

**Ganatantri Party against increase in poll expenses**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ganatantri Party yesterday suggested the Election Commission does not increase the deposit money from existing Tk 10,000 and poll expenditure from existing Tk 15 lakh for each candidate in the parliamentary elections to stop misuse of money.

The EC's proposal, however, is that the deposit money should be increased to Tk 30,000 and the poll expenditure to Tk 25 lakh for electoral campaign.

At a dialogue with the commission, the party leaders also recommended phased introduction of electronic voting machine (EVM) and launching of mass campaign to make the people aware of the new technology.

A six-member delegation led by Ganatantri Party President Mohammad Afzal attended the dialogue at EC secretariat in the city yesterday.

The EC on June 7 launched dialogues with the political parties on issues like RPO, demarcation of constituencies, appointment of election commissioners, and use of EVM.

Nurur Rahman Selim, general secretary of the party, suggested inclusion of National Human Rights Commission chairman in the EC-proposed search committee to appoint EC member.

Their other recommendations include declaring loan defaulters and bill defaulters disqualified for participating in the election and providing tools for election campaign instead of cash by the commission.

**No polls in student unions ail national politics: Quader**

DU CORRESPONDENT

Awami League Presidium Member Obaidul Quader yesterday said absence of elections in student unions at educational institutions is responsible for the ailing condition of national politics.

Addressing the council of Dhaka University (DU) unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) as the chief guest in the city's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Quader said student politics produces leaders of national politics.

Quader, also former BCL president, stressed the need for involving meritorious students in student politics to improve its quality.

On criticism about misdeeds by a section of BCL leaders and activists, he said, "We cannot deny the misdeeds of leaders and activists, though it is not the student front or associate body of Awami League."

He said what is currently occurring in the name of student politics is nothing but "hybrid politics mixed with formalin".

Quader, assigned by Awami League President Sheikh Hasina to oversee the upcoming council of BCL scheduled for July 10-11, said the process of selecting new leaders would be transparent.

On the main opposition BNP's movement, he said, "Nothing can be achieved by announcing negative movement like hartal."

BCL General Secretary Mahfujul Haider Chowdhury Roton called upon the leaders and activists to resist the strike called by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at DU for July 2-3.



Chakma Circle chief Raja Devashish Roy speaks at a news conference organised by Nagorik Samaj at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**Tk 139.24 crore BOU budget**

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Open University has announced its budget amounting to Tk 139 crore 24 lakh 17 thousands for the 2011-2012 financial year of which Tk 108 crore 24 lakh 17 thousands in revenue head and Tk 31 crore in development head.

Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) will provide Tk 21 crore 88 lakh as government grant which is 20.21% in the revenue budget. Taka 86 crore and 36 lakh has been financed from BOU's own source which is 79.78% of the revenue budget.

**Rajuk pulls down 100 hoardings**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two enforcement teams of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday pulled down over 100 hoardings of around 25 illegal housing projects in Dumni and Patira areas near Khilkhet and in Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital.

A team led by executive magistrate of Rajuk Rokon-ud-Doula knocked down 90 signboards and billboards of eight housing projects from Dumni to Patira area.

Another team led by executive magistrate of Rajuk Shahidul Islam Bhuiyan also pulled down around 20 signboards and billboards of seven housing projects at South Keraniganj.

An HC bench on June 8 directed the government to stop developing 77 unauthorised housing projects in and around Dhaka within 30 days and Rajuk is taking action against those projects since last week.

The illegal realtors had been implementing their projects violating the Wetland Protection Act, 2000 and rules for land development.

The illegal projects at Dumni and Patira are Bhuluwa Royal City, Jamuna City, Baridhara River View City, Ashalay, Bashukunja Abashik Elaka, M Model Town, Al Mujahid Bahumukhi Samobay Samity and Buriganga Housing Ltd.

Among others, authorised officers of Rajuk Md Shafiqul Islam and Md Parvez Khadem and deputy directors of town planning Sirajul Islam and Ashraful Islam took part in the drive of two mobile courts.

The Rajuk during the seven-day drive have so far knocked down over 300 hoardings and signboards of over 100 housing projects.

**'Cancel deal with US company'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty two citizens including some eminent personalities, academics, writers, cultural activists and professionals yesterday demanded cancellation of the gas deal signed with US oil company ConocoPhillips.

In a statement, they said the agreement is lopsided and against the country's interest.

The protesters include novelist Shawkat Ali, Prof Anisur Rahman, Justice Golam Rabbani, Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, litterateurs Hasan Azizul Haque and Selina Hossain, Prof Anu Muhammad, Prof MM Akash, colum-

nist Syed Abul Maksud, Prof Khaliqzaman Elias, Prof Syed Akram Hossain, Prof Ahsanul Haque, historian Ahmed Kamal, noted theatre activist Mamunur Rashid, Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah and Prof Piash Karim.

On June 16, the government signed a production sharing contract with ConocoPhillips for oil and gas exploration from two deep-sea blocks in the Bay of Bengal in efforts to meet the rising energy demand.

The deep-sea blocks DS-08-10 and DS-08-11 cover an area of 5,158 square km and are located about 280 km from the port city of Chittagong.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Rotary Governor AHM Zaker addressing the year launching press conference of Rotary International at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. Former governor Selim Reza Hadizullah, elected governor Istiaq A Zaman, and governor nominee Ghulam Mustafa were also present.

**Truck helper dies in fall**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A truck helper died after fall from the vehicle inside a toiletries factory in the city's Tejgaon yesterday. Deceased is Anwar Hossain, 26.

Omar Farukh, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Industrial Police Station, said the laden truck was coming out of the factory with Anwar sitting on top of the goods.

As the truck was moving, Anwar's head hit on the roof of the factory building and he fell to the ground unconscious. He died in a city hospital.

**DU Geography & Environment Alumni Association Get together**

The Geography and environment department Alumni association will host the "Get together, Cultural function and Annual dinner" on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 7.30 pm.

The venue is Nabab Nowab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, Registrar Building, University of Dhaka.

For registration please contact:

- Mr. Kazi Ahmedul Islam (01911447034)
- Mr. Abdus Salek (01711542951)
- Mr. Ashraf Ali Akhand Bokul (01715003804)

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If you want to take up the challenge then apply with a resume and a recent photo to In-charge-HR, The Daily Star, 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215 or alternatively apply to hr@thedailystar.net on or before 10th July 2011. Please mention the name of position at the top of the envelope or email subject line.