

## PROMOTION

# Govt reviews appeals of deprived officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is reviewing applications of those top civil servants who were not promoted during the recent large-scale promotion, officials said yesterday.

"We have received more than 200 applications and are still receiving more applications. We will send those applications to the Superior Selection Board (SSB) for review," Establishment Secretary Iqbal Mahmud said at a press briefing at his ministry office.

On September 7, the government promoted 494 officers to the posts of additional secretary, joint secretary and deputy secretary, while a good number of officials claimed they have been deprived of promotions.

Denying that none of the officials were deprived, he said those officials might have not been promoted according to the rules of the promotion.

The secretary said, "If someone does not fulfil the criteria of the promotion rules, you cannot say that he or she has been deprived."

Asked whether there was any political consideration for promotion of huge officials, he said all the promotions in the government mechanism were given by following the rules. "But we will review the applications to see whether there were any human errors," said Iqbal.

The secretary said the government would provide 460 upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) with laptops, internet modems and web-cams as part of bringing transparency in the administration.

"Use of any kind of technology would bring transparency," he added.

Asked whether there is a lack of coordination among the ministries, he said sometimes there is a lack of coordination. "But we are trying to bring coordination."

About the administrative reforms, Iqbal said they are preparing for establishing a transparent and accountable civil administration and for this reason, they are drafting a transparent promotion policy.

Under the new policy, the promotion would be given based on the merit position of the officials, he said terming it a "good reforms of the administration."

The secretary further said the name of the establishment ministry would be finalised on October 28.

## Implement prime minister's directives

Environmentalists' memo to Rajuk chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Save the Environment Movement yesterday submitted a memorandum to the chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakhha (Rajuk) with a call to implement the directive of the prime minister not to approve any housing projects without playgrounds and water reservoirs.

Earlier, the environmental activists formed a human chain in front of the Rajuk office in the city to press home their demand.

They also thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her directive, which will help build a livable city for children.

They demanded that Rajuk implement the existing laws regarding open space and wetlands while giving permission for housing projects.

Save The Environment Movement leaders Jaber Ahmed Palash, Tofail Ahmed, Sagiruzzaman Shakik, Pijush Kanti Saha, Ifma Hossain and Hafizur Rahman Mayna joined the human chain programme.

## Dhaka elected to Unesco Executive Board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has been elected a member of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) for four years, says an education ministry press release.

Bangladesh got 142 votes to secure the membership of the board in an election held at the Unesco headquarters in Paris on Wednesday.

Out of a total of 193 member-states of Unesco, 178 countries cast their votes to elect the 58-member Executive Board.

Bangladesh was made the member to the electoral group-4. The other members of the group include China, Vietnam, Japan, India and Kazakhstan.



A goods-laden truck falls into a water body as the steel-made bailey bridge in Bhumi area on Singair-Gabtol road in Manikganj collapsed under the weight of the truck yesterday. However, there was no report of casualties.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA.COM

## Teenager killed in store fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage boy was killed in a fire that engulfed a shoe store on Kazi Alauddin Road in the old part of the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Shamim, 13, an employee of the store owned by Mohammad Halim of Bangshal.

The victim hailed from Kuliarchar of Kishoreganj district.

Sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit of the store located on the first floor of the four-storey building around 1:30pm and spread to the shop.

Ataur Rahman, demonstrator of the fire brigade, said though other employees of the shop could manage to go downstairs, Shamim got stuck in smoke and fire there.

On information, two firefighting units rushed to the spot and doused the fire within 20 minutes and found the burnt body of Shamim remained lying on the floor, he added.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

## Hasina, Khaleda to rally

FROM PAGE 1

Ministers, lawmakers, politicians, diplomats and civil society personalities have been invited to join the programme organised by the national committee for anti-poverty campaign headed by the speaker.

To mark the day, the committee has also taken up different programmes across the country. These include holding rallies in cities, district towns and upazila headquarters. Donor agencies will provide \$1.28 lakh for this.

Briefing journalists at parliament's media centre, Hamid said the presence of Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia on the same dais as chief guest and special guest 'will be a major success'.

Asked if he would take any initiative to ensure participation of lawmakers of the main opposition party BNP in the House discussion on the draft Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), the speaker just said, "Taking step to bring them to parliament is normal."

He, however, did not specify any step to end BNP lawmakers' keeping off parliament sittings.

Opposition Chief Whip

Zainul Abdin Faroque, who is a member of the national committee, was also present at the briefing.

Replying to a question referring to Khaleda's addressing the anti-poverty rally, Zainul said they (BNP lawmakers) want to participate in the discussion on the PRSP.

"We hope, the speaker will take necessary steps to create a congenial atmosphere in parliament so that we can join the discussion," he said.

When the speaker's attention was drawn to Zainul's remark, he said he would take fresh steps in this regard after tomorrow's programme.

BNP lawmakers have been boycotting the House proceedings since June over seating arrangements.

Meanwhile, the House could not hold discussion on the PRSP on Sunday due to absence of a number of ministers and senior lawmakers. And it decided to hold the discussion anytime after it resumes sitting on October 26.

Planning Minister AK Khandker yesterday placed the draft of the amended PRSP involving an estimated expenditure of Tk 3,108 billion to achieve its goals and targets.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the second death anniversary of Prof M A Hadi, former vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University of Medical Sciences (BSMMU) and former presidents of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB), says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his family graveyard at Gafarganj in Mymensingh after Juma prayers.

Various organisations, including BMA and DAB, have chalked out different programmes to mark the day.

## Dr Shafi Ahmed Sultan

METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Dr Shafi Ahmed Sultan, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Park Panorama, Apt-A-5, House-41, Road-5, Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and classmates have been requested to attend the milad.

## Chehlum of Saifur Rahman held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Chehlum of former finance minister M Saifur Rahman was held at his village home in Moulvibazar yesterday.

BNP central leaders Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shah, former minister Abdullah Al Noman, former state ministers Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, Advocate Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury, Ruhul Qudus Talukdar Dulu, among others, attended the programme.

# Hunger situation likely to worsen for climate change

## Speakers tell Rajshahi discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Speakers at a discussion in Rajshahi on Wednesday said though hunger situation has improved in the country, it might worsen again due to climate change impacts.

The hunger situation has improved because of the overall socio-economic development, but the growth might be hampered due to increasing climatic change, they noted.

They said the impacts of recurring storms, cyclones, draught and lack of rainfall during monsoon and excessive rain in other seasons might affect the agriculture and economy and, thus, mar the food security status.

The speakers called for using appropriate technologies that promise to help reduce the impacts of climate change and foster introduction of new energy-efficient technologies and services.

Rajshahi chapter of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI) organised the discussion styled 'Tackling climate change through standards' on the occasion of World Standards Day at Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI) auditorium.

Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton was present at the programme as the chief guest with Sayed Ali Nasim Khaliluzzaman, Rajshahi divisional additional commissioner (general) in the chair.

Mayor Liton stressed the need for developing standards of those things that facilitate trade, spread knowledge and disseminate technological advances.

"Technical standards are

now found to be a means of mitigating climate change. We have to prepare for adopting new technologies that offer us the potential to reduce the impacts of climate change."

Dr Rakib Ahmed, director of Environmental Science Institute at Rajshahi University, Dr Golam Sabbir Sattar Tapu of Geology and Mining department, Afrauzzaman Khan Chowdhury of Finance and Banking department, Board of Investment (BOI) Director Abdul Hakim, medical officer of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital Dr Monirul Haque, RCCI Director Kabirur Rahman Khan and BSTI Deputy Director Khademul Islam also spoke.

The speakers said increasing human activities and huge greenhouse gas emissions are contributing to the rise in the earth's average temperature which has a bad impact on

climate change.

Dramatic climate change would have enormous developmental, economic, social and environmental stresses on the developing countries, they said, adding that 11 percent population of the country are likely to suffer as some 18 percent areas of the country would submerge over the change.

They further said some 100 crore people across the globe would turn into climate change refugees by 2050.

The speakers called on the government to strictly enforce the standards laws.

They raised allegations against a number of Rajshahi chapter BSTI officials, saying that BSTI fined a restaurant for not maintaining hygiene but the next day they ordered 250 packets of launch for a function recently.

# 3 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Three people were killed and 12 others injured in separate road accidents in Khagrachhari and Brahmanbaria in last two days.

Our correspondent in Khagrachhari reports: One person was killed and ten others were injured in a road accident at Kerangatali under Mohalchhari upazila in Khagrachhari yesterday.

The dead was identified as Samir Barua, 50.

Police said the accident occurred at 11:00am while a passenger bus skidded off the road, leaving one dead on the spot.

The injured were treated at Mohalchhari Upazila Health Complex.

Our correspondent in B'baria adds: Two people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents at Shahbazpur village under Sarail upazila and Kudua village under Akhaura upazila in Brahmanbaria on Wednesday night.

The dead were identified as Md Noor Mia, 60, of Shahbazpur village and Md Anwar Hossain, 26, of Brahmanbaria municipality.

Noor Mia was killed as a microbus crushed him under its wheels while he was crossing the road at Shahbazpur village on Dhaka-Sylhet highway.

And Anwar Hossain was killed and two others were injured while a speeding truck knocked them on Akhaura Bypass Road at Kudua village.

## Drug addict strangles wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A drug addict strangled his wife at his house at Adabar in the city following a quarrel over money for drugs on Wednesday night.

The police arrested Mohammad Siraj, a rickshawpuller, on charges of killing his wife Lucky Begum, 19, and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy. Lucky was a garment worker.

The police said Siraj was locked into a quarrel with his wife around 11:30pm on Wednesday as she refused to give him money to buy drugs.

At one stage, he strangled her, police said, adding that local people detained Siraj while he was fleeing around 5:30am.

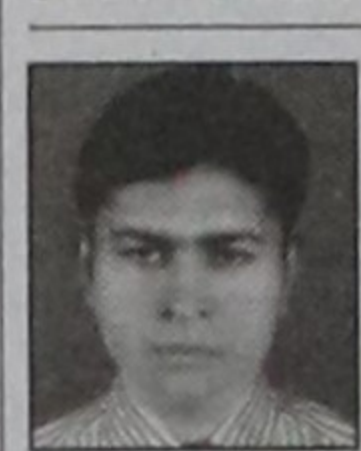
On receiving information, police rushed to the spot and arrested Siraj.

Quoting locals, the police said Siraj used to take drugs and he often beat up Lucky for money.

The police said Siraj admitted that he strangled his wife.

## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Faisal Ahmed Panna, a textile engineer, has been suffering from kidney disease for about two years.

Since then he had been given treatment both at home and abroad.

Doctors have suggested kidney transplant for his recovery which will cost around Tk 10 lakh.

But it is not possible for his widowed mother to arrange such a huge amount of money for the treatment of Faisal.

So she has appealed to generous people, organisations and the government for financial assistance to save the life of her son.

Contributions can be sent to Ferdousi Akhter, Savings Account No 436/5, Sonali Bank Ltd, Delduar Branch, Tangail.

Interested persons can also call at 01199857033, 01717223055 and 01197172434.

## Gazipur-Narayanganj elevated

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accountability in implementing government programmes," she said.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed the news-men after the meeting.

The premier said her government has been entrusted with huge responsibilities as it was formed with a huge mandate of people in the widely acclaimed December 29 parliamentary elections.

Keeping this in mind, the government has undertaken expanded programmes for bringing welfare to the people and brightening the image of the country in the international arena, she said.

Hasina said the previous Awami League government had taken a number of programmes to increase foreign investment in the country, but the BNP-Jamaat alliance government suspended those programmes after coming to power in 2001.

The PM said her previous government had taken various

measures for strengthening the private sector for achieving overall development of Bangladesh.

In this context, she said that she had also brought amendments to her party constitution to this end.

Referring to various problems that her present government is facing in implementing various development programmes, Hasina said her government has inherited these problems from the past BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

About construction of multi-storied buildings, she called upon the developers to construct such buildings keeping provisions of various utility services, including car parking.

Referring to the increased electricity demand, she said her government has a plan to set up an independent power plant to meet the demand.

About foreign investment, she called upon the FICCI to invest more in Bangladesh

saying the low cost production base and attractive incentives offered by the government make Bangladesh an ideal destination for foreign investment.

In reply, the delegation requested the government to declare weekend holiday on Saturday and Sunday instead of the present Friday-Saturday closure for making Bangladesh's trade and business with international markets faster and easier.

During the meeting, they

lauded the PM's able leadership in different international forums and her firm and bold speech in parliament regarding exploration of gas.

They also requested the government to increase utility services and other facilities for the foreign investors along with ensuring uninterrupted supply of electricity and smooth transportation of goods.

PM's Principal Secretary MA Karim, Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present.

# Shrinking days seek timeout for day plan

FROM PAGE 1

like high schools, colleges, English-medium schools and madrasas will start between 7:00am and 8:30am and end between 1:00pm and 2:30pm.

The cabinet in June had approved a power ministry proposal to introduce DST. Strangely, the cabinet did not approve the part of the proposal that sought to revert to the old clock on October 1 and reintroduce DST from next April till October 1, 2010 as per international practice.

Now parents, students and teachers of non-government education institutions are complaining that as the sun presently rises around 7:00am DST, they must get up by 6:30am to catch their classes at 8:00am. They must get up even before 6:00am if their schools are located on the city outskirts. Long distance commuters hit the roads when it is still dark only to endure difficulties in finding transport.

"If this system goes on in December-January classes would be held when it is still dark," said Shahana, an unhappy mother of a school-going daughter.

During winter, parents will have to wake up at a time when the sky is still pitch

black. The sun in winter will rise as late as 7:37am DST. Therefore, to send children to school, the parents will have to hit the road in the dark.

On a few occasions in recent days, some schools failed to start their first classes on time. Some schools have moved their school time to 8:15am from 8:00am.

Hamida Ali, principal of South Breeze School, said even though they are not facing any problems now the children who live in distant places would face difficulties in getting to their schools in winter.

The days are getting shorter and if the current timing remains in effect children would have to come out for schools before sunrise, she said, adding that many guardians would not agree to let their children out in the dark.

Besides, the parents who do not have access to private vehicles have to bear the difficulty of getting public transport like rickshaw or anything at that time, she pointed out.

A teacher of Oxford International School seconded her saying many students come to the school

from distant places and many of them often reach schools late due to traffic jams.

He said some students and teachers especially female ones will face problems reaching school on time in the winter if the DST remains in effect and schools start as per the new timings.

A teacher of Motijheel Ideal School and College said the school authorities naturally relax the school timing in winter but due to DST there would be a problem despite relaxing the time.

Rokeya Akhtar, acting principal of Viharunnisa Noon School and College, said the children are coming to schools on time but college girls are being late.

Back in June 20, when DST measure was introduced, the sun rose at 5:12am and set at 6:48pm. With the introduction of DST this timing instantly changed to 6:12am and 7:48pm, this gave a good advantage in the efficient use of daylight. By the time it was dark most offices and commercial enterprises had called it a day. Consequently the peak power demand had reduced by up to 200MW, said sources quoting PDB's demand curve analysis.

But now the sun rises at 6:57am and sets at 6:32pm. The evening power demands have increased once again.

The PDB has not done demand curve analysis with recent data but officials say the evening demands have certainly increased.

"Though the level of load shedding does not reflect the effectiveness of DST because the country has huge unmet power demands, we can see some signs in the load shedding trend that evening demands have increased," said a PDB official.

Back in June-July following introduction of DST, the level of load shedding hovered around 360MW to 650MW. But between August and October, this level increased to 500MW to 880MW, he added.

A power ministry high official said the government has decided not to revert to the old timing and instead re-arranged office and school timings.

"But there will still be some benefits after the evening. For instance, the shops will close at 8:00pm [which in GMT+6 is 7:00pm] and therefore ease pressure on demand onwards," he said.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Abdur Rahim, father of Awami League lawmaker from Moulvibazar-1 constituency Md Shahab Uddin Ahmed, passed away at his Pakihala village home under Baralekha upazila in Moulvibazar yesterday at the age of 92.

He left behind his eight sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Chief whip of the parliament Vice Principal MA Shahid, Syed Mohsin Ali, MP and Moulvibazar district AL leaders condoled his death.

## Suraiya Khondker

METRO DESK

Suraiya Khondker, wife of late Shamsul Haque Khondker, former registrar of Dhaka University and mother of Ziaul Haque Khondker, chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission, passed away due to old-age complications at Central Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 78, says a press release.

She left behind her three sons and two daughters to mourn her death.

Her Quikhani will be held after Asr prayers today at Ziaul Haque's residence at Dhanmondi (House-34/B, Road-4) in the city.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme.