



Mani Sankar Aiyar speaks at a discussion on "Bangladesh-India relations" at Bangladesh Enterprise Institute conference room in the city yesterday.

# Dhaka to be benefited if trades with NE India

Says Mani Sankar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Former Indian union cabinet minister Mani Sankar Aiyar yesterday said Bangladesh will be highly benefited if it trades with Northeast India.

The Indian government has a vision 2020 programme of Rs 20 lakh crore for its Northeastern (NE) region but the region lacks managerial, technical and technological support to implement the programme, he said at a discussion on "Bangladesh-India relation" at Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI).

Bangladesh can have a share of the amount by assisting the NE region in executing the programme, he added.

Even Bangladesh can invest in businesses in the region as India withdrew all restrictions on Bangladeshi investments two years ago.

Addressing the programme organised by BEI, Aiyar said growth of NE region will rise to 9 percent from present 4 percent with the huge public invest-

ment and it would be wise for Bangladesh to involve itself in the development programme of the region.

He said Bangladesh never looked to the NE region rather it was always interested in West Bengal.

"I can assure you that Bangladesh's economy will improve if it does business with Northeast India," he observed.

Aiyar who arrived here on Saturday is leading a group of industrial leaders from the Northeast region aiming to use his diplomatic skills to improve trade between the landlocked region and Bangladesh.

Assuring Bangladeshi people that India has no intention to establish imperialism, he said Indo-Bangladesh relation improved greatly after the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India.

He also said the prime ministers of both the countries have opened up new opportunities with their words to allow each other to use their lands for transit and transshipment.

India will allow trucks from Nepal and Bhutan to come to Bangladesh via India and similarly it will allow trucks from Bangladesh to the two countries, he continued.

The former Indian minister said the huge trade gap between India and Bangladesh would be bridged through the transit facility to India, as Bangladesh will earn a good amount of foreign currency collecting tolls.

Bangladesh can also be economically benefited by allowing India to use its land for gas pipeline from Myanmar, he noted.

Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Rajeev Mitter also spoke at the talks presided over by BEI President Farooq Sobhan.

Eminent people of Bangladesh including Dr Kamal Hossain, former foreign minister M Morshed Khan, Hasanul Haq Inu MP, retired civil and military bureaucrats, diplomats, educationists attended the talks.

# Committee formed to recover water bodies in city

Coordination committee will also work to lessen waterlogging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-powered coordination committee was formed yesterday to speed up efforts to reduce waterlogging, improve supply of drinking water and recover grabbed water bodies considered as sources of water in the capital.

The seven-member body was formed at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on LGRD and cooperative ministry in presence of LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam and State Minister Jahangir Kabir Nanok.

Headed by Local Government Division Secretary Manzur Hossain, the committee was assigned to resolve the coordination crisis, take necessary steps to recover grabbed water bodies and mitigate sufferings of people.

The other members of the committee are the chief executive officer of Dhaka City Corporation, managing director of Dhaka Wasa, chairman of Rajuk, director general of Water Development Board (WDB) and deputy commissioner of Dhaka.

At the meeting held at the Jatiya

Sangsad Bhaban, the parliamentary body blasted the top officials of DCC, Dhaka Wasa, Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) and WDB for their failure to ensure people's civic rights.

The parliamentary watchdog observed people go through immense sufferings, especially for street digging in an unplanned way, due to lack of coordination between the service-oriented government agencies.

Talking to The Daily Star after the meeting, Rahmat Ali, chief of the parliamentary body, said, "The committee unanimously observed that Dhaka City Corporation has turned into a den of corruption. Therefore, the city dwellers are being deprived of their civic rights."

"The committee asked the ministry to take necessary steps on an emergency basis to overcome this situation," said Rahmat Ali, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker.

Citing an instance of corruption, he said the committee in its previous meeting asked the DCC officials to place a list of shop allocation, but they did not do it.

It is clear to the committee that DCC was engaged in corruption for which they could not place the list before the committee's meeting, he claimed.

The committee recommended that the ministry scrap the 25 percent quota reserved for the DCC mayor in allocating shops. The committee also recommended allocation of shops of DCC through open tendering.

He said the Anti-Corruption Commission filed a case last month against five tax officials of DCC and Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka for irregularities in recruitment. The DCC did not take any interim steps against those officials and it proves the mayor patronises the corrupt, he alleged.

The committee yesterday asked the DCC top officials to come up with explanations specifying the reasons for not taking steps against the alleged corrupt officials.

On implementation of the Detailed Area Plan (DAP), the parliamentary body stressed the need for engaging local lawmakers and other public representatives in the process.

The committee also recommended upgrading Gazipur and Narayanganj municipalities into city corporations in a bid to set up satellite cities there.

The committee also asked the authorities concerned to identify both government and private organisations which have opened sewerage lines to the Buriganga river causing water pollution.

The committee bitterly criticised Wasa top officials for their unplanned street digging in the city causing untold sufferings to the people.

It asked the LGRD minister and the state minister to take steps to stop this kind of street digging and ensure accountability of Wasa's activities.

Jahangir Kabir Nanok placed a video footage before the committee that shows sufferings of the people due to street digging.

"I made a surprise visit to a site where street digging was going on. But during my one-and-a-half-hour stay there I did not notice any Wasa officials to oversee the activities. This is totally unacceptable," Nanok said.

# Cancellation of 27th BCS 1st viva voce exams valid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the HC verdict that had declared valid cancellation of results of the disputed first viva voce of the 27th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations, 2005.

A six-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim dismissed three petitions seeking leave to appeal against the HC verdict.

The petitions were filed by some of those who had passed the first viva voce.

During the tenure of the caretaker government, the Public Service Commission on September 1, 2007, cancelled the viva voce results. The cancellation followed charges of gross irregularities of the PSC on several occasions, especially question leak and corruption centring the viva voce in which 3,567 candidates succeeded.

On July 3, 2008, the HC in a verdict declared cancellation of the viva voce results legal. An HC bench comprised of Justice MA Rashid and Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam gave the verdict, rejecting three writ petitions challenging legality of the PSC action.

The petitions were filed by 209 of the candidates who had passed the first viva voce.

The SC yesterday also disposed of with observations three leave to appeal petitions filed by the government concerning

two other HC verdicts. The verdicts declared illegal the second viva voce of the 27th BCS examinations, and directed the government to recruit 845 candidates who had passed the first viva voce, and filed writ petitions against holding of the second viva voce.

The observations could not be known immediately.

The PSC held the second viva voce in 2007 in which 3,239 candidates came out successful.

Following separate writ petitions, an HC bench comprised of Justice Md Miftah Uddin Choudhury and Justice Abu Bakar Siddique passed the verdicts on November 11 last year and January 26 this year.

The HC bench declared illegal the PSC action of holding the second viva voce. But it observed that the jobs of those who had passed the second viva voce and joined services will not be affected.

The government in March this year filed the three leave to appeal petitions with the SC.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told this correspondent that following the SC order, those who succeeded in the second viva voce and joined services will remain unaffected.

Dr M Zahir, barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud, Abdul Matin Khasru and Anisul Huq argued for the writ petitioners.



# Sorcar made envoy to Netherlands

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint Muhammad Ali Sorcar, director general of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the next Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

A career diplomat, Sorcar belonged to the 1986 batch of BCS (Foreign Affairs) Cadre and joined the service in 1989. During his diplomatic career, he served in the Permanent Mission in New York and Bangladesh Embassy in Brussels.

Specialising in the multilateral diplomacy, he had been a representative of the government to all UN General Assembly sessions since 1995 to 2008, except in 2005 when he was in Bangladesh Embassy in Brussels.

He worked as the key person in some signature resolutions of the government at the UN, including, "Role of micro credit in the eradication of poverty," (still a biennial resolution at the UN), "International Year of Micro credit, 2005," and proclamation of November 14 as the "World Day of Diabetes."

He was also Alternate Coordinator to the UN Security Council in 2000 and 2001, when Bangladesh was a member of this body. Sorcar holds an MBBS degree from Mymensingh Medical College and a masters degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy from the Tufts University in USA.

# FFS' CHILDREN QUOTA HC asks govt to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain why it should not be directed to implement the 30 percent quota for the children of freedom fighters while appointing the police sub-inspectors (SI).

It also asked the government to explain why its inaction to maintain the quota should not be declared illegal. The rule is returnable within two weeks.

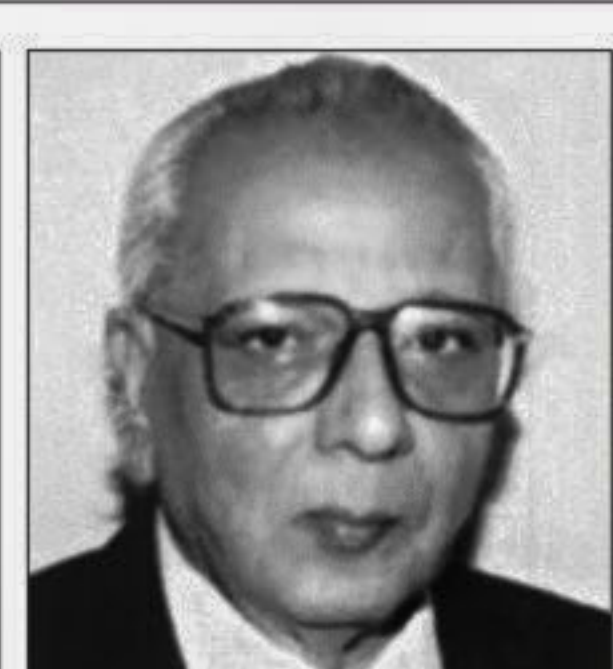
The HC bench comprised of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain came up with the rule upon a writ petition filed by seven candidates, also children of freedom fighters. All of them succeeded in the written and physical tests for the posts, but

failed in viva voce test. The writ petitioners, Nazmul Huda and Shawkat Akbar, stated in the petition that the government and police authorities have not followed the rules in the ongoing recruitment process.

Had the authorities followed the rules, they would have secured the office of SIs, pleaded the petitioners.

The HC fixed July 25 for further hearing on the petition. The secretaries to the ministries of establishment, law and home affairs, and inspector general of police have been asked to reply to the rule.

Advocate Sheikh Ali Ahmed Khokon and Advocate Tapan Kumar Bepari appeared for the petitioners, while Deputy Attorney General Nazrul Islam Talukder stood for the government.



# Barrister Ishtiaq's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 7th death anniversary of barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, former adviser to the caretaker government and former attorney general, says a press release.

On the occasion, Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Smriti Parishad will organise a number of programmes including placing wreaths and offering fateha at his grave at Banani in the city and a milad banhili at an orphanage.

During his life, barrister Ishtiaq made immense contributions to the legal arena of Bangladesh and the democratic movement in the country.

He was attorney general in 1976 and an adviser to the caretaker governments of 1996 and 2001.

# Obituary

METRO DESK

Mustafizur Rahman, a retired banker and son of late Syedur Rahman, passed away at Apollo Hospitals in the city on Saturday at the age of 70, says a press release.

His qulhwani will be held at House # 90, Road # 17A, Block # E at Banani in the city tomorrow (Tuesday) after Maghrib prayers.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

# People to give politicians good lessons: Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League presidium member Obaidul Quader yesterday said people might give the politicians a good lesson through "silent ballot revolution" if they continuously talk about teach lessons to each other forgetting their responsibility to serve the nation.

"People are examining and evaluating our works, public statements and behaviour everyday. We frequently talk about giving lessons to each other. But people may give us a good lesson through silent ballot revolution."

The Awami League leader said this while addressing a discussion at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Bangabandhu Academy organised the discussion titled "Charter of Change: Our Doings" with its president Hemayet Uddin in the chair.

Apparently taking a swipe at ministers, he said those could not establish their skills and prove capability during the last 18 months would not be able to do so even in 18 years. "Our leader Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working hard. But teamwork is essential for the desired outcome."

# Dist livestock offices brought under digital system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Logistics Management System of Department of Livestock Services (DLS) has been brought under digital system to ensure its faster and effective activities.

At the launching ceremony of the system yesterday, Director General of DLS Dr. Sunil Chandra Gain said computers with necessary accessories, Internet connectivity, etc. have been provided to all the 64 district livestock offices at the beginning of this initiative.

Training on the software has been provided to the district storekeepers, says a press release. From now, transactions records of medicine, equipment and vaccines would be maintained through computer system and monthly progress report will be submitted through website, said the director general.

He said politicians are talking much more than work and the quality of politics has sharply declined in the recent past as no quality is needed to do politics now.

About trial of war criminals, Obaidul Quader said: "None can say trial of the war criminals will be completed by one or two years. This cannot be done by mere setting specific timeframe. We should be more responsible in making any statement regarding this."

The leader observed that country's politics is gradually becoming 'sick' and people are losing interest in politicians. "We've to come out from the culture of confrontational politics."

He quoted Charles Dickens who had said, "It is the best of times, it is the worst of times" and observed that crisis shows path and create opportunity and for this politicians should change the analogue idea and mindset for the betterment of the nation.

Israfil Alam MP, AL secretary on labour affairs Habibur Rahman Siraj, Bangladesh Olema League president Elias Uddin Helali and Mahila League leader Nurjahan Mukta also spoke at the function.

# PCJ threatens strike at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Pragatishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), an alliance of left leaning student wings, yesterday threatened to call a strike at the Arts Building of Dhaka University on Thursday (July 15) if the evening master's programme at its public administration department is not cancelled by Wednesday.

PCJ leaders said this at a rally at Aprajeyo Bangla on the campus at noon. The rally was organized to press home the PCJ's three-point demand, including cancellation of the syndicate decision on launching evening master's courses at various departments and reducing transport fees.

Students from various departments participated in the rally. DU unit president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union Abu Toab Apu presided over the rally. PCJ leaders and some students spoke at the rally.

The leaders and students urged the university administration to cancel the initiative of launching evening master's course at the public administration and the decision of introducing such courses at other departments.

# 900 telephone numbers at Gulshan to be changed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 900 telephone numbers under the Gulshan Telephone Exchange will be changed with the new series of numbers to provide better services to the subscribers.

The phone numbers located from road no. 93 to 104 of the city's Gulshan will be changed as 888XXXX. The telephone office will timely inform subscribers about their new numbers.

The activities of changing telephone number will start from July 12, said a handout yesterday.



# Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over all the seven divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:19am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bogra and Ishwardi and lowest 24.2 degrees Celsius at Rangpur.

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	31.0	28.0	86	76
Chittagong	29.4	25.0	96	88
Rajshahi	32.8	26.3	92	88
Khulna	31.4	27.5	84	96
Barisal	29.4	27.5	96	95
Sylhet	31.9	27.0	82	81
Cox's Bazar	30.0	25.8	89	92