

# Grand goal lacks bucks

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"fundamental issue" and said such it should be discussed in parliament.

Other lawmakers asked questions to both the education minister and the primary and mass education minister. But their questions were not linked to budgetary allocation for education sector.

As on the other days, they rather demanded listing educational institutions in their respective constituencies for Monthly Payment Order (MPO).

lawmakers criticised both the ministers for the delay in putting more educational institutions in their electoral areas on the MPO list.

In response, both the ministers said they are trying hard to meet the MPs' demands with limited budgetary allocation.

Nahid said literacy rate in the country is around 62 percent.

The government plans to set up public universities in each district, he said.

The minister criticised some private universities for failure to meet the required

criteria even 5 to 10 years after the setting up of those.

Nahid also said the government plans to set up a separate education board for Kawmi madrasas. And these will be run under government management.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Amin said his ministry is preparing a policy to bring all English medium and kindergarten schools under government control. The policy will be announced soon, he added.

# Junk food diet linked

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ages of three, four, seven and eight and a half.

Parents of the children were asked to fill out questionnaires that, among other things, detailed the kind of food and drink their children consumed.

Three dietary patterns emerged: one was high in processed fats and sugar; then there was a "traditional" diet high in meat and vegetables; and finally a "health-conscious" diet with lots of salad, fruit and vegetables, pasta and rice.

When the children were eight and a half, their IQ was

measured using a standard tool called the Wechsler Intelligence Scale.

Of the 4,000 children for which there were complete data, there was a significant difference in IQ among those who had had the "processed" as opposed to the "health-conscious" diets in early childhood.

The 20 percent of children who ate the most processed food had an average IQ of 101 points, compared with 106 for the 20 percent of children who ate the most "health-conscious" food.

"It's a very small difference, it's not a vast difference," said one of the authors, Pauline Emmett of the School of Social and Community Medicine at the University of Bristol.

"But it does make them less able to cope with education, less able to cope with some of the things in life."

The association between IQ and nutrition is a strongly debated issue because it can be skewed by many factors, including economic and social background.

# Urdu-favouring report came

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consequence of the report, demands first began to be aired in the province for Pakistan to be refashioned as a confederation. Indeed, a group openly espousing a confederation for the provinces of Pakistan published and distributed leaflets throughout East Bengal demanding an annulment of the BPC report and a restructuring of the Pakistan state as a confederal arrangement. The committee organised a public meeting, presided over by Ataur Rahman Khan, at Armanitola Maidan on October 13, 1950.

Among those who decided that enough was enough and that the interests of East Bengal needed to be protected were personalities and political parties whose identification with the ruling Muslim League was no secret. Supporters of the Muslim League as well as the Jamiatul Ulema-e-Islam joined public demonstrations against the provisions

of the BPC report. Intriguingly, Shah Azizur Rahman, at the time acting general secretary of the East Bengal Provincial Muslim League, called for protest meetings all over the province against the BPC report. He was soon contradicted by the president of the provincial Muslim League, Moulana Akram Khan, who described the agitation against the BPC report as a game resorted to by people motivated by thoughts of self-aggrandisement. The moulana considered Shah Aziz's call illegal and called upon citizens to boycott any protest meeting. For his part, Aziz withdrew his protest call but demanded that members of the Muslim League must be allowed a chance to air their views on the BPC report.

The Action Committee for a Democratic Federation met from October 17 to 28, 1950 every day to chalk out a cogent and coherent response to the BPC report.

Among those who took part in the meetings on a regular basis were Ataur Rahman Khan, Kamruddin Ahmed, Tajuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Toaha, OliAhad and Abdus Salam. Others notable by their frequent presence at meetings of the committee were Kafiluddin Chowdhury, Shamsuzzoha and Mirza Golam Hafiz. The committee decided to meet in a convention on November 4 and 5. As part of the preparations for the convention, a list of nine questions to be put to Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan was drafted by the committee. A significant question, in light of the committee's view that the two parts of Pakistan should exercise autonomy in all respects, was: Does the recommendation for Urdu as the only state language of Pakistan not only ignore the interests of the majority people of Pakistan in East Bengal but also amount to an autocratic approach to the question of Bangla?

# Low bridges choke rivers

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replace the low bridges during its tenure," says a BIWTA official asking not to be identified.

If the government starts reconstructing all the low bridges at the same time, it would take at least five years to complete the task, the official adds.

Interestingly, when the government considers replacing those bridges, a few of its departments are constructing low-hanging ones.

"If they stop constructing Birulia and Trimohini bridges and change the plans now, those can be set up to standard height," comments another BIWTA official who does not want to be named.

Indicating the LGED and RHD, the official says they do not pay heed to any objections from BIWTA.

The 15-member probe committee in its report suggests that minimum height of those bridges should be 25 feet from the highest water level during floods, while horizontal clearance should be 100 feet.

But some of the bridges have been constructed only three to eight feet above the water level.

The bridges include Mirpur-Gabtolli Bailey Bridge over the Turag (22 feet), Dhaur-1 Ashulia Bridge (3 feet) on Abdullahpur-EPZ Road, under construction Dhaur Bridge-2 over Tongi Canal, Pratyasha-Nolnichala Bailey

Bridge (8 feet), Kamarpara Bridge (8 feet), Tongi Road Bridge, west (10.6 feet), Tongi Road Bridge, east (10.6 feet), Tongi Rail Bridge-1 (4.6 feet), Trimukh-Rugganj Bridge over the Balu (13 feet), Esapur Bailey Bridge (11 feet), Kayetpara Bridge (11 feet) and Demra Bridge (12 feet).

The government launched a project called "Circular Waterway" that remained unimplemented due to obstruction of these bridges.

The prime minister has recently inaugurated the Martyred Memorial Bridge on the Basila river. The RHD took clearance of 25 feet for the bridge but later the height came down to 21 feet.

Currently, the RHD is constructing the Trimohini bridge ignoring BIWTA objections, while LGED has recently completed the work of Nainichala bridge, which connects Ashulia with an unapproved housing project of some bureaucrats.

The 15-member committee led by Joint Secretary Md Alauddin of the shipping ministry observed all the low bridges starting from Tongi Railway Bridge (east) to Trimukh-Esapur, Demra, Kanchpur-Sadarghat-Mirpur-Birulia-Ashulia-Tongi should be knocked down immediately.

If the government wants to replace

the Tongi railway bridges, at least 8,000 feet railway track needs to be re-laid. Besides, the Tongi railway station has to be reconstructed, the report mentions.

Following a campaign conducted by the media and environmentalists the government reconstituted the river taskforce last year with government officials and civil society members for recommendations on how to maintain navigability of rivers and keep them free from pollution and encroachment.

As per suggestions of the committee, the government took the initiative to replace those bridges in efforts to save the rivers and ease the road traffic.

Earlier, the taskforce urged the local government and rural development ministry, RHD and Bangladesh Railway to knock down their bridges and rebuild those with proper clearance.

The taskforce also decided that if a government organ wants to build a bridge, it would have to get clearance from the BIWTA.

"If they don't knock down the bridges and rebuild them accordingly, we will request the prime minister to step in," said Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan at the meeting of the sixth taskforce in last June.

Experts say at the current market rate, demolition and reconstruction of the bridges would take Tk 9 lakh per square metre.

# UK trained Rab

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Replying to a question whether the British government will revise its decision on cooperation with Rab which has been condemned internationally for extrajudicial killings, Evans said the UK's training is designed to help Rab improve their standards of compliance with human rights and the training is appropriate in this area.

Asked about establishing a counter-terrorism centre in Dhaka, the high commissioner said it is an initiative of the Bangladesh government to establish the law enforcement centre.

"Now the government will have to decide what it wants to achieve from it, and formulate its structure to seek international support for it," he added.

Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) in partnership with Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) organised the programme to mark the completion of "Training for diplomatic reporters on foreign affairs and diplomatic issues".

The British High Commission in Dhaka sponsored the programme.

In reply to another question about the recent meeting between the prime ministers of UK and Bangladesh in London, Evans said Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had a good visit to London where she met a host of government and opposition leaders, including UK Prime Minister David Cameron, Deputy PM Nick Clegg and Foreign Secretary William Hague.

He said the meeting between the two prime ministers was very fruitful focusing on development issues in Bangladesh, and the UK pledged to continue its development assistance in key areas of partnership between the two countries.

Evans in his introductory remarks at the event praised Bangladesh's media as free, vibrant and inquisitive.

He said Bangladesh has been playing a prominent role in regional and international affairs particularly regarding climate change and development issues.

The high commissioner distributed certificates among DCAB members who attended the training course.

Course Facilitator and Bureau Chief of AP Farid Hossain, DCAB President Raheed Ejaz, and MRDI Executive Director Hasibur Rahman also spoke.

**বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব ম্যানেজমেন্ট**  
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<b>1. How to become an Efficient Manager</b>		
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<b>3. Computer Application Foundation</b>		
Mar. 06-17 17:30-21:30	Dhaka Tk. 5,500/-	S. M. Ariful Islam Cell : 01675-022755 E-mail : arif@bim.org.bd
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Mar. 11-12 09:01-19:00	Dhaka Tk. 2,500/-	Mohammad Nazmi Newaz Cell : 01715-366717
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Mar. 19-23 15:30-19:30	Dhaka Tk. 4,500/-	Mohammad Sayeedur Rahman Cell : 01819-231219 E-mail : sayeed19@gmail.com
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Courses mentioned above are suitable for Managers / Executives of public and private sector organizations NGOs and individuals. The course is also suitable for the people not yet in service. Interested person/organization may apply. For details visit our website.

**BIM DIRECTOR GENERAL**

**Request for Quotation**  
**Procurement of 16 units Alcatel Modems and 37 units ADSL Modems**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh hereby invites sealed quotations from interested manufacturers/ authorized agents/ dealers & distributors for supply of 16 units Alcatel Modems and 37 units ADSL Modems.

**Submission of Quotation:** The envelopes should state "Bid for Modem" and marked as 'Confidential'. The selection of Bids will be done based on the UNDP procurement rules and regulations.

All interested firms may collect the bidding Documents (RFQs) at the below web address: [http://www.undp.org.bd/proc\\_more.php](http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php). Bid must be dropped to the Procurement Cluster of UNDP, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka before 12.30 hrs on 15 February 2011.

**Request for Quotation**  
**Procurement of MS Office Professional Plus 2010**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh hereby invites sealed quotations from interested manufacturers/ authorized agents/ dealers & distributors for supply of 70 units MS Office Professional Plus 2010.

**Submission of Quotation:** The envelopes should state "Bid for Software" and marked as 'Confidential'. The selection of Bids will be done based on the UNDP procurement rules and regulations.

All interested firms may collect the bidding Documents (RFQs) at the below web address: [http://www.undp.org.bd/proc\\_more.php](http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php). Bid must be dropped to the Procurement Cluster of UNDP, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka before 12.30 hrs on 24 February 2011.

**Request for Proposal (RFP)**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh seeks sealed proposals are invited from interested registered Institutes/ Companies with the detailed technical proposal and price for the following subject:

RFP to develop Bangladesh National e-Governance Architecture (NEA) Common Service  
RFP to develop Bangladesh National e-Governance Architecture (NEA) Access & Presentation and Data Layers.  
RFP to develop Bangladesh National e-Governance Architecture (NEA) Security and Integration Layers.

The government needs to develop a nationwide e-Governance architecture, which can provide services to citizens in a more planned, organized, efficient, holistic, and integrated manner eliminating duplication of efforts. Realistically this initiative can be successful through a country-specific staged and coordinated approach among capable enterprise architecture experts and the Government agencies.

**Submission of Proposal:** Please note that evaluation will be done separately for each RFP. Offerers are requested to submit their proposal separately. The envelope should state "Bid for the selected RFP" and should be marked as 'Confidential'. The selection of Bids will be done based on the UNDP procurement rules and regulations.

All interested firms may collect the bidding Documents (RFP) at the below web address: [http://www.undp.org.bd/proc\\_more.php](http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php).

Bid must be dropped to the Procurement Cluster of UNDP, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka before 12.30 hrs on 24 February 2011.

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**Required Academic Qualification :**

- **BBA/ B.Sc. Engineer** in Civil/ Computer Science/ Mechanical/ Industrial & Production/ Electrical & Electronic with thorough **First Division/Class or minimum GPA: 4 out of 5 scale and CGPA: 3 out of 4 scale.**
- **MBA/ Masters** in Commerce/ Economics/ English/ Public Administration/ International Relations/ Development Studies/ Political Science/ Law/ General History/ Statistics/ Mathematics/ Physics/ Bank Management with minimum **2 (two) First Divisions/Classes or minimum GPA: 4 out of 5 scale and CGPA: 3 out of 4 scale** along with minimum **GPA : 3.50 out of 5 scale and CGPA : 2.75 out of 4 scale** and **no Third Division/Class** in academic career.

Candidates with degree from abroad shall have to provide equivalence certificate from the Ministry of Education of Bangladesh relating to their academic degrees/examination results.

Computer Knowledge in MS Word and MS Excel is essential.

**Compensation Package:** The selected candidates shall be on probation for a period of 2 years with a monthly consolidated pay of **Tk.30,000/-** for the **1st year** and **Tk.35,000/-** for the **2nd year**. After successful completion of probationary period he/she will be absorbed as a "**Senior Officer**" as per prevailing compensation package.

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**Age:** Not over 30 years on **31 January, 2011.**

Eligible and interested candidates are requested to apply with 3 (three) attested copies of recent passport size photographs, photocopy of National ID Card, attested copies of all academic certificates including transcript (s) along with a complete resume mentioning the following : Name, Father's Name, Mother's Name, Date of birth, **Age on 31 January, 2011**, Permanent address, Mailing address, Home District, Contact Telephone number (if any), Marital status, Religion, Nationality, Educational Qualifications (Degree obtained, Name of Institution, Year, Result), other Qualification, Computer Literacy and Name of 2 referees. The application should be sent to the **Head of Human Resources Division, Southeast Bank Limited, Head Office, Eunoo Centre, Level # 3, 52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000** in a sealed envelope mentioning the position applied for on the top of the envelope by **28 February, 2011.**

A Payment Order/ Demand Draft for **Tk.250/-** (Taka two hundred fifty) only (**Non-refundable**) issued from any scheduled Bank favoring **Southeast Bank Limited** shall have to be enclosed with the application.

**Interested candidates who have not finally obtained required academic degrees shall not be considered for interview. Incomplete applications shall be rejected.**

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