

BFUJ election today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Election to the executive committee of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) for 2006-2008 will be held today.

Polling will be held in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Bogra, Dinajpur, Jessore and Mymensingh press clubs simultaneously, said a press release.

Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul has already been elected president while Kartik Chatterjee Dhaka division vice-president and Molla Jalal joint secretary general unopposed.

Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and Mahbubul Alam are vying for the post of secretary general while Farazi Azmal Hossain and Aatur Rahman for the post of treasurer.

Outgoing president of BFUJ Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Manjurul Ahsan urged the voters to make the polls a success.



A nine-day exhibition of sculptural works by artist Samiran Datta began at Gallery Chittrak at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Death threat to two JU journos

JU CORRESPONDENT

Suspected activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir have issued death threats to two Jahangirnagar University (JU) correspondents for publishing reports on Shibir activities on the campus.

Kuntal Roy, a correspondent of the daily Janakantha, and Billal Khasru of the daily Bhorer Kagoj received the threats over their mobile phones.

Saikat, a student of Meer Musharraf hall, gave the death threat to Kuntal over mobile phone at 7:45pm on Thursday and said, "You have made a report against me but do not know what lies in store for you."

On Wednesday night, a diary containing a list of books, including 'Small Arms', was found in a bag which was retrieved from Saikats room.

An unidentified Shibir activist also

threatened Billal with death over cell phone at 10:00am yesterday for publishing report on Shibir activities on the JU campus.

Proctor Prof Syed Kamrul Ahsan said, "Action will be taken after receiving written complaints from both the journalists."

HIV rate among IDUs alarming

UNB, Dhaka

Intravenous Drugs Users (IDU) among the young generation in Bangladesh are being infected with HIV virus at an 'alarming rate', the World Bank said Thursday.

"There is close to a concentrated epidemic among IDUs, with rates in central Bangladesh having risen from 1.4 per cent to 4.9 per cent since 1999, with a rate as high as 8.9 per cent in one neighbourhood of Dhaka," says a news release of the donor agency, quoting a survey.

According to the serological survey conducted from 2004 to 2005, 44 per cent of female IDUs, who are also sex workers, have a higher prevalence of syphilis that amounts to 9.2 per cent prevalence compared with 2.9 per cent among male IDUs.

The survey also figured out some factors active behind the appalling increase of this deadly disease. The reasons include existence of significant number of 'hidden sex industries', low levels of condom use among the commercial sex workers and the clients as well and high rate of using intravenous drugs.

The government has taken a number of active measures to

prevent the spread of AIDS in the country. World Bank and DFID-supported HIV/AIDS Prevention Project (HAPP) is one, it noted.

The project objectives are to control the spread of HIV infection within high-risk groups and limit its spread to general population without stigmatising the high-risk

groups.

The HAPP has four prime components, which incorporates High Risk Interventions, Communications and Advocacy, Blood Safety, Project Support and Institutional Strengthening.