

Proposed amendments to weaken ACC

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed amendments to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Act bear testimony to the fact that the government does not have trust in an independent watchdog monitoring its activities, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

"Those who are in the administration don't want an independent watchdog to monitor their activities. So, they often create obstacles to anti-corruption drives," said ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman.

"Our government is lost in a maze of disbelief and suffers from lack of trust while some aggrieved persons who have suffered a lot for corruption during the immediate past caretaker government are making confusing and misleading statements about the anti-graft body and its rules," he added.

Ghulam Rahman made the observation at the roundtable on 'Independent, strong and effective corruption control process' organised by the daily Prothom Alo at its

office in the city.

The ACC boss explained that the ACC, like any other government institutions, is accountable for its actions and the judiciary is there to determine whether what ACC is doing is right or wrong.

He said that if the ACC Act is amended, the government officials would be subject to undue pressure from their bosses, leading to more corruption in the country.

Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Dr Iftekharuzzaman said it is evident from the proposed provisions, especially the one which requires the ACC to take permission from the government prior to filing cases against the government officials, that the administration never wants to make the ACC independent.

Speaking at the roundtable, Prof Muzaffer Ahmad raised question about the need to include such a provision, saying that this proposal is also inconsistent with the law.

Other speakers also opposed the provi-

sion of making the ACC accountable to the president.

They also suggested forming an all-party parliamentary committee or a supreme judicial council to ensure accountability of the ACC.

The proposed strengthening the capacity of ACC, ensuring effective judiciary, decentralising power, raising public awareness and ensuring accountability of the ACC staffs to effectively combat corruption.

ACC chief counsel Anisul Huq, TIB Trustee Board Chairman M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to the caretaker government Syed Manjur Elahi, Sujon Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder, human rights activist Sultana Kamal, Director of the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of Brac University Manzoor Hasan, former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on public estimate HN Ashikur Rahman, and Editor of the Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman also spoke.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Khaleda begins discussion with parties today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will start discussion with like-minded political parties and professional groups from today aiming to get support ahead of her anti-government programmes.

Leaders of Bangladesh Jatiya Party and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), partner parties of the main opposition party, are scheduled to meet Khaleda at her Gulshan office separately at 9:00pm and 10:00pm respectively.

Leaders of Khelafat Majlish and JAGPA have been invited to meet the opposition leader on May 29 while Jamaat-e-Islami leaders on June 5, said the insiders.

Leaders of different professional groups including journalists, lawyers and teachers would meet her separately on June 3 while representatives of engineers, physicians and agriculturists on June 6.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Aziz, former chairman of Kafrul and president of 16 no Ward Awami League of Dhaka city, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at United Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 63, says a press release.

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

He was buried at his family graveyard at North Kafrul in the city after namaz-e-janeza after Asr prayers.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun visited the residence of Aziz at North Kafrul and condoled the death.

Shyamapada Roy

METRO DESK



Shyamapada Roy, a renowned teacher of Alfadanga AZ High School in Faridpur and social activist, passed away at Holy Family Medical College Hospital in Dhaka on May 24 at the age of 90, says a press release.

His shradha (funeral rites) will be held at his home at Alfadanga on May 28.

Ansar member crushed to death under train's wheels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A member of Bangladesh Ansar was crushed to death under the wheels of a running train in Kaola area in the city early hours yesterday.

The dead was identified as Ujjal Islam, 30, a member of an Ansar Camp in Kaola rail gate area.

Government Railway Police (GRP) recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College (DMC) morgue for autopsy.

GRP Assistant Sub-Inspector Abul Khair said Ujjal Islam fell under a speeding train when he was walking on a rail track around 12.45am yesterday.

It was not clear whether it was an accident or a suicide.

Ujjal got married about two months ago.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Barisal divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry over Khulna division, Met Office said.

It said that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:40pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 22.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	35.3	25.7	79	73
Chittagong	32.2	28.1	88	79
Rajshahi	35.0	25.2	82	70
Khulna	36.7	27.6	69	70
Barisal	35.5	28.3	77	81
Sylhet	29.2	24.5	88	79
Cox's Bazar	34.0	29.0	86	84

DEROGATORY REMARKS State minister Qamrul sued

UNB, Sirajganj

A defamation case was filed yesterday against State Minister for Law Advocate Qamrul Islam for making derogatory remarks against late president Ziaur Rahman.

Lodging the case with the First Judicial Magistrate's Court, Advocate

Ruhul Amin Babu, general secretary of District Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi

Forum, claimed Tk. 5,000 crore in compensation.

Babu in his case statement said Qamrul addressing a meeting in the capital recently termed Ziaur Rahman, the former president and Sector Commander of Liberation War, as a spy of the then Pakistani occupation forces.

He said that he filed the case as the remarks made by the state minister tarnished the image of Ziaur Rahman.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Pradip Kumar Roy took the case into cognizance.

No CA firm appointed for non-govt schools, colleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education ministry has not appointed any chartered accountant (CA) firm for auditing accounts of non-government educational institutions, said an official handout yesterday.

The ministry asked all the non-government educational institutions to remain alert to such firms.

Some CA firms, including Ata Khan & Co, M Hafiz & Co, Mohammad Ata-Aslam & Co, Ashraf Uddin & Co and Nurul Azim & Co sent letters to different non-government schools, colleges and madrasas for auditing using the ministry's letter, said the handout.

Legal notice on Khaleda to withdraw hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A legal notice was served yesterday on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, requesting her to withdraw June 27 hartal called by her party.

Advocate A B M Kamaluzzaman, a Supreme Court lawyer, served the notice on behalf of three people, saying that if Khaleda does not withdraw hartal within seven days, they will file a writ petition with High Court against her.

The people are -- Azizul Hoque Patwari, secretary general of Journalist Society for Human Rights and Welfare, MM Islam, vice-

chairman of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ganotantrik Jote, and Mahub Alam Chowdhury, of Shahrasti in Chandpur.

Khaleda at a public meeting at Paltan Maidan in the city on May 19 called a dawn-to-dusk hartal on June 27 on different demands.

The notice said thousands of people will suffer due to activities of party men on hartal day.

Their activities will cause loss of crores of taka and will damage the economy of the country, foreign investors will be discouraged and rickshaw pullers, day labourers and businessmen will suffer due to hartal, the notice stated.

অভিনন্দন মুসা ইব্রাহিম

আপনার ইচ্ছে জোরেই বাংলাদেশ পৌঁছেছে পৃথিবীর শীর্ষে

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