

# Right information to fight corruption

Says Prof Muzaffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

People can get right information from an efficient and neutral administration; so it should always be kept out of politics, Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said yesterday.

Prof Muzaffer said we need right information to fight corruption.

Common citizens can know about the parliament sessions, but not about the discussions of the parliamentary committees. The committees also discuss significant issues, very useful for the establishment of good governance, he added.

Muzaffer was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar organised by the

Conscious Citizens Committee of the TIB, Sylhet at a hotel in Sylhet city yesterday afternoon.

He said many people gave wrong information while filing nomination papers for the last parliamentary elections. The government should take efforts to check the information.

The poor people need the correct information, which should be considered a human right. We must get rid of the culture of depriving people of information, added Prof Muzaffer.

He said right to information is the basis of democracy. We may have to wait much more for getting the right to information fully.

EU Shahidul Islam, former convener of the committee and president of the Sylhet district Bar Association, read out the keynote paper on "Right to information law: expectations and reality" while Conscious Citizens Committee Convener Faruque Mahmud Chowdhury chaired.

Among others, district BNP General Secretary Abdul Gaffar, Shahjalal university teacher Zayeda Sharmin, educationist Mahmudur Rahman, eminent businessman Muhibur Rahman, the Daily Uttarpurba's Chief Editor Aziz Ahmed Selim and social activist Rajab Ali Khan Najib took part in the discussion.



Blangladesh Chhatra League female leaders and activists of Dhaka University (DU) and Eden Girls' College units lock in a scuffle over a trifling matter in a procession held to mark the 64th birth anniversary of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the DU campus yesterday.

## BCL girls scuffle at procession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The female leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) units of Dhaka University (DU) and Eden Girls' College locked into a clash for space in a procession held at DU premises yesterday.

The BCL central committee arranged the procession to mark the 64th birth anniversary of Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina, also the Awami League Chief.

The procession was stopped due to a scuffle started among the front row participants when the procession entered the narrow road to the west of the arts building around 12:00pm yesterday.

Eyewitness said banners having PM's photographs were torn apart during the clash.

BCL sources said DU unit Joint Secretary Sharmin Sultana Lily attacked on an Eden College unit activist after she hit Lily from behind during the procession.

Lily, however, denied the allegation saying female leaders and activists of Eden College were covering the front row of the procession even before marching began.

"When we [DU unit female activists] managed to take position at the front row, Eden College activists started pushing us from behind, and one of their activists just attacked on me," she added.

Following the incident, female activists of both institutes locked into a scuffle forcing top leaders to postpone the procession, campus sources said.

BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon said action would be taken against the leaders and activists who were responsible for the incident.

Leaders of BCL central committee, leaders and activists of DU, Eden College, Badrunnesa Girls College, Dhaka College and city units joined the procession.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at his office in New York on Monday.

## LOCAL GOVT (MUNICIPALITY) ACT 2009 Mayor, councillor to lose job for giving false info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mayor or councillor elected to a municipality will be removed from the office if the person is found guilty of providing false information or concealing facts in the affidavit submitted along with application for candidacy.

This provision was included in the Local Government (municipality) Act 2009 yesterday through passing a bill. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam proposed passage of the bill.

According to the new provision, an elected representative to the municipality might be removed at any time during the tenure in the municipality concerned if the person is found guilty of the offence of concealing facts or providing false information in the affidavit.

For the same offence, the person will be disqualified from contesting the election and holding the post in the municipality.

The provision was included in the law in line with the recommendation of the parliamentary standing committee on the LGRD ministry.

The committee made the recommendation

during scrutiny of the bill for dropping a provision of the act that made it mandatory for redrawing the boundaries of wards under a municipality maintaining 10 percent more or less population disparity from one ward to another.

The Election Commission (EC) asked the government to delete the provision, as it feared the task for redrawing the boundaries of the ward might create social chaos causing delay in holding the due polls of the municipality.

The parliament passed the bill deleting the provision for redrawing the boundaries of municipalities maintaining the population of disparity, clearing the way for holding the polls.

During scrutiny, the parliamentary body found that the existing law on municipality did not have any provision to punish a candidate or an elected representative for providing false information or concealing facts in the affidavit.

According to the existing law, an aspirant to a municipality needs to submit seven-point particulars to the EC including his/her educational qualification, police records, and wealth statements in an affidavit along with the application for seeking candidacy in the polls.

## 'Rabies kill 2,000 a year'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health experts said government should implement national level strategies and mobilise necessary resources to prevent and control the spread of rabies in the country.

Dr Aung Swi Prue Marma, an expert in rabies, said this when presenting a keynote paper at a press conference held at Infectious Diseases Hospital at Mohakhali in the capital yesterday.

He said rabies is the most neglected tropical disease in Bangladesh and about 2,000 people die from it every year, along with a good number of livestock.

As many as 3 lakh people receive post-exposure treatment for rabies each year, with 85 percent of them coming mostly from rural areas, he added.

Dr Aung said lack of awareness among people is a major problem in rabies treatment here. Unavailability of Tissue Culture Vaccine (TCV), use of toxic Nervous Tissue Vaccine (NTV), treatment by traditional healers, unsafe dog population and lack of efforts to control animal rabies are other major problems that hinder rabies control in the country, the keynote paper added.

Dr Aung said rabies prevention and control programme should be an integral part of health, livestock and local government bodies. He stressed on partnership of communities and NGOs, and adequate mobilisation of human and financial resources in controlling rabies.

Other experts at the programme also talked on management of dog population by registration of pet dogs, vaccination of pet and stray dogs, and elimination of dogs with the disease.

Prof Dr Moazzem Hossain, Dr Baizid Koorshid Riaz and Dr Jagadish Chandra Ghosh, among others, were present at the briefing.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the sixth death anniversary of Hafizunnesa Chowdhury, an eminent constitution expert and lawyer of Supreme Court, says a press release.

He died on this day in 2004 at a city hospital.

Sudhangsu, former central leader of Bangladesh Awami League, established a school in Bagerhat and a college and technical college in Pirojpur.

Religious programme will be held at different temples and foods will be distributed among the children at Farashganj Orphanage in the city, marking the day.

## Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani Hafizunnesa Chowdhury, a Language Movement veteran, will be held at her Narayanganj residence after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

She passed away at her son's residence in Dhaka due to a cardiac arrest on Sunday at the age of 78.

Language Movement veteran Abdul Matin expressed deep shock at her death and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Hafizunnesa played a significant role during the Language Movement and was involved with different social organisations.

## Construction worker shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists shot a construction worker at Gandaria of the capital yesterday.

The injured Nazir Hossain, 50, was working at a construction site of a developer company at Loharpur. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Co-workers of Nazir at the DMCH said a gang of three extortionists came at the site around 7:30am demanding them to stop working. The crimi-

nals, in an attempt to create panic, began to fire indiscriminately. At one stage, Nazir was bullet-hit at his waist, they added. Faruk Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Gandaria Police Station, told The Daily Star that unidentified criminals had demanded Tk 50 lakh as extortion from the company a month ago.

Police protection was given to the site on receiving the complaint, which was withdrawn two weeks ago as extortion threats ceased to come, he added.

## Lawyers split over CJ's appointment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League backed lawyers, and pro-BNP lawyers of the Supreme Court yesterday organised separate rallies under the banner of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) at its South Hall following the appointment of new chief justice.

President Zillur Rahman on September 26 appointed Justice ABM Khairul Haque the next chief justice.

Justice Khairul will take oath of his office from the President at Bangabhaban tomorrow morning.

The meeting organised by pro-Awami League lawyers extended thanks to the president for appointing Justice Khairul new chief justice terming him an honest, competent, meritorious and knowledgeable judge.

Presided over by SCBA Vice President AKM Fazlul Haque Khan Farid, the meeting was addressed,

among others, by its former presidents M Amir-ul Islam, Rokanuddin Mahmud and Abdul Baset Majumder.

The pro-BNP lawyers in another meeting protested the superseding of two senior judges of the Appellate Division to appoint Justice ABM Khairul Haque the next chief justice.

SCBA president Khandker Mahub Hossain chaired the meeting, which was addressed by among others its secretary Badruddoza Badal.



## Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:48pm today and rises at 5:50am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and Patuakhali and lowest 23.0 degrees Celsius at Comilla.

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	31.5	27.8	82	90
Chittagong	32.0	25.4	83	80
Rajshahi	34.0	25.6	83	77
Khulna	34.2	27.6	84	77
Barisal	33.8	27.0	83	100
Sylhet	29.8	23.8	96	88
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.0	79	79

## 'Keep child prisoners in correction centres instead of jails'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Keeping children together with adult prisoners in jails is a gross violation of the country's laws, said speakers at a press conference yesterday.

While law clearly states that children cannot be kept in prisons, a statistics says that a total of 145 children are now in 67 prisons of the country, they said.

They urged for keeping the child prisoners to the correction centres as per the law.

The press conference on "What should be done to protect children rights and laws" was organised by the Retired Police Officers Welfare Association Bangladesh (RPOWAB) at the National Press Club in the city.

All the 67 prisons have been built for adult prisoners but no space is kept for the child prisoners. So, once children are sent to jails, children have to endure abusive behaviour

from adult prisoners, the speakers said.

The children, some of whom wrongly made accused, spend months in jails with little education or exercise, though they are entitled to get such benefits from correction centres to lead a better life, they said.

Quoting the children act, 1974 said Dr M Anamul Haque, joint president of RPOWAB, said children under sixteen couldn't be sent to jails.

"It says that children accused of committing offences should be held either at a correction centre or in a remand home," said Haque, who is also a former IGP of the police. "But the government itself violates this law every day while dealing with children arrested or detained on criminal charges."

Around 1,200 children aged below 16 were held in different prisons across the country in 2007. After criticisms and efforts from

different human rights organisations, the number has reduced to 145 as of August 2010.

"These children need to be in correction centres rather than in prisons," said Mohammad Salam, a member of RPOWAB and former additional IGP.

"But the three youth correction centres in the country are hardly enough for the number of young convicted," he said.

The correction centres, located in Gazipur and Jessore, do not have any specialised lawyers or doctors to deal with the matter of the children, the speakers said.

Now 30 children out of 251 who have been kept at the three correction centres are being held there without committing any crimes, they claimed.

The only youth court of the country does not have the authority of trying the youths on charge of some criminal offences like killing, acid violence, kidnapping.

## Khoka offers unconditional apologies to High Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and a DCC project director yesterday offered unconditional apologies to the High Court (HC) for not complying with its order.

The HC on February 15 directed the DCC mayor and the project director, Yusuf Abdullah Harun, to submit a report to this court within four months on the damage caused to soil, water and air due to dumping of industrial waste at Amin Bazar in Savar.

The court had passed the order following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA).

Khoka and Harun did not submit any report in this regard to the HC till August.

An HC bench of Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Obaidul Hasan on August 19 directed them to appear before the bench on September 28 to explain the matter. Khoka and Harun yesterday appeared before it as per the order and tendered unconditional apologies.

They told the court through their lawyers that they would submit the report on the waste dumped in Savar before March 2011. The bench exempted them of their personal appearance in the court and also pardoned them.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq appeared for DCC mayor and project director, while Iqbal Kabir Lytton stood for BELA. SEDITION CASE WITHDRAWN Meanwhile, the sedition case filed against the DCC mayor for his remarks terming late president Ziaur Rahman the proclaimer of independence and the country's first president was withdrawn yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rokana Begum Happy passed the withdrawal order after complainant freedom fighter Siddiqui Rahman of the case submitted a petition saying that he would file a fresh case within a short time on the same charge.

## Two factories fined for not setting up ETP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) officials yesterday fined two factories in Gazipur Tk 29 lakh for not setting up Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP) and dumping waste of the factories to low land without refining them.

The officials conducted the sudden drive as part of ongoing operation to prevent environment crimes fined the factories at Moghalkhan under sadar upazila in the district for dumping crude waste in agriculture land and low land without refining, says a press release.

The owners of two factories--Fartex Dyeing Ltd and Borak Washing Plant--have not set up ETP nor stopped releasing waste to the low land despite repeated notices by the DoE officials.

Fartex Dyeing Ltd has been running production without environmental certificate for last seven years while Borak Washing Plant was doing it for five years.

The factories were directed to set up ETP and stop dumping of waste immediately with the warning of taking punitive actions against owners and disconnecting electricity, gas and water connections.