



World Food Programme (WFP) takes out a procession from in front of IDB Bhawan in the city yesterday to raise awareness about child hunger. (Story on page 3)

## Ghulam Rahman takes over as ACC chairman June 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) Ghulam Rahman will take over as the chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on June 24 as the president has accepted his application for joining the office.

"I have been informed by the energy secretary verbally that the president has accepted my application for joining the anti-graft body as its chief," said Ghulam Rahman while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

"I will relinquish the charge of my office at BERC on June 23 and hope to join the ACC office the next day," he added.

On May 24, Ghulam Rahman sent an application to the president seeking to be relieved of his current post at BERC following his appointment as ACC chief on April 30.

Former bureaucrat Ghulam Rahman, who retired as shipping secretary in 2004, was appointed as BERC chairman by the caretaker government.

Currently ACC Commissioner M Habibur Rahman is the acting chairman of the commission.

Former ACC chairman Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury resigned on April 2.

## HR Commission bill likely to be passed in this JS session

Says foreign minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Human Rights Commission bill has already been placed in parliament and it could be passed in the current session, said Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday.

While speaking as the chief guest at a view exchange meeting on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at city's WVA auditorium yesterday, he also said that Bangladesh is for the first time facing the UPR.

Answering the queries of the representatives of the forum, he also said that the government is trying to solve the problems on different issues through dialogue.

Regarding the death of the migrant workers, he said that the foreign ministry is working on it.

As the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is going to be adopted in the UN Human Rights Council session on June 10, the rights activists yesterday recommended the government express its commitment to stop extrajudicial killing, amend the discriminatory family law, implement the CHT treaty and ensure a neutral and effective Anti-

Corruption Commission and National Human Rights Commission in the UN session.

They placed the recommendations to be paid attention by the government and to express its commitment to the UN assembly to ensure human rights situation in the country.

"Death of some 22 Bangladesh Rifles members, extrajudicial killing, low progress in formulating domestic violence act, delay in amending the discriminatory family law and formulation of a commission to review the Labour Law 2006 are still the issues of concern," said Syed Ahmed, coordinator of the forum, while presenting the draft shadow report.

Former adviser Sultana Kamal presided over the session while Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Jakir Hossain of Nagorik Uddyog, Moshin Ali of BLAST, Salma Ali of BNWL and Rokeya Rafik Baby of Karmojibi Nari were also present.

## Separate secy to UZ parishad demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Upazila Chairmen and Vice Chairmen's Association yesterday demanded appointment of separate secretary to the upazila parishad, saying that if a separate secretary is appointed in every upazila then there would be no need for Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).

They made the demand at a meeting with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam at the conference room of Rural Government and Cooperatives Department in the city.

They also submitted a memorandum to the minister to press home their demands.

Their 11-point included cancelling the provision of taking suggestions of the MPs for development works and other activities and setting the status of upazila chairman just after the district council chairman.

Ashrafur listened to their demands and said the government is willing to strengthen the local government.

"To create a pro-people local government system, the government would do everything possible and enact or amend laws if it deems necessary," the minister added.

Convener of the association Harun-or-Rashid and Member Secretary Baduzzaman Badsha were present at the meeting.

## AL hatching conspiracy against country: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders yesterday alleged that ruling Awami League is hatching conspiracy against the country as it is taking decision regarding Asian Highway and Tipaimukh dam project without proper evaluation.

"We think national unity is a must for the country now but the ruling party is denying its necessity," BNP Standing Committee Member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said at a discussion organised by Jatiyatabadi Olama Dal at the National Press Club.

He said instead of taking help from the opposition, the ruling party is busy to scrap the Fifth Amendment from the constitution.

They [ruling party] are even trying to oust the leader of the opposition from her residence but people will not accept these steps, he said.

Asking the government to withdraw the Pilkhana probe report, he said such a big incident cannot take place only because of a few demands. A vested quarter is behind it, he added.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mobarak Hossain, a retired photographer of the information department, passed away at a hospital in Minnesota, USA, on June 6 at the age of 70, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, three daughters and grandchildren to mourn his death.

## Govt considering issue of sending workers to Iraq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering the issue of sending Bangladeshi workers to war-torn Iraq to work there for the reconstruction of the country, said Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, on behalf of the expatriate welfare and overseas employment minister, in parliament yesterday.

"Reconstruction work in the war-devastated Iraq has already begun and the issue of sending Bangladeshi workers there is being considered seriously," he said.

In a scripted answer to a query from BNP lawmaker Joyal Abidin, the information minister said the government has a plan to export manpower to East European and African countries, apart from the Middle East, to cope with the global financial meltdown.

Referring to the government's efforts, he said it is expected that over six lakh workers can be sent to different countries in the next fiscal year.

"Initiatives will be taken to send workers to Libya, Lebanon, Russia, Romania, Sudan, Greece, Poland, Angola, Algeria, Azerbaijan,

Nigeria, Botswana and South Africa," the minister said.

In another scripted answer to a query from Awami League lawmaker Tajul Islam, the minister said the expatriates' welfare bank will start functioning in the next fiscal year.

He said people willing to go abroad can take loans from the bank and they can also send remittances home through this bank.

### PRICE OF RICE

A number of lawmakers yesterday said the farmers are not getting the fair price of rice. They are selling rice and paddy at a rate lower than the government-fixed price, they said.

The lawmakers urged the food and disaster management minister to take steps to ensure that the farmers get fair price of rice and paddy.

In response, Food Minister Abdur Razzak said it is true that farmers are not getting the fair prices as per government-fixed rate.

"Middlemen are taking away the benefits. But we cannot find a proper way to ensure fair price for farmers," he said.

He sought suggestions of the House to work out a mechanism for the welfare of farmers so that they get fair price of rice and paddy.

## Incorporate issue of public toilet in urban plans

Speakers say at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More hygienic and well-maintained public toilets should be constructed at convenient locations and the issue should be incorporated in the urban plans, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

Termining the present condition of public toilets a major cause of public suffering and waterborne diseases, they stressed the need for constructing environment and people-friendly public toilets at important public places.

They said this at a seminar on 'The importance and implication of public toilet in protecting public health and environment' organised by Paribesh Bachao Andolon in association with Urban and Regional Planning (ERP) division of Buet and WBB Trust at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

They said only 48 out of every 100 people tend to use public toilets. They are discouraged to use them due to

unhygienic conditions, lack of security and basic facilities along with their inconvenient locations.

The little number of public toilets available in the cities does not meet the minimum standards of a hygienic toilet and are not maintained properly, said Paribesh Bachao Andolon Chairman Abu Naser, adding that this discourages a lot of people to use them.

Dr. Rukhsana Hafiz, chairman of URP department at Buet, said women are the biggest sufferers of lack of hygienic public toilets and often tend to face awkward situations in their commutes.

Former president of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr. Rashid-e-Mahbub said the present state of public toilet does not only torture the senses, they help spread many diseases as well.

Dhaka District Commissioner Sakawat Hossain was present as the chief guest.

## Navy donates Tk 10 lakh for Aila-hit people

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the Bangladesh Navy to actively participate in sowing seeds and planting more saplings in the coastal districts particularly in remote 'char' areas to protect the territory and its people from storms and tidal surges.

The call came when Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Z U Ahmed handed over a cheque for Tk 10 lakh for the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, in aid of the people affected by cyclone Aila, at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

## Attorney general joins seminar in Cairo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahbub Alam left for the Egyptian capital of Cairo on June 5 to attend a seminar on 'International Asset Forfeiture'.

The seminar, that began yesterday will continue till June 11. Additional Attorney General MK Rahman will perform the duties of the attorney general in his (Mahbub Alam) absence, said an official handout.

## Sony's 7th death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Sabequnnahar Sony, the first female student to fall victim to campus violence.

Sony, a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), was killed in crossfire during a gunfight between two factions Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the Buet campus in 2002.

The court sentenced JCD cadres Mokammel Hayat Khan Muki and Tagar to life imprisonment for the killing. But Muki is still at large while Tagar is in custody.

Buet unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League at a press conference yesterday demanded implementation of the court verdict.

They also demanded that the Buet female student hall be named 'Sabequnnahar Sony Hall' and June 8 observed as 'Anti-Violence Day'.

They alleged that JCD cadres, who were engaged in the gunfight on that day, were given jobs by the then BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

Buet unit of BCL will form a human chain on the campus at 10:00am marking the day, says a press release.

Sony Memorial Foundation, a voluntary organisation, has also drawn up elaborate programmes, including offering fateha and placing wreaths at the memorial of Sony on the Buet campus, to mark the day.

## Sumon Parvez

METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Sumon Parvez (Uzzal), son of late Abdul Jalil, says a press release.

A doa mahfil will be held at his residence at Mazar Road, Gabtoli, Mirpur, after Asr prayers. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the mahfil.

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## Veteran Cardiologist Dr. A. Q. M. Reza now at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka

Renowned Clinical and Interventional Cardiologist, Associate Professor Dr. A. Q. M. Reza, has joined in the Cardiology Department at Apollo Heart Centre as a consultant. Before joining Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, he worked as Associate Professor in National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease and Hospital (NICVD). He is an expert in Balloon Valvuloplasty including PTMC and Peripheral Angioplasty. He excels in Paediatric Echo and Trans Esophageal Echo. He has outstanding performance record in PCL including CTOS of Coronary Artery Diseases. He has a long experience in managing Rheumatic Fever and its complication. He received trainings in globally acclaimed centres abroad, mainly in Singapore and India.

Associate Professor Dr. A. Q. M. Reza  
MBBS, MD (Cardiology)  
Consultant - Cardiology  
Apollo Heart Centre

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