METROPOLITAN/NEWS

'SANGSADEY JA BOLECHHI' LAUNCHED

Govt appoints 2 more ECs to resolve crisis: Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed two more election commissioners with a view to resolving the crisis over the Election Commission (EC), said Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday.

"No government has so far appointed the chief election commissioner (CEC) or election commissioners in consultation with the opposition. Then why the present government is being forced to do it?" he posed a question.

The minister was speaking at a publication ceremony of his book titled 'Sangsadey Ja Bolechhi' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city. The University Press Limited has published the book based on the parliamentary speeches of Moudud.

On the opposition's demand for reforms of the caretaker government, Moudud said, "The opposition party did not raise any question about the caretaker government system in 1996 when it came to power, but it has raised the demand for the reforms after being defeated in the 2001 election."

He also stressed the need for banning hartal, keeping the stu-

national politics, decentralisation and land reforms.

The minister defended his position in the face of severe criticism over his activities, saying that "This is what I am; some people like ne and some others dislike me, but I cannot change my own entity."

There is no politician in the world who never faced any criticism, he added.

Those who are now calling for the rule of law established the oneparty rule in 1975, Moudud said.

Even Suranjit Sengupta did not sign the constitution in 1972 as he was not involved with the Awami League then, but today he defends the constitution," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta MP said, "Moudud has only one ideology -- clinging to the ruling party whatever it is.'

He strongly demanded immediate cancellation of all controversial recruitments in order to enable the EC to independently arrange a free and fair election.

Without a free and fair election, we can never expect to have an effective parliament," he added.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed and the University Press Limited Publisher Mohiuddin Ahmed launch a book titled

Niko wants talks with govt to end

months to bring back the rig once it is released," the country manager

15,000 dollars a day to the US drill-

ing company Century Drilling for

keeping its rig on standby in

Chittagong. There are other logistic

Niko yesterday distributed Tk

43,39,520 compensation among

625 families affected by the blow-

outs at a simple ceremony at

Duarabazar Upazila Nirbahi Office.

So far, it has given a total of Tk

34,591,944 compensation, the

to go for production within six

months of getting the govern-ment's nod. This time the company

is confident enough that there will

not be any more blowouts as it has

acquired detail knowledge on the

geology of the area through a drill-

Dry weather likely

try in the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today.

major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town

Dhaka

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the coun-

night till morning, Met office said predicting nearly unchanged

at Chittagong and lowest 6.6 degree Celsius at Srimangal.

Temperature

in Celsius

Max

24.0

29.4

22.4 22.7

23.5

25.5

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during late

Highest temperature 29.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 5:40pm today and rises at 6:42am

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

12.6

14.0

11.0

12.5

11.5

11.5

Brian Adolph said Niko is ready

expenses as well, he added.

company officials said.

ing, he added.

Brian Adolph said Niko is paying

disputes over compensation

Hossain Manju, second from right, and Rashed Khan Menon, right, look on.

TENGRATILA GAS FIELD BLOWOUTS

PORIMOL PALMA, back from

Niko Resources (Bangladesh) Ltd.

has expressed keen interest to hold

talks with the government to

resolve the disputes over the com-

pensation and bank guarantee for

the blowouts at Tengratila gas field.

us to go for production will just

increase the production cost of gas at

Tengratila," Niko Country Manager

Brian Adolph told a group of journal-

ists at the gas field at Duarabazar in

ministry asking for the approval

and seeking clarification on the

disputed issues, which has been

sent to the Prime Minister's Office

tive answer. Otherwise, we will

have to release the rig from Chittagong. It will take at least six

"I hope that there will be a posi-

Niko wrote a letter to the energy

Sunamganj yesterday.

for recommendation.

Mass killing

day observed

in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Different organisations here yes-

terday demanded immediate

arrest and punishment to the

culprits to mark the 18th anniver-

On this day in 1988, police, at

the directive of the then autocratic

Ershad government, opened fire on

the mass in a bid to foil a rally of

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina

Gono Hatya Dibash Udjapan

Commttiee organised a rally on

Chittagong Mass-killing

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin

Chowdhury attended the rally as

chief guest with Prof Abu Yusuf

Awami League City Committee President MA Mannan, Bir

Bahadur MP, CPB city unit General

Secretary Mrinal Chowdhury and

Workers Party leader advocate Abu

Hanifaddressed among others.

at Laldighi Moidan.

Monument premises.

Alam in the chair.

sary of Chittagong Mass Killing.

"Sparing more time in approving

Award 2005 Brac has been declared the winner of the prestigious Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) Financial Transparency Award 2005,

Financial

Transparency

parency Award is designed to pro-

mote greater transparency in annual financial reporting. By

recognising the primary sources of

transparent financial reporting and

recognising micro finance institutions (MFIs) that achieve high stan-dards in financial disclosure, this

annual award seeks to stimulate

improvements in MFI reporting, according to a CGAP press release.

The financial statements of each

applicant were examined and

scored by reviewers across Latin America, Africa, The Middle East, Europe and North America. These

reviewers were all professional from

the fields of finance, accounting or

auditing who judged the applicants

on their compliance with interna-tional disclosure guidelines such as the CGAP disclosure guideline as

well as the International Financial

Reporting Standards. The top award winners had to obtain the "5-

diamond" rating that recognises the

full compliance with international

Daily Star, said, "I respect Moudud says a press release as he dares to appear in public to the rule that news regarding despite knowing that he might be transparency and Bangladesh is usually negative, BRAC managed to severely criticised. Although Moudud has been secure the top prize for the 2005

involved with different governments for long, he has failed to bring about any qualitative change in the country, Anam added.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said Moudud will remain in history by accomplishing the tasks of separating the judiciary, strengthening the local government, introducing ombudsman and making the EC independent.

Presided over by Mohiuddin Ahmed, publisher of The University Press Limited, the publication ceremony was also addressed by Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, former Dhaka University vicechancellor Prof Emazuddin Ahmed, Jatiya Party leader Anwar Hossain Manju MP, AL leader Colonel (Retd) Shawkat Ali MP, Jatiya Party leader GM Qader MP and former minister Mizanur Rahman Shelley.

The government had earlier claimed 8.9 billion cubic feet (bcf)

gas and Tk 250 crore from the

Canadian company as part of a

three-stage compensation for the

blowouts and Tk 84 crore for envi-

ronmental damage caused by the

blowouts that took place in January

agreed to compensate the govern-

ment's share of 3 bcf gas lost in the

accidents but says that the basis of

other claims are not known to them

and the information regarding this

should be shared in order to reach a

consensus though there is no such

provision in the Joint Venture

Beside the burnt 3 bcf gas, a

government committee estimated

the loss of gas at 5.9 bcf at sub-

surface level and a possible loss of

45 bcf at the third level of the gas

field, also known as Chhatak mar-

Humidity in

percentage

Morning Evening

38

69

75

70

50

61

56

67

The company has already

and June last year.

Agreement (JVA).

ginal gas field.

disclosure guidelines. Among the steps that Brac has taken to ensure a supportive organi-sational are the following: Cultivation of a culture of honesty, written procedures and guidelines for transparency, accounting manu-als, a strong internal control system, regular review and incorporation of modern technology. All of the above qualities related to the willingness of its policymakers and supportive organisational cultures have led Brac to achieve financial transparency throughout the organisation.

Dr Kamal discusses situation with Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday discussed country's overall situation and the programmes of combined opposition parties with Awami League President Sheikh Hasina in a meeting at her Sudhasadan residence. 'Sangsadey Ja Bolechhi' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday while Suranjit Sengupta, left, and Anwar

Talking to reporters after the twoand-a-half-hour-long parley, Dr Kamal said they discussed various opposition programmes, including grand rally and long march towards Dhaka.

"We discussed country's overall situation," said the eminent jurist, a

player in the AL-led opposition alliance of 14 parties.

He said, "We are continuing our movement to free the countrymen after a fruitful election through neces-

saryreforms," he told the newsmen. Dr Kamal, however, said that they did not discuss the matter of boycotting opposition lawmakers joining the ongoing parliament session.

Global campaign to ensure healthcare for all emphasised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors of Bangladesh and the UK yesterday stressed the need for accelerating the global campaign to ensure healthcare services for all.

They said the access to healthcare services is the fundamental rights of everyhuman being.

The doctors of the two countries

were exchanging views on their national healthcare services (NHS) at a neetinginthecity. The meeting on 'Healthcare and

patient-doctor relation' was organised by Chikitsak Sangsad, a forum of physicians, at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). The UK doctors included Dr Anna Livingstone and Dr Kambiz Boomla,

both senior lecturers of Queen Mary University of London, and Maggie Falshaw, practice manager of Tower HamletsNHS. Prof Moazzem Hossain of BSMMU, presided over the meeting

where Prof Rashidi Mahbub, former

pro-vice-chancellor of BSMMU,

Sirajul Islam, professor of the Institute of Child Health and Sharfuddin Ahmed of BSMMU spoke. The UK doctors briefly presented the recent changes in their NHS in Britain while the Bangladeshi doctors spoke about the existing scenario of

NHSinthecountry.

The UK doctors said their NHS is being privatised gradually while the Bangladeshi doctors said private

initiative in health sector is growing up here as people are not getting desired service from the government hospitals orhealthcare services. "In Bangladesh the NHS should

not be privatised. Instead, the NHS should be expanded in such way so that all specially the rural poor can come under its coverage," said Dr Sharfuddin.

Prof Sirajul Islam stressed the need for launching a global movement to ensure NHS for all.



Advocate Sultana Kamal speaks at a discussion on 'Liberation War and Women' at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. On her right are Aeysha Khanam, Ferdous Azim and Dr Sarwar All and on her left are Rokeya Rahman, Shaheen Anam, Farida Akhter and Khushi Kabir.

Spirit of Liberation War helps women achieve empowerment

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country has achieved independence after a nine-month war in 1971, but it took a long time to recognise women's contribution to the liberation war, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

They said the women were not only the victims of the war crimes, they took up arms, served the society during that time and gave shelter to the freedom fighters.

Being imbued with the spirit of the liberation war, women have now become more courageous and are advancing on the way to their empowerment and development,

they added.
It is time to review the women's contribution to the liberation war and their empowerment, the speakers said at a discussion organised by the Liberation War Museum on its premises as part of its month-long programme on 'Liberation War and Women'.

Since 1947, women have been playing a vital role in all the move-

Obituary



ANM Eusuf, chairman of Korean EPZ (KEPZ), passed away in the early hours of yesterday at the age of 67, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baitul Aman Jame Mosque at Dhanmondi in the city on Friday

Eusuf had a distinguished career in the Civil Service of Bangladesh and jointed the Youngone Group of Companies in

Kihak Sung, chairman of Youngone Corporation and officials of Youngone Group of Companies expressed deep condolence at his death.

ments, including the liberation fundamentalism and political struggle, with a strong commitment, said Advocate Sultana Kamal in her keynote paper on 'The impact of the liberation war on the struggle for women's empower-

"Even the constitution did not set out the issue of women empowerment. It only provides for equality in public life," she said. Yet, empowerment and development of women are taking place in the country, she added. She called for elimination of all

factors which restricts freedom, saying that the women took part in the liberation war for enjoying democracy, human rights and all kinds of freedom needed for their advancement.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Ayesha Khanam said the women in the country are advancing despite various impediments such as present.

hindrances, as the social and cultural aspects of the liberation war have influenced the women posi-"Our social consciousness has

come from the spirit of the liberation war and women's contribution to the war was no less than the contribution of male freedom fighters," said Shaheen Anam, team leader of Manusher Jonno.

Despite enormous obstacles, women have moved ahead and will make further progress keeping their own identity intact, she

Ferdous Azim of Naripakkho, Di Hamida Hossain, Farida Akhter of Ubinig, Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori, Rokeya Kabir of Nari Pragati Shangha, cultural activist and trustee of the Liberation War Museum Sara Zaker and Member Secretary Dr Sarwar Ali were also

Oust govt to hold trial of Kibria killing: Jalil the killings including the Kibria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led four-party alliance government would not hold the trial of the murder of Shah AMS Kibria, former Awami League (AL) leader and finance minister, during its tenure, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The discussion was organised by Sonar Bangla Jubo Parishad and Bangabandhu Lalitkala Academy to mark the first anniversary of the killing of Shah AMS Kibria.

Speaking as chief guest, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said as the government is behind the killing, it wouldn't allow the trial to

"We shall have to oust this government and establish a pro-people one to hold the trial of all killing," he added. Jalil said Kibria had deep feel-

ings for the people and that's why he introduced allowances for old eople and widow.

Presiding over the discussion, Dr Reza Kibria, son of slain Shah AMS Kibria, said the trial of the killing of his father would not take place because the killers remain under the shelter of the ruling

He said only a government elected under a free and fair election could hold trial of all killings.

Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Dr Atiur Rahman, Advocate M Enayetur Rahim, and AL leader Motia Chowdhury also spoke at the

C'nawabganj killings condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties and organisations yesterday condemned the killing of seven people in police firing in Chapainawabganj and demanded immediate punishment to those responsible for the killing.

In a statement, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain and General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik demanded fair investigation and exemplary punishment to the killers. They said the locals were staging a demonstration to realise their seven-point demand including minimum charge of electricity and the release of three leaders of Palli Bidyut Unnayan Sangram Committee arrested in connection with lanuary 4 incident.

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimal Biswas said the government cannot suppress people's freedom of speech by pening fire on them.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu and General Secretary Syed Jafar Sazzad said the Khaleda-Nizami coalition government is trying to-stay in power through repressive

The Chapainawabganj incident s a part of that ill motive, they

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury in a separate statement said the BNP government is killing people to hide its failure in

every sector. Communist Party of Bangla-desh (CPB) held a rally in front of the party office in the city protest-

ing the killing. Leaders of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, 11-Party and Sylhet Division Development Action Council also condemned the police firing on innocent peo-ple at Chapainawabganj.

Expat Bangladeshi donates city land, 5-storied building

says a press release,

over the registered documents of the property to DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam at DAM Head Office at Dhanmondi in the city on Monday.

that when he was in London he had been watching the activities of different non-governmental organisations of Bangladesh as he was planning to dedicate his property for the service of the destitute children and finally he decided to give it to DAM, that, he believes, is

Terming the gift an exceptional one, DAM president expressed hope that following Syed Kamal other expatriate Bangladeshis would come forward to assist

Memorial General Education and Vocational Training Centre' for the destitute children and adolescents of the city on the donated property at Pisciculture Housing Society, Shaymoli in the city.

Death anniversary -



Today is the 4th death anniversary of Brigadier General Mukhlesur Rahman Khan, says His family mem-

to Ahsania Mission Sved Kamal Uddin Haider, a

Bangladeshi Pharmaceutical Chemist living in the United Kingdom, has donated a fivestoried building along with 2.57 katha land to Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) for setting up a permanent facility for educational and vocational training of the destitute children and adolescents, The expatriate formally handed

Syed Kamal said on the occasion

capable of taking care of it.

DAM's social welfare activities. DAM has already started

Ahsania Mission- Syed Sadat Ali



a press release. bers asked all to pray for eternal peace of his departed soul.

BARACA workshop STAFF CORRESPONDENT

residence in the city yesterday.

With a view to making a common treatment process, which will bring a positive attitude on drug addiction and rehabilitation, Bangladesh Rehabilitation and Association Centre of Addicts (BARACA) organised a four-day addiction training workshop on 'Diagnosis Treatment process, case management, evaluation and networking."

BARACA, a central project of Caratis Bangladesh organised the workshop from January 21 to 24.

Br Robi T Purification CSC, acting director of BARACA, inaugurated the workshop and Dr Efrem of Milestone Caritas Germany was the moderator.

Thirty-six representatives from 20 addictions Rehabilitation Centre Networking Committee of Bangladesh (NARCAB) participated Club. Time: 10:00am. in the training workshop.

Workshop

Faculty of Social Sciences, DU, organises a seminar on 'Permanent migration and development: Bangladesh community in the UK and USA' with Dr Tasneem Arefa Siddiqui as keynote speaker. Venue: Seminar of the Faculty. Time: 4:00pm.

European Union (EU) delegation calls on LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his official

Discussion

Seminar

Swadhinota Forum organises a discussion to mark the 'Democracy Killing Day' recalling the establishment of Bakshal with Communication Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: National Press

HIV/Aids. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 9:30am. Painting exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a threeday painting exhibition of underprivileged children titled 'the language of joy' under the auspices of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts and Ain O Shalish Kendra will be held. Venue: Royal Orchid Restaurant, Gulshan. Time: 3:00pm.

Padakkhep organises a workshop on

advocacy and sensitisation of people on