

VC PANEL SELECTION  
SC okays DU  
senate meetingSTAFF CORRESPONDENT  

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for holding a special general meeting of Dhaka University's senate on July 29 for selecting a three-member panel to appoint its new vice chancellor.

Following a petition filed by DU, the chamber judge of the Appellate Division stayed a High Court order that halted process of the senate meeting scheduled to be held on July 29.

The chamber judge also sent the stay petition to the full bench for its hearing on July 30.

Sixteen teachers and registered graduates of DU have filed a writ petition with the HC saying that there is no full-fledged senate.

Bannya receives  
Feroza Begum  
memorial  
award today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted Tagore exponent Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya is being honoured with "Feroza Begum Memorial Gold Medal" today.

The Feroza Begum Memorial Gold Medal Trust will award her at Dhaka University at 3:00pm.

M Anis Uddin Dowla, sponsor of the trust and chairman of ACI Foundation, at a press conference at the university yesterday, said the trust is working in memory of legendary Nazrul song exponent Feroza Begum.

Director of the trust fund singer Susmita Anis; singer Hamin Ahmed, son of Feroza Begum; and former secretary Asaf-ud-Daula among others were present.



**Speakers at a workshop titled "Engaging Citizens in Local Development -- Lessons Learned from the Experience on the Ground of Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GSPA)" at a hotel in the capital yesterday. From right, Jeff Thindwa, practice manager at GSPA; Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation; Hossain Zillur Rahman, chairman of Power and Participation Research Centre; MA Mannan, state minister for finance and planning; Rajashree S Paralkar, operations manager at the World Bank, and Nick Webber, country director of CARE Bangladesh.**

PHOTO: STAR

## Engagement with local govt empowers people: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citizen engagement with local government institutions has significantly increased the proactive disclosure of information, strengthening people's ability to hold union parishads accountable in their activities, such as in project implementation, annual plan and budget drafting, said policymakers and experts yesterday.

They said participation of locals, especially women and marginalised communities, also increased in budget and ward meetings following implementation of two projects, SEBA and JATRA, under Local Government Support Project 2, which ends this month.

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) implemented SEBA, and CARE Bangladesh JATRA, in 45 unions of seven districts in the last three years.

The projects' outcomes were shared at a workshop, "Engaging Citizens in Local Development -- Lessons Learned from the Experience on the Ground of Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GSPA)" in Hotel Amari in the capital.

GSPA, MJF, CARE and the World Bank organised the workshop, revealing the impacts and lessons of constructive citizen engagement under the GSPA framework.

Emphasising continuation of such projects focusing on local governance in Bangladesh, State Minister for

Finance and Planning MA Mannan said civil society always monitored activities of elected bodies, and this was very important for development.

"We have very vibrant civil society groups in our country, mostly at the national level. They will have to work at the local level to monitor development works," said Mannan. He appreciated activities carried out under SEBA and JATRA.

Power and Participation Research Centre Chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman said effective engagement of citizens was the key to reaching larger goals, both in Bangladeshi and global context. "This is the largest issue not only in Bangladesh but also around the world and important for local development," said Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government.

A few years ago we asked people to raise their voice and now we are asking them to raise their voice strongly, which is very important and under this project people also learned to raise their voice strongly and effectively," he added. "For innovation we also need to ensure citizen engagement," said Rahman.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said citizen engagement was critical to increase the impacts of development projects at the local level.

"We have faced a number of challenges but found huge success in our projects and received a great deal of

support from the government and built partnership with local government bodies," added Anam. She also said opinions of ordinary citizens, including women, would have to be valued.

Country Director of CARE Bangladesh Nick Webber said their organisation had long experience working with local government in Bangladesh, and was committed to collaborating and sharing resources and experiences.

Rajashree S Paralkar, operations manager at the World Bank, and Jeff Thindwa, practice manager at GSPA, gave presentations.

They said allocation for health, human development, and water supply increased, the amount was reduced for infrastructure development from 2014 to 2016.

Following implementation of the projects, citizen participation also increased significantly, especially of women and poor people, according to the presentations given by Ziaul Karim from SEBA and Anowarul Huq from JATRA. They said locals' presence in union parishad meetings was around five percent previously; later it went up to 68 percent while issues raised by the poor and women reached 55 percent and 25 percent respectively.

The event was chaired by Luisa Nora, citizen engagement coordinator for South Asia at the World Bank.

Lawyer Manzill  
Murshid gets  
death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court lawyer Manzill Murshid has allegedly got a death threat from some men of a drug company, for challenging a report that was in its favour.

Manzill, also the president of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), yesterday lodged a general diary (GD) with Shahbagh Police Station in this regard.

He said two to three men belonging to the drug company threatened to kill him on the Supreme Court premises yesterday when he was getting out of a courtroom after opposing a petition of the drug company praying to the High Court for allowing it to produce medicines.

The hearing on the petition has been adjourned for a week.

In the GD, Manzill said due to the incident he now feels insecure. They may also harm his family as he moves cases for public interest. He also requested police to take necessary legal actions.

Following a writ petition filed by HRPB, the HC on April 3 directed the health secretary to form a five-member committee in 15 days to monitor whether 28 drug companies were following the Good Manufacturing Practice set by the WHO.

As the health secretary formed a four-member committee excluding a WHO representative, the HRPB moved a contempt of court petition before the HC on July 17 against the secretary and a senior assistant secretary to the health ministry.

The HC the same day issued a contempt of court rule against them for not properly complying with its order.

Meanwhile, the HC directed the officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station to produce the people who threatened Manzill Murshid before it by today, Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star last night.

Contacted, OC Abul Hasan told this correspondent that he is yet to receive any such order.

NEWS IN  
brief

## Abida new envoy to South Korea

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



The government has decided to appoint Abida Islam as the next ambassador of Bangladesh to South Korea.

A career diplomat, Abida who belongs to the 15th batch of BCS foreign affairs cadre, is currently serving as director general (Americas) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

She served as deputy high commissioner of Bangladesh at Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata. She also worked at Bangladesh missions in London, Colombo and Brussels in different capacities.

Abida obtained her Master's degree in sociology from Dhaka University and another Master's degree in "Foreign affairs and trade" from Monsah University, Australia.

## Narayanganj Zila Samity, Dhaka announces its executive body

CITY DESK

Narayanganj Zila Samity, Dhaka has announced its 51-member executive committee at a meeting at the capital's Sonargaon hotel, says a press release.

The committee convener and BRTC Chairman Mizanur Rahman presided over the meeting.

Narayanganj city Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy, lawmaker from Narayanganj-1 constituency and the Samity President Golam Dastagir Gazi Bir Protik, and Narayanganj-6 MP and the Samity Advisor AKM Selim Osman were, among others, present on the occasion.

## Workshop stresses growth of fisheries to achieve SDGs

CITY DESK

Accelerating growth in fisheries is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as ensuring food security and nutritional requirements of the growing population will be a major challenge for Bangladesh, a workshop has been told.

The workshop, held in Dhaka on Sunday, was organised by Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation (BSFF) in collaboration with Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and the Department of Fisheries, marking National Fisheries Week 2017.

## Prof Asadullah passes away

CITY DESK

Prof Asadullah Khan passed away yesterday in Rockford in the state of Illinois, USA. He was 78.

Prof Asadullah, who had been suffering from blood cancer for a long time, left behind his wife, four children and a host of admirers, said a press release.

Distinguished environmentalist, Asadullah Khan, a former teacher and controller of examination of Buet, was a regular columnist for The Daily Star.



As part of a "Co-operative Education Program", Presidency University signed a memorandum of understanding with Transcom Foods Ltd and ACI Logistics Ltd on its Gulshan campus yesterday. Under the programme, the organisations will provide part-time jobs and internships to the students. Among others, Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairperson of the university's trustee board, Prof Matiur Rahman, its vice chancellor, and Maj Gen Kazi Ashfaq Ahmed (retd), an adviser to the university; Akku Chowdhury, chief executive officer of Transcom Foods Ltd, and Amit Thapa, its chief operating officer; and Sabbir Hasan Nasir, executive director of ACI Logistics, were present.

## Death penalty for carrying Yaba pills

Govt to amend narcotics law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to amend the "Narcotics Control Act 1990" to include death penalty for carrying over 250 pieces (25 grams) of ATS (amphetamine-type stimulants) drugs such as Yaba.

The maximum punishment under the law for carrying same quantity of ATS is 15 years of imprisonment.

This new provision has been included in the law's draft amendment, Mukul Jyoti Chakma, deputy director of Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), told The Daily Star yesterday. "Several other changes will also be brought in the law, including power to conduct mobile court to ensure capital punishment for drug traders," he also said.

According to DNC, the draft of "Narcotics Control Act 2017" was sent to the home ministry on March 21 this year.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal at a programme yesterday said, "We have already taken steps to amend the Narcotics Control Act 1990 to ensure the highest punishment for drug traders."

The minister was addressing a discussion on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2017 in the capital. Dhaka Ahsan Mission was awarded first prize for its contribution in the field of drug prevention at the programme.

Omar Faruk Chowdhury, MP and member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on home ministry; Farid Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, secretary of security services division of home ministry; and Jamal Uddin Ahmed, director general of DNC, also spoke.

## Novera's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Novera Deepita, a journalist of The Daily Star and a gold medallist student of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at Dhaka University.

"Novera Deepita Memorial Trust" has arranged various programmes including giving donation to orphans, and a doa and mafil.

The Trust will award

"Novera Deepita Memorial Scholarship" to the students of the department achieving the highest marks in BA (hons) examinations.

He suggested including the issue of people with autism in the national plan of action.

Brig Gen Fakhrul Ahsan, director of Military Intelligence Directorate; Sharmin Rassool, chief technical officer of UNDP, and Md Nazrul Islam, full-time member of NHRC, also spoke.

## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES Participation key to ensuring their rights

NHRC, UNDP meeting told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People with disabilities should be involved in various economic and social activities for protection of their rights and their integration into the mainstream of society, a meeting was told yesterday.

The speakers recommended inclusive education, adequate transport facilities, and budget increase for the special needs people and their representation in local government.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh, organised the meeting at Brac Centre in the capital to prepare a national plan of action for people with disabilities.

Speaking as chief guest, NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque said the government should come forward to ensure their rights because many targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) involved these people.

Gazi Mohammad Nurul Kabir, director general of the Department of Social Services, said the government had brought people with disabilities under social safety net programmes and established several help centres for them in different districts.

He suggested including the issue of people with autism in the national plan of action.

Brig Gen Fakhrul Ahsan, director of Military Intelligence Directorate; Sharmin Rassool, chief technical officer of UNDP, and Md Nazrul Islam, full-time member of NHRC, also spoke.

## Grenades, ammunition found in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police found 12 grenades, 200 rounds of SMG bullets and 40 rounds of shotgun bullets, and a binocular in Purbachal Blue City in Rupganj of Narayanganj yesterday.

The recovery spot is some 400 yards on the east of the previous spot, said Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rupganj police.

On June 2, police recovered 62 submachine guns (SMGs), two binoculars, two rocket launchers, 44 SMG magazines, five pistols, 49 shells, two walkie-talkies, 42 hand grenades and other ammunition from a Rupganj pond.

Five SMGs were also found in Belabo union on June 3 while a rocket shell was found on June 7 in the same area.

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## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাচী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ

সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট

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ফোন : ০৪৬৮-৬৩২২৪৮

ই-মেইল: eebeg@rhd.gov.bd

## সেতু ইজারা কোটেশন আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি (৬ষ্ঠ আহ্বান)

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