

Ensure benefit of RTI Act

President asks info body team

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday asked the Information Commission to bring dynamism to its activities to ensure full benefit of Right to Information (RTI) Act-2009.

He said this when a four-member delegation of Information Commission led by Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) Mohammad Jamir called on him at Bangabhaban.

Zillur hoped that the people would get the fruit of establishing Information Commission and enacting Right to Information Act soon.

He lauded the role of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in establishing separate commissions on different basic issues like information and human rights to ensure fundamental rights of the countrymen.

CIC apprised the president of various activi-

ties of the commission and said the commission is working to ensure people's right to information.

He underlined the need for carrying out massive awareness campaign on the activities of the commission so that common people, even at grassroots level, would be aware of RTI Act.

The CIC proposed carrying out mass campaign through Bangladesh Television (BTV), SMS service of mobile phone operators and internet service to reach people from all walks of life.

He also recommended incorporating articles on Information Commission and RTI into the secondary and higher secondary syllabus to aware the people of their right to information.

Agreeing with the proposal, Zillur suggested them for taking further steps for implementing the ideas into reality.



Bank Asia Chairman A Rouf Chowdhury, left, and Pubali Bank Managing Director Helal Ahmed Chowdhury, right, hand over cheques for Tk 1 crore each in donation for the construction of a new building of the Liberation War Museum to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city on Wednesday.

AUGUST 15, 1975 TRAGEDY

Dream for financial equality shattered

Say leading economists

BSS, Dhaka

Shattering Bangabandhu's dream for financial equality, the subsequent regimes drove the country back to the grip of Pakistan-styled elite group against which the great leader fought until his assassination, said eminent economist Rehman Sobhan.

Dr Mohammad Farashuddin and Dr Atiur Rahman also voiced the same and termed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the pioneer of long-term financial plan for inclusive growth.

Prof Rehman Sobhan served the provisional government of Bangladesh as Envoy Extraordinary with special responsibility for economic affairs during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Dr Farashuddin is the private secretary to Bangabandhu until his brutal killing on August 15.

Dr Atiur Rahman has a special interest in Bangabandhu as he does about Rabindranath Tagore.

Talking to BSS on the financial ideology and the strategy of the Father of the Nation, the three leading economists shared similar views about the ingenuity of the thinking of Bangabandhu to base the country on its own resources.

They were in the opinion that Bangabandhu was a cautious observer of all happenings around him but he gave his vision and tasks the final touch with his own thinking, based on own resources.

"His election manifesto and the election campaign give us a clear idea about his economic goal," said Rehman Sobhan, chairman of the leading think-tank, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Dr Farashuddin, former Bangladesh Bank (BB) governor, referred to the historic

March 7 address where the great leader put economic emancipation next to the independence of the country.

Dr Atiur, BB governor, cited from the speeches of Bangabandhu where he strongly advocated inclusive growth for establishing financial equality.

Pointing to the expanding economic disparity, Prof Sobhan was critical of the regimes, which repatriated the pro-elite economic policy followed in the country before independence.

"Bangabandhu was against this trend and wanted an end to the elite dominance on the economy to ensure equal rights on national wealth," he said.

He noted with dissatisfaction that the subsequent governments backtracked from the pro-people policy only to patronise an elite section similar to the one present during pre-liberation period.

The economist, also an advocate of social equity and justice, said Bangabandhu brought us independence and then began fighting against the divide and rule system. This system aided a selected group of society to help accumulate wealth by endlessly depriving mass people of their rights.

"He (Bangabandhu) planned compulsory cooperative system and introduced long term plan to bring an end to this disparity," Prof Sobhan said.

He added that society had been driven to different directions since the August killing, effectively retrieving the financial approach of re-establishing a Pakistan-styled unequal society.

He believes Bangabandhu's unaccomplished economic direction should be implemented for ensuring the rights of the people.

Dr Farashuddin said people were misled about the compulsory cooperative system.

"The system was for sharing production and yield, not the ownership of land," he explained and observed that crop productions would be much more with ensured proper distribution if the system was implemented.

He said Maulana Bhasani was very pleased about the planned cooperative system but unfortunately Bangabandhu did not get the time to materialise his vision for social equality.

Dr Farashuddin disagreed with the argument that the idea of the cooperative system was borrowed from overseas. "There are some similarities, but the base of the cooperative was rooted into the needs of this country," he said.

Quoting from the landmark March 7 address, he said the financial emancipation came next to independence when Bangabandhu delivered the historic speech.

Besides, he said Bangabandhu occasionally gave specific directions for employment generation and poverty eradication.

"He introduced monolingual education policy so that everyone could access similar opportunity in education and employment," he said.

Referring to the first five-year plan, which has now proved indispensable for sustainable development, he said Bangabandhu pioneered coordinated drive against poverty with this plan.

"Empowering women was also among his economic agenda," Dr Farashuddin said and added that Bangabandhu founded Children Foundation to ensure necessary support for future generations.

Dr Atiur, who has long been endeavouring ceaseless efforts for inclusive growth, said Bangabandhu took the idea because he knew economic growth could not sustain without ensuring participation from the majority.

"Not only this, he (Bangabandhu) put agriculture in the centre-point of his economic emancipation," he said.

He said Bangabandhu was also a good economic manager with unparalleled business negotiation skill.

For instance, Dr Atiur referred to the agreement with Shell undertaken by Bangabandhu. "This is the milestone towards achieving energy security, also a prerequisite to economic growth," he observed.

He said Bangabandhu also wanted to diminish dependency on foreign aid and grant, which were initially vital to rebuilding the war ravaged country.

"Once achieved, he started using as much domestic resources as he could in the rebuilding process," Dr Atiur said. He referred to an occasion when Bangabandhu directed power department to use bamboo bars as electric poles instead of waiting for proper ones to arrive from abroad.



Police go through a spice-grinding mill where fifty mounds of substandard and adulterated spices were seized at Miankhan Nagar under Bakolia police station in Chittagong yesterday.

Adulterated spices seized, 3 held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police seized fifty mounds of substandard and adulterated spices in the city here yesterday (Thursday).

The law enforcers also arrested three persons identified as Enamul Haq, Anwar Hossain and Solaiman engaged in adulteration red-handed. But, Enamul managed to flee.

According to sources, police made this seizure raiding three spices grinding mills at Miankhan Nagar under Bakolia police station at around 5:00pm.

Some fifty mound of unedible chillie, turmeric, coriander (Dhania), husks, red and black dyes and other chemicals used in adulterating the

spices from the factories.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Md Shah Newaz of Kotoali zone said that three persons were held red handed while mixing chemicals and dyes with the grinded substandard spices.

Police were trying to arrest Enamul who escaped from the custody of a sub inspector (Mahboob Morshed), said the AC.

Besides, department action would be taken against the sub inspector for negligence of duty, he added.

Process was on to file case under Special Power Act against the owners of the mills and the arrestees for producing and marketing adulterated species posing health hazard to public, said AC Shah Newaz.

The Daily Star

Request for Proposals for Web Portal Development

The Daily Star is seeking a highly experienced website development firm or digital agency that has an established track record and strong references, that is capable of supporting a partnership with The Daily Star. The rights and ownership of all works completed for this project by the chosen web development firm will be owned in its entirety by the Media World (The Daily Star). All candidates are under a non-disclosure agreement and should treat this RFP as The Daily Star's intellectual property.

The development project will consist of the following:

- Redesign & development of The Daily Star web site/portal and back-end administrative control panel tool.
- Post development maintenance of the web portal.

Proposals: Interested organizations should submit their initial Expression of Interest (EOI) electronically with a detailed profile and capability to tdsportal@gmail.com with "Web-Site Development" in the subject line. Written submission should be delivered to The Daily Star office at 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215 in a sealed envelope addressed to Deputy Managing Editor, The Daily Star. All submissions are due by 14:00 hours on 29th August, 2010. Only short listed firms/agencies will be contacted and will be provided with a Web Portal Requirement document. Short listed firms will be required to submit a bid for the project that will include both technical and financial proposals. This RFP will outline the characteristics, capabilities and features for The Daily Star web site that will be developed by the selected web development firm. Technical and financial proposals should be submitted as separate documents. Do not include attachments of promotional documents with your submission. Note that enlistment does not in any way commit The Daily Star to enter into a contract or partnership with any organization.

All proposals should include the following information:

1. Cover letter with address details, contact information and contact person.
2. Organization Profile, including management structure and staff expertise in web site development.
3. Portfolio and qualifications presenting similar projects in web site development during the last five years. (Verifiable list/reference, examples of websites developed by the organization)



PHOTO: COURTESY BY APOLLO HOSPITALS DHAKA
Apollo Hospitals Dhaka General Manager (Business Development) Dr Shagufa Anwar, third from left, and Bank Asia Limited Deputy Managing Director S M Khorshed Alam, second from right, exchange documents after signing an agreement on behalf of their respective organisations in the city recently. Irteza Reza Chowdhury, senior executive vice president and H M Mostafizur Rahman, first assistant vice president and head of cards of Bank Asia Limited were present on the occasion. Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, the only JCI accredited tertiary care hospital in the country, signed the corporate agreement with Bank Asia to provide priority corporate benefits and medical services for their cardholders.

Digitised libraries for digital Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Digital Bangladesh cannot be ensured unless digital library is ensured in all government and non-government organisations in the country, said speakers at a seminar on Wednesday.

The seminar titled "Digital library in building a digital Bangladesh," organised by Information Science and Library Management department, was held at Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate building.

"There is no alternative to establishing digital library for building a digital Bangladesh. Introducing ICT studies into school curriculum and equipping libraries in all schools and colleges with computer

and internet connections can ensure a future generation educated in technology," said Prof Nafiz Zaman Shuva of the department, says a press release.

He suggested digitising newspapers from the time of liberation war and posting those on the website of the national libraries.


"We have to prove through actions that we want to build a digital Bangladesh," said DU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique as the chief guest.

He also assured of taking some immediate measure to turn the university library into a digital one.

Prof Dr SM Mannan chaired the seminar.

Know Bangladesh Better

Read Star Insight, a fortnightly publication of The Daily Star. It's coming out twice a month every alternate Saturday along with our regular issue. The current issue (August 14, 2010) covers stories from Jhenidah, Mymensingha & Kurigram. Coming out Tomorrow. Ask your hawker for your copy.



Send your comments & contribution to
Star Insight
 Rafi Hossain
 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. Fax: 880-2-8125155
 email: starinsight@thedailystar.net
 www.thedailystar.net/insight

ASA UNIVERSITY BANGLADESH (ASAUB)

ADMISSION FALL-2010

Admission Test:

- ▶ BBA, LLB & BA (Hons) in English at 10:00 AM - 02 September, 2010
- ▶ MBA at 11:00 AM - 02 September, 2010
- ▶ MBA (Executive), LL.M, M.A in English- Admission Interview

Last Date of Application: 01 September, 2010

Special Features of ASAUB

- Each Department and Faculty headed by a well reputed senior Professor with Ph.D
- Highly qualified, devoted and efficient teaching staff
- Western standard Classroom/Computer Lab (centrally air-conditioned) facilities and academic standards at an affordable cost
- A resourceful, spacious & beautiful library
- Special tuition fee waivers from 15% to 100% on the basis of HSC result, semester result and need (conditions apply)
- 10% tuition fee waiver for MBA, LL.M and MA female students
- Corporate waiver (if at least 3 employees from the same organization enroll) and classes on Fridays & Saturdays in addition to weekdays for the MBA, LL.M and MA students
- Specialized courses on Microfinance and Industrial Management in MBA program
- Situated at a convenient point of well connected road network in Dhaka

* Conditions Apply

Upcoming Programs:

- Bachelor of Pharmacy (B. Pharm)**
- Master in Public Health (MPH)**
- BSS & MSS in Applied Sociology**

A total amount of about Tk. 3.50 crore is awarded as tuition fee waivers among poor and meritorious students and also in other categories.

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY: Candidates who have passed SSC and HSC or equivalent examinations with at least two 2nd divisions or minimum GPA 2.5 in each (in the scale of 5), 'O' level with minimum GPA 2.5 and 2 subjects in 'A' level with minimum GPA 2.5 (A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2 & E=1, only one E is acceptable), can apply.

BBA
Major: Accounting, Marketing, Finance, Management, HRM, MIS

MBA (Regular & Executive)
Major: Accounting, Marketing, Finance, Microfinance, HRM, MIS

LLB (Hons) 4-Year Program

LLM (1-yr, 2-yr)
Classes on Fridays & Saturdays

BA (Hons) in English 4-Year Program

MA in English 1-yr (Final) 2-yr (Prell & Final)
Classes on Fridays & Saturdays

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Md. Muinuddin Khan
Former Dean, Faculty of Business Studies & Former Professor & Chairman Dept. of Accounting & Information Systems University of Dhaka Former Adviser, Caretaker Government People's Republic of Bangladesh

Admission Office Open also on Fridays (10 am - 12 noon)

Admission Information Office:
ASAUB, 23/3, Khilji Road, Shyamoli, Dhaka-1207
Tel: 8130238, 8122555, 8130283 (Ext: 300, 304, 306)
Mobile: 01713148578
E-mail: info@asaub.edu.bd, Web: www.asaub.edu.bd