

New Peruvian envoy presents credentials

UNB, Dhaka

Newly appointed Peruvian Ambassador to Bangladesh Javier Paulinich, based in New Delhi, presented his credentials to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday. Welcoming the new Ambassador, Zillur emphasised improving the bilateral relations with Peru, a South American country, through increasing trade and commercial activities between the two countries.

"Bangladesh is keen to improve bilateral relations with Peru," he said, adding that Peru can import more Bangladeshi products including readymade garments (RMG), jute and jute goods, leather and leather goods, ceramics, and pharmaceuticals.

Paulinich told the president that Peru always supports Bangladesh in the international forum as active member of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Group-77.

The president, through the ambassador, invited Peruvian president to visit Bangladesh at his convenience.



SANGBADIK COMMAND Akram president, Kartik gen secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 15-member Muktiyoddha Sangbadik Command was formed with former chief reporter of the daily Ittefaq Akram Hossain Khan as president and Special Correspondent of the daily Sangbad Kartik Chatarjee as general secretary, says a press release.

The command (a committee of journalist who participated in the War of Liberation) was formed at a meeting at Jatiya Press Club in the city on Sunday.

The other office-bearers are Vice President: Moazzam Hossain Chowdhury; Joint Secretary: Salimullah Selim, and Treasurer: Swapan Dasgupta.

Members are Samsuddin Ahammad Peyara, Monwar Ahmad, Mrinal Krishna Roy, Samsuddin Ahmed, Shafiqul Bashar Chapal, Shudhir Koibarta Das, Tarun Tapan Chakrabarty, Mafizul Islam, Abu Taher, and Shafiqur Rahman.

Towhid made IUB trustee board chair

METRO DESK



Towhid Samad, chairman of the governing council of IUB, has been elected chairman of IUB's trustee board for two years, says a press release.

He has been serving the governing council as its chairman since August 2008 till assuming the office of the board.

Under the Private University Act 2010, IUB recently formed a Board of Trustees which unanimously chose Samad as its chairman.

He is also the chairman of Bangladesh General Insurance Company (BGIC), the Savar Group and the managing director of Holiday Publications Ltd.

Having honours and masters degree in economics, Samad was elected twice as the chairman of ESTCDT the Founding Trust of IUB in 2004 and 2006, each with a two-year term.



A cloud of smoke billowing from a vehicle set alight by local people in Kaharol upazila of Dinajpur yesterday after alleged police involvement in a robbery sparked wave of protests and violence. Police firing shots at the protesters. Villagers in front of the robbed house where some robber suspect policemen were kept confined. (Story on Page 1)



PHOTO: STAR

Contempt of court rule against drug admin DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against the director general (DG) of Directorate of Drug Administration (DDA) for allowing Inova Pharmaceutical Ltd to manufacture and sell Diclofenac (capsule) defying its order that prohibited both the action.

In the rule, the court asked DG Abul Kalam Azad to explain within two weeks why he should not be punished on charge of committing contempt of court for allowing Inova Pharmaceutical Ltd to manufacture and sell Diclofenac (capsule) defying its order that prohibited both the action. The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaul Islam and M Moazzam Husain asked Azad to come up with the rule following a contempt of court petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

Based on a laboratory test report of 48 drugs, another HC bench on January 27 directed the government to take steps to stop production, sale, and marketing of eight substandard medicines, including Diclofenac, and withdraw those from market.

Petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told the court that the DDA has taken steps to stop production and marketing of seven other medicines, but allowed Inova Pharmaceutical Ltd to manufacture and sell Diclofenac, which is contemptuous of the court.

Develop more high yielding variety of food crops

PM asks agri scientists

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the agriculturists to innovate more high-yielding variety of crops so that farmers can raise production to make the country self-reliant in food.

She was addressing the newly-elected leaders of Krishibid Institution who met her at her office. Association President Dr Nitish Chandra Debanath and General Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim led the delegation.

The PM told the agriculture scientists that the government is eager to go for all out measures to make the country self-reliant in food. They should concentrate more in research works to

innovate more varieties of high yielding food grains.

"We have to produce more food grains from the available land. We have fewer amount of lands," she said.

Hasina thanked the agriculturists for their contribution to increasing the food production.

She mentioned that during the previous tenure of Awami League government they had achieved self-reliant in food production.

"We always wanted to see the country self-reliant in food production as don't want to make the country depended on others," she said.

She mentioned that the BNP-Jamaat alliance government always wanted to

make the country depended on food grains on others. "Because they wanted to make the country a beggar state," she said.

Hasina noted with satisfaction that salinity resilient paddy seeds have been developed. Now the scientists should concentrate to find out drought resilient variety of paddy.

She said the government has already decoded the genome of jute. This would bring back the golden days of jute.

She also put emphasis on developing the food processing units in the country.

The Prime Minister said the government maintained a satisfactory economic growth despite worldwide recession.



Students of law department of Dhaka University stage a demonstration in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday protesting proposed new rules to appoint assistant judge.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladeshi Americans protest BSF killing

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladeshi Americans on April 30 protested the killings of innocent Bangladeshis by India's Border Security Force (BSF). They held an hour-long candlelight vigil at Harvard Square Cambridge, Massachusetts, the US to demonstrate against the unlawful killing.

Justice for Felani Committee, a forum of Bangladeshi Americans living in New England area of the US, organised the vigil from 8:00pm to 9:00pm.

The protest programme was attended by local human rights activists, Harvard University students, and local Bangladeshi Americans, says a message received here.

The committee members -- Tareque Ahmed (Ruben), Rezaul Karim, Quazi Nuruzzaman, Badrul Alam Sunny, Kazi Masum, Bazlul Wahab Shahin, and Munir Ahamed -- were present at the vigil.

According to the committee, BSF killed 1,000 Bangladeshis and tortured more than 3,000 others in the last 10 years.

"BSF has done so with impunity. To date, not one BSF personnel has been prosecuted for any crime," it said.

The committee further said the attitude of the top BSF personnel is worrisome in regards to their "shoot to kill" policy and the unapologetic manner by which they defend it.

Justice for Felani Committee has also sent a petition to Senator Kerry to take up the issue with the Indian Government.

Yunus denied basic rights in verdict

FROM PAGE 1

that in exercise of his constitutional rights, Yunus challenged in the HC the Bangladesh Bank order dismissing him as managing director of Grameen Bank. But the HC failed to protect Yunus' rights as provided in Article 31 of the constitution that says every citizen of Bangladesh can seek the higher court's protection.

Dr Kamal's remarks came as a seven-member bench of the SC headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque heard for the second day yesterday arguments on the latest petition by Yunus to stay in the top position of Grameen Bank.

The hearing will resume today. Yunus, 71, has been fighting the legal battle

since early March when the central bank dismissed him as Grameen Bank Managing director saying he has violated the organisation's retirement rules.

Yunus called the order illegal and went to the HC which ruled against him upholding the central bank's order.

He also lost when he sought a leave-to-appeal in the SC.

The Nobel laureate again appealed to the SC seeking a review and withdrawal of its decision. The apex court agreed to hear his arguments.

Meanwhile, Yunus' dismissal sparked criticisms at home and abroad. The United States joined supporters of Yunus in urging the government to reach a compromise with

him so that he gets an honourable treatment. Washington warned that Yunus issue can affect its relations with Dhaka if a mutually acceptable solution is not reached.

In his arguments yesterday, Dr Kamal said the Board of Directors of Grameen Bank is the authority to appoint or remove its managing director as per relevant laws.

Bangladesh Bank, he said, has no power to interfere in the jurisdiction of the board of directors, but it has removed Yunus acting beyond the laws.

The HC judgment is "full of error", the eminent jurist said, adding that his client filed the leave-to-appeal petition challenging the HC verdict to pro-

tect his fundamental and constitutional rights.

Dr Kamal said the HC summarily rejected the writ petition that challenged the Bangladesh Bank order, without issuing any rule, and therefore, the principles of natural justice have been violated.

He noted that the SC has powers to recall (withdraw) its unsigned order on April 5 that dismissed the leave-to-appeal petition by Yunus.

Earlier in the morning, Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud, another counsel for Yunus, told the apex court that there is no age limit for retirement of Grameen Bank's managing director, according to the Service Rules.

Only the Board of Directors of Grameen Bank can remove its offi-

cial as per the provisions of the Grameen Bank Ordinance 1983 under which the bank was established, he said.

And Yunus was not given any scope to defend himself, Rakanuddin added.

Attorney General Mahubub Alam said Yunus continues to hold the office of Grameen Bank managing director despite the SC's dismissal of his leave to appeal petition.

The lawyers for Yunus did not tell the court that they will place more arguments after it dismissed the leave to appeal petition on April 5, he said.

The attorney general said three senior lawyers for Dr Yunus repeatedly placed the same arguments as they had done earlier both before the SC and the HC.

There is no scope for Yunus to move a petition for recalling the SC order, he added.

Advocate Tawfique Nawaz, lawyer for Bangladesh Bank, said Yunus has no right to hold the office of Grameen Bank's MD, as he crossed 60, the age limit for retirement, 11 years ago.

The central bank is not bound to issue any show cause notice to him for his removal, as he was on the wrong side for 11 years, he said.

Barrister Sara Hossain yesterday started her arguments on behalf of nine directors of Grameen Bank, who filed another leave-to-appeal petition with the apex court against the HC verdict.

She will continue her arguments when hearing resumes today.



Launch
Nagorikonho will launch a web portal. Time: 11:00am, Venue: Cirdap auditorium.

Seminar
The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) will hold a seminar. Time: 11:00am, Venue: BIDS conference room.

Meeting
Election Commission will hold a meeting. Time: 11:00am, Venue: NEC auditorium.

Roundtable
Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers & Dealers Association (Barvida) will hold a roundtable. Time: 11:00am, Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Discussion
Protibesh Andolan will hold a discussion. Time: 4:30pm, Venue: Business Studies Faculty auditorium, Dhaka University.

Seminar
Asthma Association Bangladesh will organise a scientific seminar. Time: 9:00am, Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Discussion
Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) will hold a discussion. Time: 4:00pm, Venue: IDEB Bhaban.

Unveiling
Global Study Research and Publications will hold an unveiling ceremony. Time: Best Western La Vinci Hotel.

Discussion
Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will hold a discussion. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Seminar

Lions Clubs Int'l Dist 315A1 executives

METRO DESK



The 16th annual convention 2011 of Lions Clubs International, District 315A1 was held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the city recently, says a press release.

Lion Mirza Khorshed Alam MJF was elected district governor for the year 2011-2012 at the convention while Lion Dr SM Jagul A Mozumder MJF and Lion Mohammed Shamsuzzaman PMJF were elected first vice district governor and second vice district governor respectively.

New district governor also declared Lion Engr Akramuzzaman as cabinet secretary and Lion Md Nazrul Islam Sikder MJF as cabinet treasurer.