No election until demands are met AL reiterates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) and its front organisations yesterday reiterated their stance for no election until their

The demands included reforms in electoral systems and cancellation of the appointments of chief election commissioner (CEC) and two new election commissioners.

At a meeting with the presidents and general secretaries of all the front organisations and assistant secretaries of the central subcommittee of the AL at the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city, the AL leaders observed that election cannot be free and fair under the existing Election Commission.

The meeting also decided to launch vigorous campaign to make tomorrow's hartal a success.

Presided over by AL presidium member Begum Motia Chowdhury, the meeting was also addressed by Obaidul Quader, Abdul Mannan, Mukul Bose, Dr Mostafa Zalal Mohiuddin, Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya and BM Mozammel Haque.

Joint operation in Sundarbans to recover looted arms

UNB, Khulna

Authorities have started a joint operation in Sundarbans to recover arms and ammunition looted by robbers from a local forest camp.

Forest Department, Coast Guard, police and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) are jointly taking part in the operation. All the camps of the Forest Department have already been kept on alert and the number of security personnel has been increased.

The robbers looted two rifles, one SLR and 183 rounds of bullet in a sudden attack on Holdibunia patrol camp on January 16.

Forest department and Coast Guard officials said they were searching boats in different canals and rivers of the area to recover the arms and ammunition.

Meanwhile, four boatmen of Holdibunia patrol camp were suspended temporally for their

'Community health care system can ensure quality service'

Participants at a meeting laid stress on the community managed health care system to ensure a sustainable health care system in the country, says a press relaese.

The system helps creating capacity of community people, raises awareness and provides quality services at community level, they added.

This was shared at a function on "Dissemination of Lessons Learned: Community Managed Health Care Project" held at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city on Thursday.

A partnership project of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Plan Bangladesh is being implemented by Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK), Dustha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) and Luthern Aid Mission Bangladesh (LAMB) Hospital at 13 targeted areas of Sreepur, Shibgonj, Sherpur, Kasinathpur, Sirajgonj, Cox's Bazar, Sonagazi, Charfashion, Chirirbandor,

Khansama and Jaldhaka Upazilas. Chaired by Edward Thomas Espey, country director of Plan Bangladesh, the function was also addressed by Robert Beadle, Counsellor and Head of Development Cooperation, Canadian High Commission, Maury Miloff, First Secretary, Canadian High Commission, Dhaka and Dr Zafar Ahmed Hakim, Director, Mother and Child Health, Directorate General of Health Services. The function was organ-

ised by Plan Bangladesh. Yearly 80,000 patients are receiving health services through 37 Health Care Centres of the partners including referral hospital, static clinics and community clinics. The major components of the project include capacity development of partners and community members, training of community health care personnel, delivery of quality primary health care services and building of network.

History of violence leads to awkward silence

DU VC tells workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The world is full of violence, domination, internal conflict and human rights violation in this century and it is important to process and negotiate the memories of violence among the countries, said Vice- chancellor of Dhaka University (DU) Prof SMA Faiz yesterday.

In some circumstances, a painful history of violence and conflict leads to awkward silences and collective amnesia and so it needs to share how different societies process traumatic memories of conflict and violence, he added.

Prof Faiz was speaking at the inaugural session of a three-day workshop on 'Memory and Amnesia in the South: How Societies Process traumatic Memories of Violence and Conflict' at Brac Centre in the city.

Department of International Relations of Dhaka University and the South-South Exchange Programme for Research on the History of Development (SEPHIS) have jointly organised the work-

The main purpose of the inter-national workshop is to share how different societies experience violence, how they learn from it

'Big US firms seek for liberal arts graduates'

with free mind of world standard, said Ms Judith Chammas, the Charge d'Affaires of the USA.

She was speaking at a seminar on the Liberal Arts organised by University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Ms Chammas said, "In some renowned universities of the USA, Liberal Arts education system is prevalent. Big industrial firms of the USA seek for the graduates educated under Liberal Arts." She appreciated that ULAB introduced the Liberal Arts education in Bangladesh.

Professor Omar Rahman of Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) was the special guest in the occasion.

Vice Chancellor Mr Kazi Shahid nar.

The education curriculum of the Ahmed chaired the seminar. ULAB will help build individuals Besides, Pro-Vice Chancellor Besides, Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Rafigul Islam and Director of Academic Affairs Dr

Kazi Anis Ahmed spoke on the

occasion. The treasurer of ULAB,

Mr Kazi Nabil Ahmed, conducted

The seminar was attended by a number of principals of renowned English & Bengali medium schools, colleges, UGC members, Managing Directors & HR heads of multinational companies, eminent educationists, VCs of different universities, journalists, representatives of NGOs & international

Member of the Board of Governors Mr Kazi Inam Ahmed and Deans of different schools of ULAB, faculty members and officials were also present in the semi-

and how representations of the past influence current behaviour and policies.

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

In the first working session presided over by ProfVan Schendel, Florencia Paula Levin of Buenos Aires University and Amrapali Basumatary of Delhi University presented two papers.

In her paper, Paula observed how the history of violence that Argentina experienced in recent past has been interpreted in a hegemonic way while Basumatary presented a feminist interpretation of history of Bodo movement in North East India showing the process of marginalisation of women's experience in the interpretation of history of Bodo movement.

In the second session, Dr Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University presented a paper focusing on historicising of the 1971 genocide in the country while Farooq Sobhan Dar of Quaid-I-Azam University of Pakistan presented a paper titled 'Impact of Communal Riots in the Punjab on the Memories of the People of the

In the last session of the day, Sean Field of Cape Town University in his paper discussed the memories of Rwandan refugees in postapartheid Cape Town while Mahbubur Rahman of Rajshahi University narrated in his paper the difficulties and challenges of reconstructing memories of the liberation war at the local level by taking the case of Gaibandha dis-

trict as an example.
Chairperson of Department of International Relations Dr Amena Mohsin and Prof Akmal Hossain also addressed the workshop.
Dr Hamida Hossain, Dr Niaz

Zaman, Dr Harun- or- Rashid and Prof BK Jahangir were present on the occasion.

War fears,

wreck lives

REUTERS, Trincomalee

in Sri Lanka

Unnerved by fears that civil war

may resume, perhaps within

weeks, tension between communi-

ties is spiralling in Sri Lanka's

northeast and growing numbers are fleeing their homes, aid work-

ers and residents say.

The area, the only truly multi-

ethnic part of the island republic,

saw horrendous blood-letting in a

two-decade civil war which was

intercommunal tensions have

In a village by a military base near the northeastern port of Trincomalee, Pannathurai Malika

said families from the Sinhalese

majority and the Tamil and Muslim minorities had been able to live

alongside each other until late

"Then, one soldier was killed in the village," said Malika, a 47-year-

old Tamil woman who used to own

"The Sinhalese people in the village said the Tamil families had conspired to kill him. One night,

there were six shots fired at my

Days later, after the almost

exclusively Sinhalese military

professed ignorance over the

attacks on Tamil villagers, all 30

Tamil and Muslim families fled to a

nearby church, leaving their village

-- set up 16 years ago as an ethnic

co-operation pilot project -- to the

Malika's shop, damaged in the shooting, was left shuttered.

exclusively Hindu Tamil, while the

south is predominantly Sinhalese, who are mainly Buddhist. The

Muslims, who live mostly in the

community.

Sri Lanka's north is almost

Now, all-too familiar

halted by a 2002 ceasefire.

started to resurface.

December.

a general store.

tension



Ms Judith Chammas, US Charge d'Affaires, speaks at a seminar on the Liberal Arts organised by University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

Seminar

Jica Alumni Association of Bangladesh organises a seminar on 'Disaster management in Bangladesh' with Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, minister for food and disaster management, as chief guest. Venue: Biam auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Human chain

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon will hold a rally and form a human chain demanding eviction of illegal structures near all rivers and water bodies of the city. Venue: Rayer Bazar Martyred Intellectual Mausoleum. Time: 4:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

Rotary Dhaka North

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue:

Dhaka Club. Time: 7:00pm.



Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country during the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today and light to moderate fog may occur duringlate night until morning.

Night temperature may fall slightly over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country. Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 29.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 12.2 degrees at Srimongal. The sun sets in the capital at 5:37pm today and rises at 6:43am

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town Temperature Humidityin in Celsius percentage Morning Evening Max Min 27.0 Chittagong 29.2 19.6 81 89 Rajshahi 27.2 12.4 39 58 Khulna 28.2 16.4 73 28.5 Barisal 15.6 Sylhet 24.8 15.2 100 80 Cox's Bazar

voterlist, it added.

At a meeting on Thursday, the tives on the voter list.

Former minister Rashid passes

Veteran freedom fighter and for-

mer minister Engineer Abdur Rashid passed away at the BSMMUH in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 68.

and three daughters, and a large number of admirers to mourn his

- He was elected lawmaker four-times from Daudkandi constitu-

Mosharraf Hossain expressed deep shock at the death of Engineer

politician and social worker at his death, the minister said in a condo-

Fakhrul Islam Taran



Taran, former general secretary of Ward 76 Awami League in Dhaka, passed away on Thursday at the age

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of admirers to mourn his

Chowdhury Maya and leaders of Joybangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote, Awami Shilpi Goshthi and Narinda Lions Club expressed deep shock at his death.

Rahela Siddiquee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Rahela Siddiquee, mother of Fazlur Rahman Siddiquee, Mymensingh correspondent of the News Today, four daughters.

She was buried at the Phulpur Madrasa graveyard.

Her qulkhwani will be held today at Balia Borabari.

Fatematuz Zohra

Fatematuz Zohra, mother of Chittagong Hill Tracts correspondent of The New Age AKM Zahoorul Huq, died at her village home at Jamalpur on Thursday at the age of 80.

She left behind four sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death. She was buried at her family graveyard.

Janaza



today, says a press release. He passed away at a Bangkok hospital on Tuesday. He will be buried at his family graveyard at

east, also speak Tamil but many Relatives, friends and admirers consider themselves a separate



Hospital in the city yesterday.

Voter listing work going on: EC STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) in a press release yesterday said that the voter listing work is going on.

There is no confusion about the ongoing work of preparing the

chief election commissioner decided to file an appeal against the High Court's January 4 direc-

away BSS, Dhaka

He left behind his wife, two sons

Health Minister Dr Khandaker

The country has lost a veteran

of 60, says a press release

Dhaka City AL President Mohammad Hanif and General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain

passed away due to old age complications on January 17 at the age of 75. She left behind two sons and

BSS, Rangamati



Namaz-e-janaza of Alhaj Mir AKM Golam Quader, a freedom fighter and chairman of Nishu Advertising Limited, will be held at Noorpur GM Hat at Phulgazi, Feni, after Asr prayers

are requested to attend the janaza.

End anarchy in edn sector

Teachers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of teachers of both government and non-government high schools yesterday demanded immediate government measurers to end the anarchy prevailing in the country's education sector. They made the demand at a

Education and Human Resource Development Secretary at the party office at Dhanmondi in the city.

The teachers said the BNPJamaat alliance government has

meeting with the Awami League's

education sector through sacking and transferring them on narrow political interests. They also demanded immediate rehabilitation of those teachers

established a reign of terror in the

harassment of other teachers. They also protested

politicisation of the education ector by the alliance government. The meeting demanded implementation of the policy taken

and set up a separate directorate for secondary education. The teachers also demanded cancellation of 50 percent direct appointment by the government in the post of head master at govern-

during the AL regime to upgrade the job of the teacher as first class

menthigh schools. Expressing solidarity with the teachers' demand, Nurul Islam Nahid said the AL is working to establish a modern science-based education in the country.

Shikkhak-Karmochari Parishad Convenor MA Awal Siddiqui prewho were sacked and stopping sided over the meeting.

No raised cancer risk from mobile phones: Study

increase the risk of developing the diagnosed each year. most common type of brain tumor, according to a study.

After a four-year survey, scientists at the Institute of Cancer Research in London and three British universities found no link between regular, long-term use of cell phones and glioma.

"Overall, we found no raised risk of glioma associated with regular mobile phone use and no association with time since first use, lifetime years of use, cumulative hours of use, or number of calls," said Professor Patricia McKinney, of the University of Leeds, in a report in the British Medical Journal.

She added that the results were consistent with the findings of most studies done in the United States and Europe.

Anthony Swerdlow, a co-author of the report, from the Institute of Cancer Research, said the survey is larger than any of the other published studies and part of a collaboration involving 13 countries.

During the past two decades, the use of mobile phones has risen been no hard evidence to substantiate fears that the technology causes health problems ranging from headaches to brain tumors.

More than 4,000 new cases of brain tumors in Britain and about Using a mobile phone does not 20,000 in the United States are

> said mobile phones could pose a higher health risk to people living in rural areas because they emit more intense signals in the countryside.

But the researchers yesterday said they did not find any increased health threats for rural dwellers.

Earlier mobile phones used analog signals which emitted higher power signals than the later digital models. If there were health dangers from mobiles phones, they would be more likely to result from the earlier models but the scientists found no evidence of it.

They questioned 966 people with glioma brain tumors and 1,716 healthy volunteers about how long they had used mobile phones, the make and model, how many calls they made and how long the calls lasted.

McKinney, Swerdlow and scientists from the universities of Leeds, Manchester and Nottingham said that among cancer sufferers the rapidly worldwide but there has tumors were likely to be reported on the side of the head used with a mobile phone.

> But Swerdlow said it could be due to over-reporting of patients.

Shaheed Asad Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shaheed Asad Day was observed vesterday in the country commemorating the supreme sacrifice of the student leader and the days of mass uprising of 1969 that led the nation towards independence.

On this day, Asaduzzaman, a student of Dhaka University, was killed as police opened fire on a procession brought out for the realisation of 11-point demand of

the Students Action Committee. Different organisations took elaborate programmes to observe

the day. Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri, Workers' Party and Bangladesh Chhatra Union placed wreaths on the memorial plaque of Shaheed Asad in front of Dhaka Medical

College Hospital. Chhatra Union also held a meet-

Speakers at the meeting lamented that though we won independence in 1971, the dream of non-exploitative, noncommunal and democratic

down his life is still unfulfilled. Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal yesterday held a meeting at its Topkhana office where speakers called upon all to beef up movement against the ruling BNP-Jamaat alliance to free the country from the evil grasp of the alliance.

WEAVERS RECEIVE GRANTS

'Govt keen to develop handloom industries'

BSS, Sylhet

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said yesterday that the government is very keen to develop the handloom industries and ensure the welfare of the people of this sector.

Looms are closely linked to our heritage and culture. These are part of our history and tradition," he said while distributing grants among the flood-affected marginal Monipuri loom owners, provided by the Bangladesh Tant Board (BTB).

Deputy Commissioner SM Faisal Alam presided over the ceremony while chairman of the Board M Akram Hossain was

present as special guest.

Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet Abdul Hakim Mondol, nembers of the Board Dr MR Sharif, Dr M A Azim Jahangir and president of BNP Sylhet City unit riful Hag Chowdhury spe the occasion.

Referring to the low price and

high quality of Benarasi and lamdani saris, the finance minister said "the quality of our Benarasi is better than the Indian ones." However, he said, the weavers have to keep its design up-to-He urged the BTB to provide

technical and other supports to the weavers to help them improve the design and expand the market of the saris. Saifur Rahman said the main

objective of our economic development is to alleviate poverty. "Our resources are very limited. However, we would be able to make good progress if the resources are utilised properly,"

headded. Appreciating the lifestyle and high literacy rate in the Monipuri community, the finance minister urged the BTB to set up 'Tant Palli' (loom village) and design training centres in Sylhet for the Monipuri weavers.

The minister handed over cheques for Tk 6.30 lakh to 281



Leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh lay wreaths at Paltan maidan in the city yesterday to commemorate the people killed in a bomb blast in 2001.