

# Bureaucracy corroded by partisanship

## Says PPRC report

Partisanship in bureaucracy has resulted in the creation of a never-ending cycle where standards and morale keep spiralling downward, states a Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) report unveiled yesterday.

"Recent trends towards the wholesale adoption of partisan political consideration in appointments, postings and promotions has brought about a qualitatively different governance shadow over the civil service," it says.

Launched in the capital's Bilia, the report, "Bangladesh 2013: Governance Trends and Perceptions", has data on major issues that concern governance like crime and police and judicial performance, collected between 2001 and 2010.

It also includes a 2013 survey on household experiences and perceptions on governance and consultation with media.

Presenting the report, PPRC Executive Chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman said increased punitive action against government employees such as making them OSD (officer on special duty) results in a waste of public money.

"Numbers have reached levels which in no way can be explained as routine administrative measures," said the former adviser to a caretaker government.

He said bureaucratic corruption has always been an issue

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Students participating in a mathematics festival in the capital's St Joseph Higher Secondary School try to solve the Rubik's Cube yesterday. A total of 81 students were selected to participate in training camps from the two-day National Mathematics Festival-2014 and 12th Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad that ended yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

### Mathematics festival ends

81 selected for training camps for int'l contest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day National Mathematics Festival-2014 and 12th Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad ended yesterday at the capital's St Joseph Higher Secondary School with selection of 81 students who will participate in three training camps.

Based on performance of the students in the training camps, four to six students will be selected to compete in the 55th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) in South Africa this July, said Munir Hasan, general secretary of Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee.

The Olympiad committee in collaboration with Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited and Bangla daily the Prothom Alo arranged the two day festivals.

Munir said around 23,000 students from across the country took part in the regional level of

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## Rooppur Nuclear Plant Project Ill preparation will be suicidal

Experts tell Bapa, Doctors for Health and Environment discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Constructing the Rooppur nuclear power plant without meeting all safety and environmental standards and preparation of skilled human resource could be a suicidal move, said experts at a discussion yesterday.

Citing examples of past nuclear accidents, former International Atomic Energy Agency director Jasim Uddin Ahmed said it would be difficult to handle such a disaster.

"About three million people in a radius of 30 kilometres will be directly affected if an accident takes place," he said.

The discussion, "Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant: Prospects and Concerns", was organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Doctors for Health and Environment in Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Abdul Matin, former chief engineer of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, said choosing a densely populated site like Rooppur multiplies the danger.

"In case of an accident, shall we have enough logistics to move 30 million people in a short notice and provide them with food, shelter, sanitation and medical facilities for years or decades?" he asked.

"If we are not prepared with necessary manpower to do this job now, it is advisable to wait and build the manpower first," he added.

Bapa General Secretary Dr MA Matin and Pinaki Bhattacharya, a blogger and online activist, also spoke.

## Two Bangladeshi painters selected for Unesco exhibit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Artworks of Rokeya Sultana and Kanak Chandra Chakma, two eminent women artists of Bangladesh, have been selected to represent the Asia-Pacific region in an exhibition which is being organised by the Unesco.

Unesco Director General Irina Bokova will inaugurate the exhibition on March 7 at the Unesco Headquarters in Paris which will be open to the public till March 21, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

The event is being organised to celebrate International Women's Day, March 8, with the theme "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls".

Seven other renowned artists of Azerbaijan,

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## Reconstitute JU senate before VC panel election

### Demands a section of teachers

JU CORRESPONDENT

A section of teachers of Jahangirnagar University yesterday demanded reconstitution of the senate before election of the vice chancellor, as most of the current senate members are loyal to former VC Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir who was removed in May 2012 for allegations of irregularities in teachers' recruitment and patronising pro-ruling party students.

Moreover, the tenures of 78 out of 93 members of the senate have expired, they said, expressing the fear that the election of a new VC amid this would aggravate the crisis rather than solve it. Under the banner, "Muktijuddho O Progotibadi Chetona Bishwasi Shikkhak Der Jote", the teachers raised the demand through a press conference at New Arts Faculty Building.

"The existing senators are not representing us--the teachers, students. It's carrying an ill motive to bring someone to power illegally," said Prof ATM Atiqur Rahman.

The protesting teachers also hinted at going for legal action to stop the election of the three-member panel of candidates for VC, scheduled for February 20. The panel is nominated by the senate and the chancellor appoints one as VC from the three.

The teachers believe that if the current senate nominates the panel, someone loyal to Prof Shariff might be appointed as VC, and teachers who protested against Prof Shariff's irregularities might go for movement again, destabilising the campus.

On January 23, President Abdul Hamid appointed Prof MA Matin as acting VC for one month after Prof Anwar quit on January 13 over allegations of irregularities in teachers' recruitment and misusing funds, and directed to arrange the

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## Rampal plant meant to serve Indian interests

Claims National Committee for Protection of Oil-Gas and Mineral Resource, Electricity Sector and Ports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's priority in implementing the Rampal power plant is meant to serve Indian interests, said leaders of the National Committee for Protection of Oil-Gas and Mineral Resource, Electricity Sector and Ports yesterday.

While the plant is a lucrative deal for an Indian power company, Bangladesh will lose the forest that saves the coastal people from natural disasters such as cyclones, tidal waves like a shield.

"While the coal fired power plant is enough to destroy the Sundarbans, it has already accelerated illegal land grabbing in the forest area," said Anu Muhammad, member secretary of the committee at a press conference at the capital's Mukti Bhavan.

He added that there were many alternative ways of producing electricity but while the Sundarbans, unique in natural diversity and resourcefulness, did not have an alternative.

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