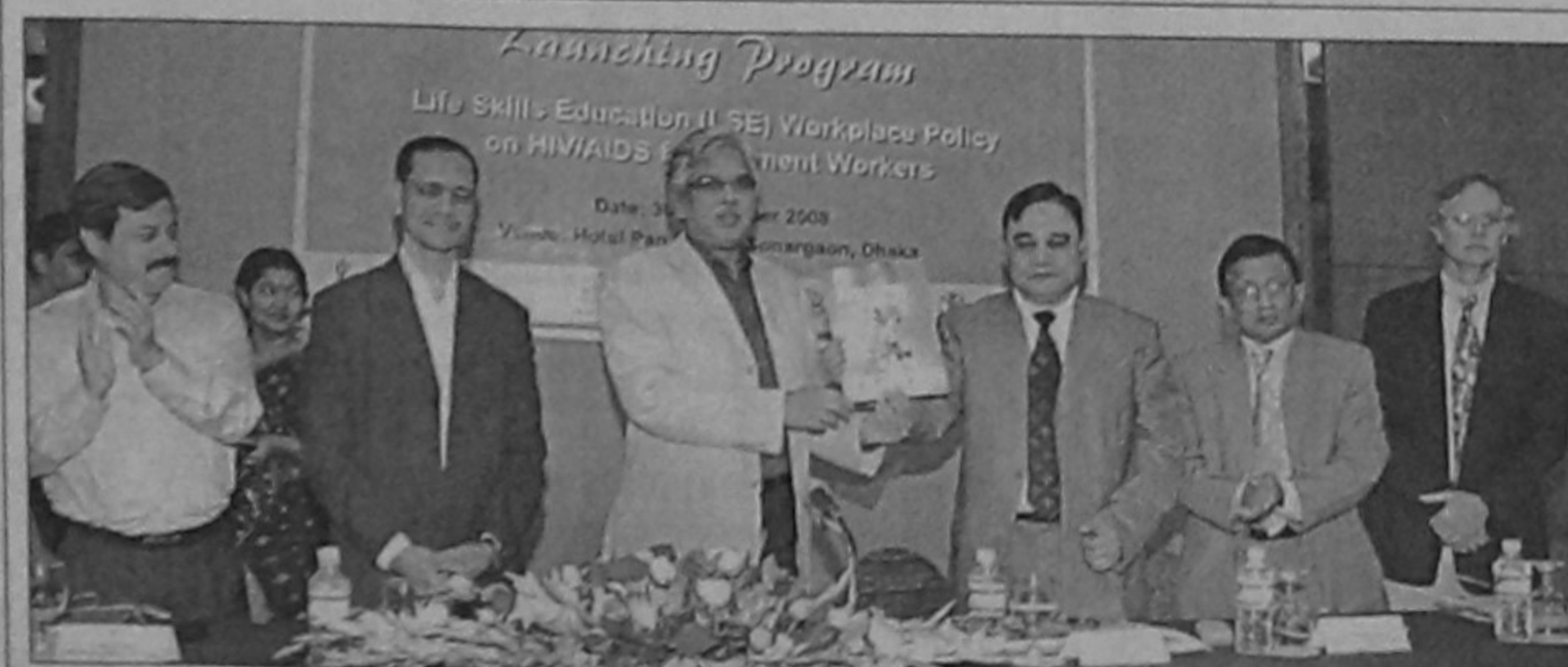
France-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIFB) is organising the event.

This year's programmes include European classical music performed by Soprano soloist Melanie Jackson accompanied by pianist Trami Nguyen from France and Nazrul sangeet by Nashid Kamal.

Consumer Products Ltd, Knit Concern Ltd, Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd, GEC of Bangladesh Ltd, SQ Group of Industries, Bureau Veritas (Bivac) Bangladesh Ltd, ECM Services Ltd, Energypac Power Generation Ltd, Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Total Gaz & Total E&P Bangladesh are the sponsors of this year's programme.

The Alliance Française is also a partner to this event.

The CCIFB was formed to develop trade relations between Bangladeshi and French companies in 1995 with 35 members. It has now over 100 members.



BGMEA President Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury (Parvez), A M M Nasiruddin, Secretary MoHFW and Professor M A Faiz, Director General, DGHS are seen at the launching programme of "Life Skills Education for HIV/AIDS" for garment workers as a part of CSR activities of BGMEA and GFATM project at a local hotel.

## ACCOUNTANTS

**Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd**, a steadily growing Company developing high quality homes, is looking for hard-working professionals for the positions of "Assistant Project Accountants" to be posted at various construction projects within Dhaka City.

Graduates in Commerce or Business Studies having 3 to 5 years work experience in project management, construction or related fields, with good communication skills and the ability to work in a team are encouraged to apply. The positions carry attractive remuneration packages.

*Interested candidates fulfilling the above criteria are requested to send their updated resume along with a recent passport size photograph within 7 days of this advertisement to the following address:*

**The Chairman & President**  
**Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd**  
**Office Of Corporate & Management Services**  
**91 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212**

**Note:** Any effort to unduly influence the recruitment will be a reason for disqualification. Those who have applied within the last 6 months need not apply again. Applications will be kept strictly confidential.

## PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for information of all concerned that Securities and Exchange Commission has accorded its consent to Prime Finance First Mutual Fund of Tk. 200 million divided into 20 million units of Tk. 10 each.

The basic features of the Mutual Fund are as under:

1. Name of the Fund	: Prime Finance First Mutual Fund
2. Nature of the Fund	: Closed End
3. Sponsor of the Fund	: Prime Finance & Investment Limited
4. Sponsor's Contribution	: Tk. 40 million
5. Private Placement	: Tk. 60 million
6. Initial Public Offer (IPO)	: Tk. 100 million
7. Trustee	: Investment Corporation of Bangladesh
8. Asset Manager	: ICB Asset Management Company Limited

For Prime Finance & Investment Limited

Sd/-  
 Tauhidul Ashraf ACS  
 Company Secretary

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