



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) stages a demonstration in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding immediate implementation of Detailed Area Plan (DAP) of Dhaka city. (Story on Page 16)

Rules for UP polls finalised

BSS, Dhaka

The Election Commission has finalised rules for union parishad (UP) election for the first time in the country, prohibiting processions and public meetings and with a provision for setting up only one election office for a chairman candidate.

The new rules make opening of bank accounts by the chairman candidates mandatory and fixed their personal expenditures at Tk 50,000 and the highest election expenditure Tk 5 lakh. The amount of personal expenditures of ward members is fixed at Tk 10,000 and their highest election expenditures Tk 1 lakh.

The election expenditure returns would have to be submitted within 30 days of polling.

Election Commissioner Muhammad Sohul Hossain told BSS that there was no rule for UP polls earlier. Therefore, the candidates conducted campaigns at they desired, which led to irregularities and violence.

An official of the EC said the final draft rules for UP polls were sent to the law ministry recently. The ministry sent it back to the EC after vetting on June 29. Now the rules are under further scrutiny and those would be published in gazette notification soon.

As per the rules, no educational qualification is required to contest the UP polls.

The amount of deposit money for chairman candidates is Tk 5,000 while for members Tk 1,000. Earlier the amounts were Tk 2,000 and Tk 700 respectively.



Qulkhwani of Matlub Anam today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of language movement veteran and columnist Matlub Anam will be held at the Masjid-e-Taqua at Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today (Saturday).

Relatives, colleagues, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Matlub Anam passed away due to cancer at Square Hospital in the city on Wednesday. He was laid to rest at Banani graveyard on Thursday.

Late Matlub Anam was the third son of renowned litterateur and veteran politician Abul Mansur Ahmad.

Violence at JU protested

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of former students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday strongly protested the July 5 incident of violence by a group of members of Bangladesh Chhatra League that left dozens of students and teachers injured.

At a human chain programme in the city, they demanded stern action against the troublemakers to stop recurrence of such incidents and steps to ensure congenial academic atmosphere on the university campus.

Under the banner of former students of Jahangirnagar University, around 50 people who work at different institutions in the city formed the human chain in front of the National Press Club at around 11:00am.

Speaking at the programme, several former students blamed the BCL men for damaging the congenial atmosphere of the campus.

They also protested expulsion of Jahangirnagar University Sangskritik Jote president and Bangladesh Chhatra Union leader Mahfuzur Rahman Mahi by the university authorities on charge of his involvement with the violence.

They urged the authorities to withdraw his expulsion order. Former students Shahrar Parveen Kakoli, Mozammel Haque and Ahsan Habib Riyadh, spoke at the programme.

Dhaka eastern bypass project in limbo for a decade

UNB, Dhaka

The Dhaka Coordinated Flood Control Dam-cum Eastern Bypass Road Multi-Purpose Project has been in limbo for nearly a decade due to the absence of precise instruction from the higher authorities of the government.

The PPP of the project with estimated cost of Tk 2495.82 crore was first approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) on February 3 in 1999.

The project includes provision for controlling flood and drainage in 124sq km areas in the eastern region of Dhaka metropolis as well as construction of a bypass road from Kanchpur Bridge to Joydevpur crossing.

The project was included in the ADP of 2000-2001 and a steering committee was constituted for implementation of the project. But in 2002, imple-

mentation of the project was stopped due to fund constraint following the lack of government direction.

All previous feasibility studies and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) were updated in 2004. The latest feasibility study report proposed to involve seven organisations -- Roads and Highways, Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Forest and Environment Directorate, Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) and Water Development Board (WDB) - in the project and the project cost reassessed at Tk 309521.50 lakh.

After the present government took office, the water resources ministry submitted development project proforma/proposal (DPP) to the planning ministry with estimated cost of Tk 201668.64 lakh for land acquisition and infrastructure works in the part

of the WDB.

The Planning Commission (however) held up the approval process of the project, considering the size of the project cost that cannot be met from the government fund.

The Planning Commission suggested mobilisation of foreign assistance for the project but donors have not yet responded to the financing of the project.

The WDB sent a summary on the project to the water resources ministry on June 22 with an aim to seek the prime minister's nod.

A top official of the WDB told UNB that if the PM gives the directive, the water development board can alone implement the project.

He, however, said seven related departments including Roads and Highways, Wasa, LGED, DCC, Forest and Environment Directorate, Rajuk and WDB will have to start work simultaneously.

Military rulers have made democratic institutions ineffective

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliamentary democracy failed to achieve an ideal base in the country as the military rulers made the democratic institutions ineffective, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

They said the political parties did not also exercise politics of tolerance, which is important for strengthening parliamentary democracy.

The seminar on "Two decades of democracy in Bangladesh" was organised by Dhaka University

Political Science Alumni Association at the Nabab Nawab Ali Senate Building on the university campus.

Speaking as the chief guest, Col (ret) Shawkat Ali, deputy speaker of the House, said there is a misunderstanding about the article 70 of the constitution of Bangladesh.

Most of the people think that the parliamentarians cannot talk against their own party due to this article, but such is not written anywhere in the constitution, he said.

Journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said years of

military rule have undermined democracy in the country.

Military rulers have destroyed the democratic institutions, he added.

Chaired by Mizanur Rahman Shelly, president of Centre for Development Research, the seminar was addressed among others by Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, Department of History, University of Dhaka and Prof Al-Masud Hasanuzzaman, Department of Government and Politics, Jahangirnagar University.

46 tonnes of clinical waste dumped in open spaces every day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Public and private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres dump around 46 tonnes of clinical waste in open spaces of the capital every day, which poses serious health hazards to the city dwellers.

About 92 percent of the clinical waste produced by over 1,500 medical centres is thrown into roadside open dustbins, ditches and rivers, said environmentalists at a human chain programme yesterday.

Eight green organisations organised the human chain in front of the Fine Arts faculty of Dhaka University in the morning with the slogan, "need for proper waste management of clinic, hospital and pathology".

Quoting information from a survey by Dhaka City Corporation's solid waste management department, the speakers said that every day only four tonnes of the total 50 tonnes clinical waste is collected by a private organisation while the rest is being disposed of in open places.

The clinical waste includes used needles, syringes, blood-stained cotton, bandages, human limbs, tumours, medicine bottles, used saline, blood bags and chemicals.

The diseases people are exposed to due to the waste are hepatitis b, hepatitis c, bronchitis, diphtheria and even HIV.

Regulations were formulated in 2008 for clinical waste management, which lack directives for the hospitals. Most hospitals do not have waste recycling system, the speakers added.



Save the Environment Movement forms a human chain in front of the Fine Arts faculty of Dhaka University yesterday.

Lack of awareness, specific law and coordination between the ministries concerned have contributed to the decayed waste management system.

Urging the medical centres to handle waste properly, the speakers asked the health ministry to force the health centres have their own waste management system.

Save the Environment Movement, Nirapod Development Foundation, Serac-Bangladesh, Green Belt Trust, Green Mind Society, Peace, Nogorbashi Songathan and Paribesh Sangskritik Songathan were the organizers of the human chain.

Executive Director of Serac-Bangladesh SM Soikat, Chairman of Nirapod Development Foundation Ibnul Sayed Rana, Director of Green Mind Society Amir Hasan and Coordinator of Save the Environment Movement Gazi Lutfar Kabir Sumon, among others, spoke at the programme.

As the festival of Eid approaches, The Daily Star is putting together the Star Fashion- Eid Album 2010, right ahead of the country's largest shopping season.

If you wish to participate, send outfits and accessories you would like to feature in the album.

In consideration of aspirant participants' requests the last date for submission is extended till July 12, 2010
Product receiving time : 12 noon to 4 pm

ATTENTION
Designers & Boutiques
Contact:
(For submission of products)
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Production & Events Manager
email- selim@thedailystar.net
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Criteria for Participation:

1. Dresses, such as punjabis, pants, shirts, shalwar-kameez, baby wear, saris and accessories should express the mood of the festival.
2. Materials used should be locally produced.
3. All submissions must be accompanied with a short description of the product, including price.
4. Designs should be original and fabrics should suit the weather and environment.
5. The attires and accessories sent for the album are returnable.
6. Entry fee per entry is Tk 300 (minimum 3 entries for each participating house).

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