



Foreign Minister Dipu Moni receives visiting Indian Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: PID

## BCL, JCD men bar CCC tender dropping

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two listed Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) contractors barred a tender dropping schedule for two hours yesterday at Nagar Bhaban in Chittagong.

The CCC tender was for procurement of electrical equipment for Haliashahar Sub Station worth Tk 42 lakh.

CCC sources said contractors Shabuddin, activist of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, and Saifullah of Bangladesh Chhatra League were barring other contractors from dropping tender documents into the tender box around 9:00am on the Bhaban's second floor.

On information, Mayor M Manjur Alam sent his personal secretary Abdur Rahim to the spot. Rahim said the contractors assaulted him when he went there.

"When I informed other CCC officials, both fled," he added.

CCC Secretary Shamsuddhoa said he went to the spot around 11:00am but saw nothing. But after opening the box half an hour later than the scheduled time, they found a tender of "Engineers and Construction Company" complaining in this regard, he added.

CCC sources alleged the two contractors were very close to Councillor and President of CCC Standing Committee on Power Md Giyas Uddin.

Md Giyas, however, denied and complained that the alleged contractors were using his name to save themselves.

## Parliament goes into session on May 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament goes into session on May 22 at 4:00pm.

President Zillur Rahman yesterday convened the parliament session, said a release of the parliament secretariat.

It will be the ninth session of the current parliament that went into its inaugural session on January 25, 2009.

The Business Advisory Committee, led by Speaker Abdul Hamid, will sit to decide the business of the ensuing session.

The meeting will also settle on whether this session will merge with the budget session, which usually begins in the first week of June.

The parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment may place its report in the House during this session, with a set of proposals for bringing about changes in the republic's charter.

## Court accepts case against Tarique, Giasuddin

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday took into cognisance of the charges against BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun in a money-laundering case.

The court also asked Tarique, elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, to appear before it on May 19.

The hearing on charge framing will be held on the same day, the court said.

Judge Mohammad Zahurul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after hearing arguments from Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and defence counsel barrister Rafique-Ul-Huq.

Earlier the court rejected a defence petition for adjournment of deliberation on the charges against Tarique.

During the hearing, Rafique told the court that they had earlier filed a review petition with the Supreme Court (SC) against its earlier judgment.

In the judgment delivered on February 9 this year, the SC ruled that the proceedings of money laundering case against Tarique cannot run under the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2009, as the alleged offence took place before its enactment.

It, however, said the trial can proceed under the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2002, as the reported incident took place after its enactment.

The review petition is now pending hearing. So, the defence lawyers prayed for the adjournment until disposal of the review petition, Rafique said.

Opposing the defence plea, Mahbubey Alam said that there was no legal bar to taking into cognisance the charges against the accused as the defence lawyers could not obtain any stay order from the higher court.

On July 6 last year, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) pressed charges against the two for laundering Tk 20.41 crore in between 2003 and 2007.

## Allow teachers in UP poll contest

### HC asks EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Election Commission to allow 48 teachers of different non-government schools and colleges of 26 districts to contest in the Union Parishad (UP) polls.

Responding to a writ petition, the court also issued a rule upon the EC to explain within four weeks why its restriction on the school and college teachers to contest in the UP polls should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Md Nuruzzaman came up with the order and rule after holding hearing on the petition jointly filed by the 48 teachers.

They filed the writ petition on May 2 challenging the EC decision on the restriction. The teachers are under the monthly payment order (MPO).

In the petition, they said that over 100 teachers have already been elected in the recently held UP elections.

The EC on different dates in April informed their stance on the restriction to the media.

Advocate ABM Nurul Islam appeared for the petitioners.



Karmojibi Nari President Shirin Akther presents a crest to President Zillur Rahman at a function at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday. PHOTO: PID

## Separate lane for rickshaws demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Save the Environment Movement, an organisation, yesterday demanded making separate lanes for rickshaws instead of banning those from roads.

The organisation made the demand at a human chain in front of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University.

Its Chairman Abu Naser Khan said the rickshaw is an environment-friendly vehicle, which is being withdrawn from various roads showing excuse of traffic congestion.

He said the government is taking plans for private cars, including parking, loan facilities, gas supply in cheap rate and constructing elevated expressway. But a few people of the city use the private cars, he said.

They demanded of the government to fix rickshaw fare, limit use of private cars and make the environment for walking and riding bicycle.

President of Modern Club Abul Hasnath and President of Nagarbashir Shangathon Ansar Ali spoke at the programme.

## Australian HC welcomes youth ambassadors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Australian High Commissioner Justin Lee welcomed eight new Australian youth ambassadors for development at a function in the city yesterday.

The young volunteers will work at a range of host organisations for next 12 months to help with the development of Bangladesh, says a press release.

Based in Dhaka and Savar, the volunteers will assist in a range of sectors including climate change and health.



European Union Ambassador to Bangladesh William Hanna calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office in the city yesterday. PHOTO: PID

## SC case status to be available on cellphone

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday signed an agreement with a private service provider, Inforev Ltd, in its initiative to make case information more accessible to the litigants.

Under the new service, anyone with a mobile phone can learn the latest status of their case by sending the case number to the designated SC SMS hotline at 2233.

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, UNDP Country Director Stefan Dviesner, and judges of both divisions of the SC were present at the signing ceremony.

The latest initiative of the apex court aims at helping reduce case backlogs as well as enhancing efficiency and transparency in the delivery of justice as a public service.

## WOMEN DEVELOPMENT POLICY Remain alert against vested quarters

### President tells Karmojibi Nari leaders

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged all to remain alert against the vested quarters, who are trying to create confusion about the proposed National Women Development Policy-2011.

"Women along with men must come forward to removing confusions being created by vested quarters about the proposed women development policy," he said.

The president was addressing as chief guest at a function held at the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium, marking the 20-year celebrations of Karmojibi Nari.

The government has formulated the national Women Development Policy 2011 to uphold the dignity and rights of women, he said.

This gathering could play an important

role in removing the confusions over the women policy, he added.

The president said a real Muslim can never force tender-hearted young madrasa students to join street processions with the holy Quran in their hands.

Zillur said there is nothing in the proposed women development policy that is in conflict with the tenets of Islam. "This truth will have to be conveyed to all."

The president said there is no scope to belittle the women's contributions in the family, society, and also at the state level. So, they deserve equal dignity and equal rights, he added.

Deputy Leader of Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, eminent economist Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad and President of Karmojibi Nari Shirin Akther, among others, spoke on the occasion.

## Bidi workers want alternative jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some workers of bidi (hand-rolled cigarette) factories yesterday demanded alternative employment if the government wants to discourage smoking and close bidi factories by imposing high tax.

Speaking at a discussion, they urged the government to impose high tax on low cost cigarettes so that the bidi industry can survive and demanded a separate wage structure.

The discussion titled "Bidi Worker and Government Policy" was organised by Research and Development Collective (RDC) at CIRDAP auditorium in the city.

Speaking at the discussion, one of the workers Chameli said many are forced to work in bidi factories due to absence of an alternate employment opportunity in local communities.

Advocate Nilufar Banu, researcher of RDC, quoting her keynote paper, said, "We the organisers of research and development collective are not in favour of smoking or use of tobacco. We also want smoking to be discouraged."

"But we do not want these workers to become unemployed and cigarette factory owners to find more profit from the government's policy to discourage smoking."

RDC General Secretary Prof Mesbah Kamal chaired the discussion where another worker Bacchu Miah of Shatkira; Bangladesh Bidi Sramik Federation General Secretary MK Bangali; and its joint secretary Abdur Rahman also spoke.



## নির্শিষ্টে ব্যবহার করুন বিবিএস কেবলস্

বাংলাদেশে একমাত্র বিবিএস কেবলস্-ই সর্বপ্রথম নিয়ে এসেছে বিশ্বের সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তি। এই কেবলস্ উৎপাদিত হয় কঠোর মান নিয়ন্ত্রণের মধ্য দিয়ে যা নিশ্চিত করে:

১০১% (IACS) কপার কন্ডাক্টিভিটি  
৯৯.৫০% পিওর অ্যান্ডমিনিমাম কন্ডাক্টিভিটি  
১ সেড ডিফিন কোটেড ইনসুলেশন

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