

# AL welcomes EC search committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League (AL) yesterday welcomed President Zillur Rahman's recommendation on forming a search committee to form Election Commission (EC).  
At a meeting in Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Gono Bhaban residence, the AL high command said an acceptable EC can be formed in this way.  
The president started the EC-formation talks with major political parties on December 22. The main opposition BNP rejected the proposal, saying that no such committee would be accepted without restoration of the caretaker government system.  
Yesterday's meeting tasked AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam with tasking the long-due councils of grass-roots units and associated and like-minded bodies within March to strengthen organisational activities.  
AL President Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting.

# Shipa made UN Peacebuilding Fund advisory body member

UNB, Dhaka

Shipa Hafiz of Brac was selected as the member of the advisory council of United Nation's Peacebuilding Fund.  
Shipa has been selected for Brac's outstanding contribution as a private organisation in peace-building activities in some eight countries through Peacebuilding Commission, says a press release.  
The advisory council will take necessary steps to maintain peace in countries during post-war era with a fund of around US\$3.50 million.

# Nirmul's 20th founding anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee will observe its 20th founding anniversary today.  
On this day in 1992, a total of 101 eminent citizens of the coun-

try formed the committee to raise their collective voice for war crimes trial and a ban on communal politics in the country.  
Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam, noted poet and social reformer Sufia Kamal, national

professor Kabir Chowdhury, Lt Col (ret'd) Quazi Nooruzzaman and Justice KM Sobhan were the leaders of the committee, the largest citizens' movement in the country.  
On the occasion, a discussion

will be held at WVA auditorium in Dhanmondi at 3:00pm.  
Besides, wreaths will be placed at the grave of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam at Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at 8:00am.

# GRAFT CASE Oli gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Oli Ahmed in a graft case filed against him for non-submission of his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).  
Metropolitan Magistrate Shamima Parvin passed the order after Oli Ahmed appeared before the court and sought bail in the case.  
Earlier on December 7 last year, Oli Ahmed obtained anticipatory bail for a period of six weeks after his surrendered to the High Court. But yesterday he surrendered to the lower court as his bail expired.  
On November 28 last year, ACC Deputy Director Golam Mostafa filed the graft case against Oli Ahmed with Ramna Police Station.  
In the case statement, Mostafa said they served a notice in 1998 asking Oli Ahmed to submit his wealth statement, but operation of the notice was stayed following an HC order and it was valid till 2007. Later, the HC vacated its stay order.

# BANGLA, ENGLISH EXAMS Dakhil marks equalised with SSC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students appearing at Dakhil exams from next year will sit for the same marks in the subjects of Bangla and English as those of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) candidates.  
Previously exams of each of the subjects consisted of 100 marks for Dakhil students and 200 marks for SSC students. Now the exams would be out of 200 for all.  
The decision came at a meeting of the education ministry on upgrading madrasa curriculum at the ministry's conference room yesterday attended by people involved with madrasa education and Alem and Ulemas.  
The attendees and madrasa students hailed the decision which they say will help remove the barriers faced by madrasa students appearing for university admission.  
The admission requirements in several universities including Dhaka University are fixed in line with SSC and HSC grading.  
Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said the modernisation process of madrasa education, in line with the national education policy, has been initiated with the "historic" decision.  
Dakhil-level students will now be sitting for a total of 1,300 marks, he said.  
"The decision was taken unanimously" paving the way for parity at Dakhil and SSC level, he said, adding that in the near future the same would be done for Alim candidates.  
AMM Samsul Alam Chowdhury, joint-secretary of Jamitul Modarresin, the country's largest platform of madrasa teachers, said, "We are glad at the decision as it would remove the barriers faced by madrasa students during university admission, specially at Dhaka University."  
Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Madrasa Education Board Chairman Abdun Nur, Baitul Mukarram National Mosque Khatib Prof Maulana Muhammad Salahuddin and principals and teachers of different madrasas were present.

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