

Graft found in govt employees' welfare fund use

BSS, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) found a number of government officials and employees involved in misappropriating money of the Government Officers and Employees Welfare Fund. "We have already submitted a partial report to the ACC seeking approval to file seven graft cases with Ramna Police Station in this regard," ACC Deputy Director Moniruzzaman Khan told the news agency yesterday. An ACC probe team found that the officials embezzled several lakh taka from the fund in 2009-2010 using fake names and addresses in the excuse of treatment for government officers and employees. As per provisions, a government official will get Tk one lakh per year for treatment purposes. ACC formed the three-member special team headed by Moniruzzaman in September, 2011.

Be vocal against anti-peace strands

Prime minister calls upon all

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all to be vocal against vested quarters who want to disrupt peace in the country. She was addressing a function organised at Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery in the capital's Kamalapur marking International Peace Conference and Kathin Chibor Dan. People of all faiths are able to practice their religions freely and peacefully in the country. Some vested quarters never believed in the country's independence and did not want the socio-economic development of its people, alleged Hasina. She said the rise of militancy and terrorism harmed peace in the country earlier, but the present government restored peace and ensured security and human rights of the people. Hasina expressed her firm resolve to turn Bangladesh into a hunger- and poverty-free, happy, prosperous and peaceful country by 2021. She said the country's people recently celebrated Eid-ul-Azha, Durga Puja and Probarana Purnima with due religious fervour and festivity. The government took steps to preserve the country's Buddhist temples and monasteries so that monks could contribute to society and in nation-building alongside spreading the message of Gautama

Buddha, said Hasina.

She said the renovation of Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery, Merul Badda Buddhist Temple and Chittagong Buddhist Temple was undertaken while land was allocated for another Buddhist temple in Uttara. Hasina handed over Sanghanayaka Suddhananda Mahathero the deed for a piece of land adjoining Dharmarajika Buddhist Temple, assuring that the temple's auditorium would be constructed soon. Presided over by top Buddhist religious leader Sangharaja Dr Dharmasen Mohasthabir, the function was also addressed by Industries Minister Dilip Barua, local MP Saber Hossain Chowdhury, and the representatives from Buddhist associations of China, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Thailand, among others. The World Fellowship of Buddhist conferred the prime minister with a peace award. Phallop Thaiarry, secretary general of the platform, handed over the award to the premier. Hasina handed over Bangladesh Buddha Kristi Prachar Sangha awards to three eminent personalities for their contributions in humanitarian activities. The awardees are Lin A Sun, chairman of Mongla Bihar of Singapore; and Chittaranjan Das and Lion MK Bashar of Bangladesh.

Shaheed Noor Hossain Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political and social organisations will observe the historic Shaheed Noor Hossain Day today. Noor Hossain, a young pro-democracy activist who demanded an end to the autocratic regime of Hussain Muhammad Ershad, was gunned down by police at Zero Point of Gulistan on November 10, 1987. He had been participating in a procession of 15-party alliance led by Awami League against Ershad's regime. Noor Hossain had a slogan "Swairachar Nipat Jak, Ganotantra Mukti Pak" (Down with autocracy, let democracy be freed) inscribed in white paint on his chest and back when the bullet took his life. President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages in observance of today. Ganotangrik Bam Morcha will place a wreath at the Noor Hossain Square at Zero Point today.

RAILWAY EAST ZONE Understaffed workshop faces huge backlog

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Carriage and Wagon Repair Workshop of the east zone of Bangladesh Railway (BR) is operating with half the workforce required, causing a huge backlog of work annually. In addition, most of the infrastructure and machine of the repair shop, which was set up at Pahartoli in Chittagong city in 1947, are wearing down. Md Harun-ar-Rashid, divisional superintendent (workshop), BR (east zone), said the workshop currently had 1,098 staff when it needed 2,128. With about a 50 percent shortage in manpower, it has to repair and look after about 930 carriages of the railway east zone, he added. The official said more than four hundred coaches remained uncared for annually at the workshop due to the understaffing. He identified inadequate supply of repair materials as another major problem. For a lack of manpower and necessary supplies, the coaches, which are brought to the yard for repair, suffer further damage by lying unattended for a long time, he said. All the maintenance and repair works are carried out at 22 shops, including carriage shop, wagon shop, paint shop, wheel shop, welding shop, foundry shop and smithy shop, at the workshop sitting

over some 35 acres of land. Workers at the shops regularly renovate steel structure, under frame, floor, side panel, roof, seat, berth, door, window, water tank, trolley, wheel, toilet, fan, light, air-cooling system, and engine of power car and do internal decoration of coaches. Harun-ar-Rashid said the workers could repair only two units (which mean one coach) against a daily demand of repair of five units. It results in a huge backlog at the end of the year, he said. The railway official also said the average age of the workshop's workforce now stood at 53, and their working capacity was falling gradually. A process of recruiting 2,572 people in 58 categories at the east zone is underway, said Md Gaos Al Munir, chief personnel officer of railway east zone. The east zone general manager (GM) will allocate the new staff to the workshop as per requirement, he said, adding the recruitment would be completed by December 31. GM of BR (east zone) Md Tafazzal Hossain said they had taken up a modernisation project, financed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), for the workshop. The Tk 146 crore project includes restoration of physical infrastructure and replacement of decaying plants and equipment, he said.

বিস্মিল্লাহির রাহমানির রাহিম

দেশের সবচেয়ে সুপারিকল্পিত এবং সর্বাধুনিক বিলাসবহুল নাগরিক সুবিধা সম্বলিত সর্ববৃহৎ আবাসিক প্রকল্প

ঢাকা-মাওয়া চার-লেন বিশিষ্ট হাইওয়ে রোডের সাথেই

আমিন মোহাম্মদ সিটি

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সাধ্যের মধ্যে আপনার স্বপ্ন পূরণ করতে...

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