



Nirapad Development Foundation forms a human chain in front of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University yesterday demanding steps to ply private cars bearing even numbers one day while odd numbers on the other alternatively from 7:00am to 9:00pm to ease traffic jam in the city.

## Cabinet okays expats' voting rights

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday approved an amended bill on Voter List Act 2010, securing voting rights for all expatriate Bangladeshis living in various countries of the globe.

According to the Voter List (amendment) Act 2010, for as long as an expatriate stays abroad, he or she will have his or her due right to practice voting rights from his or her local constituency in Bangladesh. This was explained by Press Secretary to the prime minister Abul Kalam Azad after the cabinet meeting held at Bangladesh Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in

the chair.

The press secretary said ensuring expatriates' voting rights has been promised several times by the prime minister herself.

Meanwhile, the cabinet also approved a proposal on ratification of the Saarc Agreement On Trade In Services following which Bangladesh will be able to facilitate itself with various commercial facilities from its Saarc friends.

Besides, the cabinet was informed about Water Resource Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen's participation at Asia Pacific Water Ministers' Forum held in Singapore.

## DCC elections after Eid

Says poll commissioner

UNB, Dhaka

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) elections will be held at a convenient time in between Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha, said Election Commissioner M Sohul Hussain yesterday.

Talking to reporters at his office, the election commissioner also said elections to the union parishes and municipalities would be held between December and January. Earlier, he said the elections would be held around November-December.

In this regard, he said the time period was extended by a month as annual final exami-

nations and hajj would be held during this session (Nov-Dec).

The election commissioner mentioned that there are some 79 union parishes where elections have not been held for 10 years. Local body polls can likely be held when ordinances are promulgated, he added.

Sohul Hussain also revealed that vetting procedure of the amended union parishad and municipal acts have already been completed and the Ministry of Local Government has also recommended the commission to take necessary preparations for the local body elections.

## Militancy emerged after killing of Bangabandhu

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Militancy has infiltrated into Bangladesh through killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The country has given birth to militancy after allowing Bangladesh Jamaate-Islami in doing politics through the Fifth Amendment to the constitution after Bangabandhu's killing, they said.

This observation came at the meeting titled "Extremism and Terrorism: the Role of Political Parties in Bangladesh" held at National Press Club in the city.

Speaking as the chief discussant Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University's International Relations department said to make the country free from extremism the political parties of Bangladesh itself should refrain from following it.

"Extremism refers to those people who can't tolerate opinions of others

and can do whatever they want. The political parties of the country especially two big political parties do not tolerate opinions of others," he said.

Imtiaz Ahmed observed that there is a lack of practicing intra-party and inter-party democracy in the political parties.

"Our politics has become leader centric. [The words] leader, party, government and the state are mingled. We recognise any party by the leader, the government by the party and the state by the government," he said adding, "Not only that the political parties create own cultural groups and divisions in educational institutions by so called red, pink and white groups to back their own position."

Imtiaz mentioned that those unskilled and semi-skilled workers who fly to Middle East bring terrorism in the country. "Most of these workers are not well-educated. As a result, they are easily convinced of culture and norms of those

countries and try to establish it in our country blindly," he said.

Secretary of Shushashoner Janya Nagorik (Shujan) Badiul Alam Majumder said militancy could not be reduced from the country by hanging one or two militants, as the country has become "fertile land of militancy" over the past few decades.

The www.the-editor.net, an online newspaper, organised the roundtable.

Former army chief Maj Gen KM Shafiqullah, lawmaker Nazma Aktar, president of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Manjurul Ahsan Khan, former diplomat Waliur Rhaman, general secretary of Awami Swachhasebak League Pankaj Debnath, among others, also spoke.

Shamim Hayder Talukder, managing director of the online newspaper, moderated the programme.

## MJF develops information disclosure policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) has developed an Information Disclosure Policy (IDP) to restore and open its documents to public as per the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009.

The RTI act has defined public and foreign funded non-government organizations as authority, which is responsible to provide information like other government functionaries.

MJF wants to set an example of playing a role of protector and promoter of the Act to influence all other information providing authorities. Adoption of this policy is a first step towards compliance of the Act.

IDP will be available in MJF's website www.manusher.org, said a press release yesterday.

## MURDER CASE

## HC frees Ruhul Quddus of charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court on Sunday upheld a trial court order that allowed the government to withdraw a murder case in Rajshahi against nine persons including Ruhul Quddus Babu, who was recently appointed as an HC judge.

Ruhul Quddus Babu was nominated as an HC judge by the president on April 11, but he is yet to take oath for his office.

The HC yesterday passed the verdict after rejecting a revision petition challenging the withdrawal order of the murder case.

The revision petition was filed against an order of a Rajshahi court that allowed a government prayer on April 8 this year for withdrawal of the case filed on charge of killing Aslam Hossain, an Islami Chhatra Shibir leader of Rajshahi University (RU), in 1988.

Aslam was killed at his room in Nawab Abdul Latif Hall of RU on November 17, 1988.

The same day, Nayeab Ali, a classmate of the victim, filed a murder case with Matihar Police Station in Rajshahi against 18 people including Ruhul Quddus in this connection.

Nayeab Ali, the plaintiff of the case, and Aslam's father Zinnat Ali filed the revision petition with the HC on May 2 this year.

Barrister MI Farooqui appeared for Ruhul Quddus, Advocate Munsurul Huq Chowdhury argued for others who were accused of the case, while Advocate Tajul Islam stood for the petitioners.



## Azam Khan returns home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pop guru and freedom fighter Azam Khan will return home today after his treatment in Singapore.

He is scheduled to board a Singapore Airways flight at 5:00pm and land in Bangladesh at around 9:00pm, said a press release.

Khan was admitted to the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore on July 15, as he was suffering from mouth cancer.

He needs a further Tk 10 lakh for his treatment.

## DU OBSERVES BLACK DAY

## Probe violence of 2007

VC urges govt

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities yesterday observed "Black Day" commemorating the oppression on teachers, students and staffs of the university by law enforcers from August 20 to 23 in 2007 on the campus.

Marking the day, classes at the university remained suspended from 11:00am to 1:00pm while teachers, students and staffs wore black ribbons.

Attending a discussion at Teacher-Student Centre auditorium, Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS

Arefin Siddique urged the government to reinvestigate into the violence that occurred on campus during the three days in 2007.

He said people who were involved behind the incident should be disclosed before the nation and punished.

On August 20, 2007 a violent student protest erupted on DU campus following the beating of a few students by some army members at the central playground of the university. The protests continued for next three days spreading violence on some other campuses in the country.

## Special launch service from Sept 5 for Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) will start special launch service from September 5 to deal with the rush of home-bound passengers on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The special service will continue until four days after the festival, said BIWTA Chairman Abdul Malek Miah yesterday.

"Introduction of special launch service will depend on demands of passengers. If there is not enough passengers, it may be deferred by a day," he said.

The chairman was talking to newsmen after holding a meeting with the representatives of launch owners' association, department of shipping and law enforcement agencies at the BIWTA conference room.

Steps have been taken to ensure uninterrupted power supply at the Sadarghat launch terminal during the period, he said adding that the law enforcers will keep sharp vigil on all the launch terminals.

Special monitoring teams, comprised of BIWTA officials, representatives of vessel owners' association, department of shipping, representatives of different workers' organisa-

tions and law enforcement agencies, will be in force to check any violation of rules and regulations.

Malek also stressed the need for easing tailbacks on Gulistan-Sadarghat route. One-way traffic system would be introduced from Sadarghat to Jagannath University during the occasion.

Any launch carrying passengers on rooftop will face stern action, warned the BIWTA chief. Deputy commissioners of districts sharing the inland waterways will adopt measures to operate mobile courts during the Eid holidays, added the BIWTA chairman.

"We will try to charge lower fares as much as possible," said Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carriers) Association Chairman Mahub Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram. "We will take the final decision regarding fares on next Thursday or Friday," he added.

Monwar Hossain, BIWTA secretary, Jahid Hossain, chief inspector of the department of shipping, Abu Hena Khandaker Wahidul Karim, additional SP of police headquarters, Ashrafuddin, coast guard representative, among others, were present at the meeting.

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