

## DMP allows

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home its demands, including a restoration of the caretaker government system.

Masudur Rahman, a deputy commissioner of the DMP, yesterday told The Daily Star that police had given the permission in response to a request by the party.

BNP spokesperson Shamsuzzaman Dudu confirmed that they had got the permission from the DMP authority to hold the rally, which is scheduled to begin at 3:00pm at Suhrawardy Uddyan.

On May 15, the BNP-led 18-party alliance announced a daylong hartal for May 19, protesting the administration's repeated denial of permission to it for holding a rally in the capital.

But on the evening of that day, they withdrew the hartal in view of the possible strike by cyclone Mahasen on the country's coastal areas.

Earlier in May, police denied permission to the party twice for holding a rally in the capital.

On May 19, the home minister said no meeting or demonstration would be allowed for an indefinite period in the capital in order to avert anarchy.

But no government order or circular in connection with the ban had been issued.

### MKA AT PARLIAMENT

In parliament, Alamgir said the BNP had earlier been given permission to hold rallies in the city several times. "But they did not keep their promise of not vandalising vehicles, setting fire to public transport in the name of holding a rally."

"If Anee [BNP lawmaker Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee] or his party promises that they will not carry out vandalism and hamper traffic movement besides ensuring people's safety, then permission will be given as per the country's existing law," added Alamgir.

Speaking on a point of order, Anee, also acting opposition chief whip, yesterday said they went to DMP commissioner's office for permission to hold the rally.

"But, he [commissioner] told us that he was unable to give us permission due to directives from the government high-ups," Anee told the House.

Anee also said the home minister earlier in parliament had assured them that the government would give its permission if any political party wanted to hold its rally in the city.

He threatened to wage a tougher movement, including enforcing hartal, if they were not allowed to hold the rally today.

## Religion card

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campaigners then changed their strategy and continued the same practice at voter-to-voter level.

And this put the mayoral candidates backed by the Awami League-led 14-party alliance in an embarrassing situation at times in the battle of ballots that seems to have become a prestige issue for both the alliances.

The situation is such that AL-backed mayoral aspirant in Sylhet Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran had to promise taking measures for development of Qawmi madrasas while announcing his 20-point election manifesto yesterday.

To face the Islamists' campaign, AL-backed mayoral candidate in Barisal Shawkat Hossain Hiron resorted to a tactic. He made local Hefajat man Nurur Rahman Beg a proposer for his candidacy.

Senior AL leader Amir Hossain Amu, who visited Rajshahi on Monday, alleged that opposition leaders are using religion as a tool against AL-backed mayoral candidate AHM Khairuzzaman Liton.

Abdul Latif Nejami, chief of Islami Oikya Jote and a

Hefajatn adviser, however, said there is nothing wrong in informing people of the cities concerned about the government's "anti-Islamic" activities.

There are now two camps -- nationalist Islamic force and secular force -- in the country. For the June 15 polls, Islamic parties are working for candidates sympathetic to Islamic values, Nejami told The Daily Star yesterday.

Contacted, Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz said yesterday they are taking action immediately after getting any complaint in this regard. "We have also directed the returning officers to enforce strictly the electoral code of conduct to avert any incident of hurting others' religious sentiment in electioneering."

But the EC's action does not appear effective in stopping voter-to-voter campaign using religion.

In Khulna, leaders of the BNP and Jamaat last week distributed leaflets which contained allegation against the government of killing ulema (Islamic scholars) and many Hefajat leaders and activ-

ists at their May 5 rally in the capital.

While campaigning at madrasas and slums in the city, they showed on mobile phones photos of police charging batons and throwing teargas shells on Hefajat men on that day.

AL-backed candidate Talukder Abdul Khaleque complained to the returning officer about such campaigns. As the RO issued warning, BNP-Jamaat men stopped distribution of the leaflets but continued the campaign secretly.

The situation is similar in Rajshahi city. Hefajat activists are secretly working for BNP-backed mayor aspirant Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul. But Bulbul kept denying this.

Hefajat also hung posters in different areas of Rajshahi, terming the May 5 police action at the Hefajat rally "mass killing".

Bulbul, however, told The Daily Star it is not right that Hefajat is supporting him. Hefajat men are acting as per their own strategy.

[Our correspondents in Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet contributed to this report.]

## MRP deal

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approved by the procurement authority. If the samples of the lowest bidder are not approved, the second lowest bidder can be invited to sign the contract," says the DIP's proposal to the cabinet committee on government purchase.

The committee last month endorsed the proposal, subject to approval of the final samples. De La Rue was supposed to submit the final samples immediately after the approval came through, but it is yet to comply with the requirement.

The samples of the company, submitted with its bid document in December last year, did not include eight security features out of 36.

The Security Printing Corporation Ltd, Bangladesh Council of Science and Industrial Research and Buet's chemical engineering department tested the samples and found those missing security features.

Once submitted, the final samples of passport booklet and lamination of De La Rue will again be sent to the three labs for tests. "The final samples can get approval only if they include all the 36 security features required," said a home ministry official.

Contacted, Home Secretary QCK Mustaq Ahmed, who is scheduled to attend the deal signing ceremony at the DIP's Agargaon office as the chief guest, said he would look into the legal side of the deal and take a decision on whether the contract could be signed without approving the final samples.

Despite repeated efforts, The Daily Star could not reach DIP's Director General Abdul Mabud over the phone. Its Deputy Director Nazrul Islam declined to comment on the issue.

Sources in DIP said the decision to sign the contract was hurried after Mabud, Nazrul, home secretary and MRP project director visited the De La Rue factories in the UK and Malta last week.

There had been controversy over the selection process of De La Rue. Complaints were made that the company was favoured by DIP although it had failed to meet some crucial criteria set for bidders.

De La Rue had earlier sparked huge controversy in India over its supplying of substandard banknote paper.

## Rights

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suffering for the indigenous people," Andrew Erueti, a researcher at Amnesty International on indigenous people's rights, said in a statement attached to the report.

The government still has time to fulfil its promises before the upcoming general elections, he added.

When asked about the government's position regarding the report, Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura, secretary of the CHT affairs ministry, said the present government was on the right track toward implementing it.

The ruling Awami League was not in power for seven years out of 15 since the signing of the accord, Tripura said. Out of 72 clauses of the CHT Peace Accord of 1997, 48 have been fully implemented, 15 partially and nine others are in the process of implementation.

According to a study by the Committee for the Protection of Forests and Land Rights, 218,000 acres of land in the CHT were acquired by the forest department as reserve forest between 1990 and 1998.

Amnesty also revealed that Bangalee settlers had dislodged indigenous people by torching their houses in 2008, 2010 and 2011 in Sajek and Longodu areas. Having been displaced, many have taken shelter in the reserve forest and are now at constant risk of being evicted by the government.

"Our home has become an insecure and unsafe place to live in," the report quoted an indigenous woman.

Z Amnesty International calls on Bangladesh to respect its obligations under the international human rights laws, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal People.

## Obama under pressure

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subcontracted to the US National Security Agency, has gone to ground after evading a press pack and apparently checking out of his Hong Kong hotel on Monday.

Snowden is still in the southern Chinese city, the Guardian newspaper's Washington bureau chief, one of the reporters who broke Snowden's story, told CNN yesterday.

Russia yesterday said it will consider an asylum request for Snowden if one is made, a spokesman for President Vladimir Putin said.

"We will take action based on what actually happens. If we receive such a request, it will be considered," Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the newspaper.

Last week a series of leaks by the former CIA worker led to claims the US had a vast surveillance network with much less oversight than previously thought.

The US insists its snooping is legal under domestic law.

Snowden told the Guardian in an interview published Sunday that he chose Hong Kong as a refuge as it has a "strong tradition of free speech". But the semi-autonomous southern Chinese city also has an extradition treaty with the United States.

The US government appeared to be gearing up for action against

Snowden Monday with senior lawmakers branding the leaks as "treason" and saying he should be extradited as quickly as possible.

California Senator Dianne Feinstein -- the Democratic chairwoman of the Senate Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence -- declined to go into specifics but said US authorities were vigorously pursuing Snowden.

"All the departments are proceeding, I think, aggressively," she told US media.

Snowden said he had gone public because he could not "allow the US government to destroy privacy, Internet freedom and basic liberties for people around the world with this massive surveillance machine they're secretly building".

Under the so-called PRISM program revealed by Snowden, the NSA can issue directives to Internet firms such as Google or Facebook to win access to emails, online chats, pictures, files, videos and more, uploaded by foreign users.

Obama says such surveillance has helped to keep Americans safe from terror. And 56 percent of Americans support the use of phone records in counter-terrorism despite the invasion of privacy, a Washington Post-Pew Research Center poll said Monday.

## Why ACC chief holding office

### HC questions legality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of Ghulam Rahman's holding the office of ACC chairman although his tenure expired on May 1.

In response to a writ petition, the court issued a rule upon the officials concerned in the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the government to explain in two days under which authority Rahman is continuing in his office.

It also asked the officials to explain why Rahman's holding the ACC chief's office after May 1 should not be declared illegal, and why he should not be directed to refund the money and benefits he received during this time.

The HC will hear the rule tomorrow.

The rule came following a writ petition filed on Sunday by Supreme Court lawyer Mirza Al Mahmood. The petition said the government appointed Rahman on May 2, 2009, as chairman of the anti-graft body for four years, and his tenure ended on May 1 this year.

Yesterday afternoon, Rahman said ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan would submit the reply to the HC bench within the stipulated time.

Explaining his position, he said he joined the office on June 24, 2009, and his tenure would therefore be counted from that day.



**আল-আরাফাহ**  
ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড  
العرفه اسلامى بنك لميتيد  
Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited

Head Office:  
36, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.

**Tender Notice**

**SUPPLY NETWORK ACCESSORIES, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND TESTING OF DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF AIBL.**

Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd. is required to set up Local Area Network (LAN) for different branches in Bangladesh. Sealed quotation related to LAN Accessories, Installation, Commissioning and Testing is hereby invited from reputed suppliers/vendors.

Tender Schedule may be collected for LAN Accessories, Installation, Commissioning and Testing from ICT Division, AIBL against cash payment of Tk. 2,000/- (non-refundable) within **June 22, 2013** during office hours.

Tender can be dropped in the sealed Tender Box kept at Information and Communication Technology Division (9<sup>th</sup> floor) of the Bank's Head Office, 36 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.

**Last date of submission of tenders is June 23, 2013 not after 12.00 p.m. which shall be opened at 12:05 p.m. in the presence of the bidders or their representatives, if any.**

The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers in full or partly without giving any reason whatsoever. The Bank shall not be under any obligation to accept the lowest quotation.

**Syed Masodul Bari**  
Executive Vice President

[www.al-arafahbank.com](http://www.al-arafahbank.com)

## Hard to survive

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around influential individuals to derive benefits from power politics.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) organised the seminar, titled "Training to Improve Skills and Create Awareness for Professional Drivers", at Mohakhali Bus Terminal.

Quader criticised the recent incidents of killing through vandalising vehicles and setting them on fire in the name of political movement.

He urged the political

parties to refrain from committing such inhuman activities.

He noted that unskilled and under-aged drivers were responsible for unexpected road accidents.

Addressing the seminar as the special guest, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan defended drivers and slammed critics for prioritising the education qualification of drivers in order for them to get their driving licences.

He urged the critics to discard such thinking, and said

the drivers alone should not be blamed for the accidents.

He, however, advised the drivers to remain alert so that they could avoid accidents.

At the seminar, Quader also talked about the necessity of training for drivers, saying accidents happen due to reckless driving and carelessness of passersby.

Sometimes, drivers get busy behind the steering wheels with their mobile phones or gossiping or smoking, he said.


He urged them to acquire

proper training and remain alert while driving.

Quader requested the owners of transport companies to hire an adequate number of drivers to reduce the burden of working hours on them.

He also warned of taking legal action against unlicensed and unapproved vehicles plying through the highway.

BRTA Chairman ALM Abdur Rahman and local lawmaker Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, among others, spoke on the occasion.



**ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED**  
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka-1208

**LOCAL TENDER NOTICE**

**Tender ref.: EDCL(KELP)/PUR/LT/2013/366** **Dated 08/06/2013**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the reputed Construction Firm having experience for successful completion of similar works in any single work worth of Govt. / Semi Govt. / Autonomous bodies / Private Organizations during the last 5 (five) years.

Name of work	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Time for completion after getting work order
<b>Extension and renovation of Khulna Essential Latex Plant (KELP) as per Tender Schedule.</b>	Tk. 5% of quoted amount	Tk. 2700.00/set (Non refundable)	180 (one hundred eighty) days

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of **Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka** on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft / Pay Order / Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of **"Essential Drugs Co. Ltd."** without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

The tenderers may drop their offer alongwith relevant papers to the tender Box kept at the Purchase Departments of EDCL, Dhaka till 3.00 PM on **15/07/2013**, which will be opened on **15/07/2013** at Dhaka office at 3.30 PM in presence of the tenderers / their representatives (if any).

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**Deputy General Manager,**  
Planning & Procurement.  
For : Managing Director.



**Leveraging ICT for Employment, Growth and Governance**  
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**Vacancy Announcement**

The Government of Bangladesh has approved a project **Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment and Governance Project** through financing from the World Bank. It intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods, related services, and consulting services to be procured under this project. This project is fully financed by the International Development Association (IDA) and implementing agency is Bangladesh Computer Council.

Bangladesh Computer Council announces the vacancies for the following position under its "Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment and Governance Project" project funded by World Bank on contractual basis. The duration of the contract is for one year initially and may be extended up to five years.

The posts are:  
(A) Component Team Leader IT/ITES Deputy Project Director (B) Communications Specialist; and ( ) Technical Specialist IT/ITES (2)

The terms of references (ToR) and instruction to apply is available at website: <http://www.bcc.net.bd>. Hardcopy of the ToR can be collected from BCC Office through e-mail: [piu.lict@bcc.net.bd](mailto:piu.lict@bcc.net.bd). Application should be submitted no later than 27 June 2013. The hard copy application with signature & CV of applicant should be sent to undersigned and the envelope should be marked for the post applied on the top left side of the envelope.

The consultant will be selected using the Selection of Individual Consultant in accordance with the method of World Bank Guidelines on "Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD loans and IDA credits & grants by World Bank Borrowers January 2011".

**Project Director,**  
**Leveraging ICT for Growth,**  
**Employment and Governance Project**