

## 'Party financing must be transparent, monitored'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said financing and spending activities of political parties should be transparent and strictly monitored.

The suggestion came at a roundtable on "Party Democracy and Financing of Political Parties in Germany: Relevance for Bangladesh" organised by the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) at the BEI conference room in the city with BEI President Farooq Sobhan in the chair.

They said the issue of financing political parties needs to be addressed as it has a direct link to corruption in the political scenario of the country.

In the keynote speech Dr Ulrich Von Alemann, a political science professor at the Heinrich Heine University in Germany, said political parties are necessary to uphold the democracy of a country, though they are blamed for corrup-

tion and inciting unrests.

The speakers added that political parties are necessary and restrictions should be imposed on their funding.

Jatiya Party (Ershad) Lawmaker Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud said the political parties in Bangladesh spend around \$ 70 to \$ 80 million during the election campaigns where as in Germany the expenditure does not exceed \$60 million.

The speakers suggested that the state should monitor funding the political parties closely to curb corruption in the political scenario.

They termed that Bangladesh went through bitter experience on democracy after the death of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The common people cast tactical vote to elect their chosen candidate, they added.

The speakers also recommended the decentralisation of administration to strengthen local government infrastruc-

ture in the best practice of democracy.

BEI President Farooq Sobhan said Bangladesh has a lot of lessons to learn about party democracy from Germany as well as its neighbouring countries.

He also pointed out that there is a much lack of youth participation in the parliamentary affairs and said scopes are shrinking for the grassroots to actively join politics.

The former foreign secretary mentioned that a total of eight parliamentarians out of the 345 Members of the Parliament are aged below 40, and as much as 80 percent of them are businessmen.

German Deputy Head of Mission Rolf Dieter Reinhard, Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert McDougall, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekhar Zaman and former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, among others, spoke.



Rajshahi Sangram Parishad stages a demonstration in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding implementation of the North Rajshahi Irrigation Project to save the Barendra area from desertification following the impacts of climate change.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Prof Dr Anisuzzaman speaks at a function as the chief guest on the occasion of completion of four decades of writing by Jafar Alam, a renowned translator, organised by 'Ghasful', a mass-media organisation, at Central Public Library seminar room in the city recently.

## 13 river transport union leaders, workers get bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to 13 leaders and workers of Bangladesh Nourjan Sramik Federation, including its senior vice-president Shah Alam, in a case filed against them on charges of vandalism and chaos in front of Sadarghat launch terminal during recent river transport strike.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abdul Mazid granted them bail after their lawyers submitted a bail petition.

The other accused, who were granted bail, are Md Khokon, Manik, Abul Hossain, Deen Mohammad, Mofazzal Hossain, Bablu Shikder, Awal, Akkas, SM Shahjahan, Mamun Bepari, Abu Taher and Monir Hossain.

Shah Alam was arrested on May 10, while others were arrested later.

The case was filed with Kotwali police station. Advocate Dipankar Goldar argued for them.

CASE AGAINST 4 NTV MEN

## Submit probe report by September 2 Court asks Jatrabari OC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked officer-in-charge (OC) of Jatrabari Police Station, who is also an accused in a defamation case, to submit a report by September 2 on an investigation into the case filed against four ntv officials and 11 others on Sunday.

Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Emdadul Haque passed the order after scrutinising the documents submitted by the complainant of the case.

Alhaj Golam Ali Imam Bhuiyan, a former Sonali Bank official and a resident of Gobinapur, filed the case against the accused on charges of broadcasting a programme titled 'Crime Watch' on the ntv calling him a land grabber on May 11.

The accused are ntv news editor Khairul Anwar, Crime Watch producer and reporter Parvez Khan, cameramen Roni Raihan and Asaduzzaman, Jatrabari Police Station OC Maniruzzaman and ten others.

In his complaint, Golam Ali said that the private satellite channel ntv on May 11 and 12 broadcast a 'Crime Watch' programme where the ntv reporters took interviews from the landowners. In the interview, landowners called the complainant a land grabber.

The programme has tarnished his image in the society and hurt his name and fame, the complainant said.

## DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) will hold a discussion on our duties to prevent stalking on girls. Venue: Shilpakala Academy. Time: 2:30pm.

Seminar

Stamford University organises a seminar to raise awareness about the impacts of drugs. Venue: Siddheshwari campus. Time: 11:00am.

Photo exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a photographic exhibition to mark the 2nd year of citizenship of Urdu-speaking community of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Alliance Francaise. Time: 5:00pm.

Seminar

Dhaka Ahsania Mission in association with American Cancer Society will organise a seminar on combating illicit trade of tobacco products and its duty-free marketing. Venue: Biam Foundation. Time: 11:00am.

## AL men clash over tender

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least two people were injured in a clash between two groups of ruling party men over submission of tender documents at Siddhirganj in Narayanganj yesterday.

Sources said Siddhirganj 210 MW power plant invited tender for sale of its old and out-of-order goods. Yesterday was the last date for submitting the tender schedule, but Jubo League leader Nazrul Islam, who himself took part in the bidding, prevented others from dropping their bid documents.

At one stage, other members of the ruling party, including Shafiqul Islam, vice-president of Narayanganj BCL, were locked into an altercation with Nazrul and his men, leading to the clash.

Krishak league leader Yasin and BCL activist Safut were seriously injured when Nazrul's men beat them.

Later, the police brought the situation under control.

When contacted, Nazrul Islam denied that his men were involved in such activities. Executive engineer of the

power plant said the police have settled the dispute. A total of 87 schedules were been submitted yesterday, he added.

## Hasina's homecoming day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League (AL) yesterday observed the homecoming day of Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina returned Bangladesh from exile on this day in 1981, six years after the brutal assassination of most of her family members, including Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana had survived the assassination as they had been living abroad. Prior to her return, the AL

national council was held in February 1981 that elected her president of the party.

AL and its associated bodies chalked up elaborate programmes to observe the day, including a discussion. In the morning, AL central leaders led by acting party chief Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi.

AL leaders Abdul Latif Siddiqui, Satish Chandra Roy, Abdur Rahman, Mahbubul Alam Hanif, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Afzal Hossain, Mrinal Kanti Das, Mirza Azam and Sujit Roy Nandi were present.

## Tinni Murder Hearing on charge framing on June 15

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed June 15 for hearing on charge framing against former Jatiya Party (JP) lawmaker Ghulam Faruq Ovi in connection with a case filed against him for killing model Syeda Tania Mahbub Tinni in November of 2002.

Judge Mizanur Rahman Khan of the Seventh Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court set the date after state appointed lawyer Shah Illias Ratan submitted a discharge petition before the court.

In the petition, Ratan said that his client was not involved in the killing. He was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him. So, he prayed for discharging his client from the murder charge.

### MASTERMIND VACANCY

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1. **FACULTY POSITIONS:** (For Uttara & Dhanmondi Branch)  
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2. **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF :** Female only (For Uttara & Dhanmondi Branch)  
Candidates must be fluent in English, Smart and computer literate.  
NGO experience will be preferred.  
Qualification : Masters (Age not above 45 years.)

Interested candidates are requested to drop their C.V in the school drop box by Tuesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

Place : House # 5, Road # 12 (New) 31 (Old), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.

**THOSE WHO APPLIED BEFORE NEED NOT APPLY**

Vacancy Announcement

**For Immediate Appointment June 01, 2010**

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● Spoken and Written English must be of the highest level.

Interested candidates are requested to drop their C.V. at the School or by email at [hr@ausisdhaka.net](mailto:hr@ausisdhaka.net) no later than 27 May, 2010.

Australian International School, Campus-2, House-2B, Road-84, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.

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## New resources for schools under EIS programme

### English in Schools (EIS)

New learning resources reaching to EIS schools soon ....

Schools under EIS programme are getting special EIS resources like 'EIS Newspaper Board', Signboard and 'Classroom Stickers' in all the 1000 selected secondary schools across the country.

To mark this occasion an opening programme is being held today, May 18, 2010 at Khulna Zilla School.

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AIRQ/ISS-10