DHAKA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Armed forces to help hold free, fair polls

Khaleda hopes

UNB, Comilla

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday reiterated her firm belief that members of the armed forces would play an effective role in holding the coming elections in a credible manner as they did in the past.

"As per constitutional provision, a caretaker government will take over on expiry of our tenure in October and will arrange a neutral election in the country." she said while addressing a darbar of the army at Comilla Cantonment.

The prime minister asked members of the armed forces to remain alert against any division, confusion and anarchy that can weaken the national unity and defence power.

7-yr girl killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seven-year-old girl was raped and killed

at Shyampurin the city yesterday. The victim is identified as Tania

Akhtar, daughter of a fruit vendor Jamal

Howladar of Karimullahbagh in

on street pavement beside his house,

went out keeping Tania seated at his

Jamal. who sells sugarcane juices

after rape

Shyampur.

She said the nation will always remember the glorious role and sacrifices of the armed forces in the

War of Independence. After independence, the prime minister said, members of the armed forces played their important roles in

Health dept employees

announce fresh agitation

protecting the interests of the country and ensuring welfare of the nation during calamities and at all critical junctures.

She said, "We've been implementing the Vision 2020 programme for modernising the armed forces keeping in mind the demand of the new century. The prime minister assured members

of the armed forces that the government in cooperation with the armed forces would keep up the process of their modernisation

inthefuture She lauded various roles and activities of the armed forces apart

> from their professional duties Khaleda said member of the armed forces played important role in curbing terrorism through "Operation Clean Heart" and also in improving law and order

Members of the armed forces have been acclaimed everywhere in the world for successfully performing their duties in UN peacekeeping missions, the prime minister said, hoping that this reputation will increase in the

future She also prayed for the salvation of the departed souls of six Bangladeshi peacekeepers who died in a road accident in Ivory Coast recently

rural areas from September 11.

five-point demand.

The announcement came at a

demonstration at Muktangan in the

city where several hundred field level

health workers chanted slogans

urging the government to meet their

health assistants technical (diploma)

status, revision of current salary

structure, increasing travel allowance

and renaming some of the posts of

While addressing the agitating

health department in the field levels.

health workers at Muktangan,

General Secretary of the Association

Bari Babu as the main speaker and

sincerely leaving aside feud or

The rally, attended by hundreds

They said nobody can spoil the

special speaker respectively.

Their demands include giving the

Updated Ctg voter list shows further rise in number

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The updated list of voters in Chittagong, comprising 41 wards in the city and 14 upazilas, saw a further rise in the number of voters sources said yesterday.

After completion of the update by the Election Commission (EC) on August 20, the total number of voters in Chittagong now stands at 50,06,188, which is 11,56,742 more than the figure in 2001 and 1,09,020 more than on the draft list prepared by the EC in May this year, they said.

In 2001, the number of voters in Chittagong was 38,56,742 and it stood at 48,97,168 with a 27 percentrise (10.40.426).

While updating the voter list, a total of 1,32,023 names were deleted while 26,366 names were corrected, the EC sources said.

According to them, the rise of voters was seen predominantly at slums, Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) and some densely populated areas.

On an average, about 10 to 15 percent voters were increased in the city areas whereas the rise is about 18 to 20 percent in rural areas, they said.

CPB road march begins Sept 11 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) announced a 10-day road march programme styled Paribartan Jatra (march for change) from September 11 in every district with a view to bringing a change in 'power' and 'antipeople policy' of the government.

During the road march, the CPB leaders will walk over 3000 kilometres and organise different programmes including door-todoor visit, mass campaign and village meeting everyday, party leaders said.

The announcement was made yesterday.

They also said the government wants to make the upcoming general election a farce by using muscle power, black money and election engineering.

speech, CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the government initiated an economy of 'plundering' in the name of market economy, which is destroying the country's agriculture and industry.

He said, "We will participate in the election with our party symbol if an environment for free and fair



Participants at the fifth regional workshop on 'Global Microcredit Summit 2006: Bangladesh Perspective and Expectations' held at the Biam Auditorium in Chittagong on Monday.

NGOs demand microcredit regional HQs in Dhaka

Development Forum (CDF)

Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh

(FNB) and International Network of

Alternative Financial Institutions

(INAFI) in association with The

Daily Star, the workshop was

attended by the heads and repre-

sentatives of about 50 NGOs/MFIs.

the years microfinance has

The participants said that over

Expressing satisfaction that the

alternative financial source for the

MFIs as there is acute shortage of

loan funds in comparison with the

commercial banks should have

They also suggested that the

demand.

Leaders of the Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) and NGOs of Chittagong and Sylhet divisions have called for establishment of a regional headquarters of Microcredit Summit Campaigns in Bangladesh, the pioneer and leader of this sector, as most of the innovations and best practices of microfinance had taken place in the

become a structured and profes-With successful implementation sional operation and hoped that the Microcredit Regulatory Authority of the programme with huge number of MFIs, largest outreach than will be supportive of the NGOs by any other country in the world and creating an enabling environment. the volume of loan. Bangladesh will be the ideal place for establishment Banking sector is showing increasof the regional headquarters that ing interest in MFI, the speakers will be beneficial for the MFIs of reiterated that the commercial banks should take the lead as the

Asian region, they said. They were speaking at the fifth and last regional workshop on Global Microcredit Summit 2006: Bangladesh Perspective and Expectations' at the Biam Auditorium in Chittagong on Monday, says a press release.

proper mechanism to ensure Jointly organised by Plan revolving fund flow to the NGOs Bangladesh, Credit and instead of providing terminal loans.



The Daily Star

Tribute paid to **Mother Teresa** STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Describing Mother Teresa as one of the most outstanding personalities of the 20th century, speakers said the whole world was so inspired by her active charity that it earned her the title of 'Living Saint'

They also said Nobel Peace Prize winner Mother Teresa, who dedicated her whole life for welfare of poor people, had also inspired people to serve the poor, sick afflicted and orphan.

Pacificare Health and Development Organisation (Pacificare) organised a prayer and a discussion at the National Press Club in the city yesterday to mark her 9th death anniversary.

Rev Father James Banas CSE said her ideology and philosophy should be spread out all over the world to stop war and violence.

"Civilisation of the world will be destroyed if the humanists like Mother Teresa are not born." he said while addressing as chief quest.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said "Money is not needed to serve the poor people and Mother Teresa is the example."

Rev Father Arturo Speziale said Mother Teresa came to Bangladesh and visited poor and needy people in city slums and villages.

Nasir Uddin, founder and chairman of the Pacificare, presided over the discussion where Rev Father Angelo Martyn, Dr Mostak Hossain and Jemes Jayanta Sarkar also addressed.



Seminar

Hoque, specialist of the Family Campaign for Good Governance will Economic Security programme of hold a seminar on foreign investment, natural resources and public interest. Earlier, the regional workshops Venue: National Press Club. Time: were held in Dhaka, Bogra, 9:30am

Roundtable

Department of Women Studies, Dhaka University and Prothom Alo organise a roundtable on '2007:Women in Election Press'. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Time: 2:00pm

Concert for Children

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel and International Television Channel Limited-NTV will host a charity "Concert for Children" to support the "Unicef Check Out for Children 2006", a fund raising campaign. Venue Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Time: 3:00pm.

Death anniversarv

Today is the 9th death anniversary of Prof Mohammed Noman, an eminent educationist, says a oressi Recipient of 'Ekushe Padak'. he was also awarded President Gold Medal as the best teacher.

'Remain alert to opposition plot against polls'

demands.

September 9

Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday urged all to remain alert to the conspiracy of opposition parties to foil the next parliamentary election.

"Awami League is now trying to make a plot against holding the election as they anticipate a debacle in the next election," he said while addressing as chief quest at the Chittagong Divisional Rally of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Laldighi Maidan.

Presided over by JCD Central esident Azizi

department announced fresh agitation programmes yesterday to press their five-point demand, including review of the pay scale. The employees under the banner of Bangladesh Health Sector Field Level Employees' Association announced to

Field level employees of health

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

place at 11:00pm on Monday. "When I returned in just 15 minutes, I observe a four-hour hunger strike a day on September 6 and 7. could not find her," he told the reporters, They would start an indefinite adding that since then she had been hunger strike at Muktangan in the city missing. from September 8 and start the same

Locals found her body from a nearby programme on the Shaheed Minar bushy place at Karim-ullahbagh yesterpremises of each divisional head day morning. quarters sans Dhaka, from

The police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy. Morgue sources said they found bruises all over her body and had symptoms of rape.

Planning confce of NILG held STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Annual Planning Conference of the National Institute of Local Government (NILG) was held in the city yesterday with the participation of donor agencies, NGO professionals and representatives of Dhaka City Corporation and municipalities

Dr Kamal Siddique inaugurated the conference while Secretary to LGRD ministry SM Zahirul Islam chaired the opening session.

Director General of NILG Salahuddin Ahmed chaired the academic session of the conference where Director (Training) of NILG Jamshed Ahmed and Fariduddin Ahmed presented two research

OUR CORRESPONDENT,Ctg

The Association also announced

to stop vaccination programme sine

die in the country since September 10

and abstain from participating home-

based health care programmes in the

division of activists from different upazilas and district units, experienced brief pandemonium where the activists of feuding groups were involved in altercation

Pointing to this, JCD central general secretary later expressed s anger and told The Daily Star that the rally

M Harun-or-Rashid Matubbar said that they were forced to announce such programmes as the government did not pay heed to their just

at a press conference organised by CPB at its central office in the city

While reading out a written definite victory of BNP in the next general election if the activists and leaders of JCD play their role

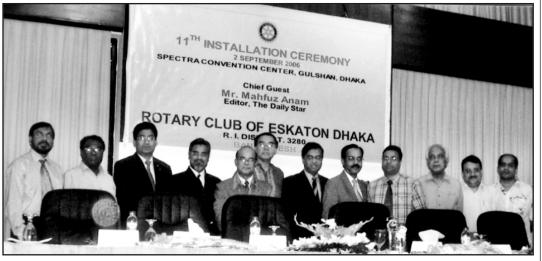
election is created."

When asked whether they will join the Awami League (AL) led 14-

country.

The training wing of NILG, has a plan to launch seven research projects next year.

every programme of Chittagong was attended by former JCD president Fazlul Hoque Milan MP and JCD has so far ended in chaotic Central General Secretary Shafiul situation.



New office-bearers of the Rotary Club of Eskaton Dhaka pose at the 11th installation ceremony at Spectra Convention Centre in the city on Saturday. Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, attended the ceremony as the chief guest.

ROTARY ESKATON DHAKA Installation ceremony held

The 11th installation ceremony of the office-bearers of the Rotary Club of Eskaton Dhaka for 2006-07 was held at Spectra Convention Centre in the city on September 2. says a press release.

The ceremony was chaired by Rtn. M Mujibur Rahman. Outgoing president of the club Rtn. Dr Quazi Reza-UI Hoque handed over collar & charge of the presidency to Rtn. MAzizul Haque.

Rtn. Mantosh Kumar Paul read out the secretary's report, highlighting the club's various activities such as tree plantation, installation of tubewells for safe drinking water, installation of sanitary latrines and distribution of sewing machines and warm clothes in rural areas.

Over one hundred Rotarians and their spouses, Rotaractors, Rotary lets and quests attended the ceremony.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, attended the ceremony as the chief guest. Charter President of the Club

Rtn. Shahabuddin Ahmed offered vote of thanks



Moderate rain likely

UNB. Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Ishwardi and Jessore and the lowest of 24.0 degree at Cox's Bazar

The sun sets in the capital at 6:12pm today and rises at 5:42am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.6	26.5	73	62
Chittagong	32.2	25.4	76	74
Rajshahi	33.2	25.0	79	84
Khulna	33.5	25.3	75	75
Barisal	33.0	25.7	83	69
Sylhet	31.8	25.8	79	74
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.0	74	77

party alliance to contest the election, he said they would not join the 14-party, rather they would contest the election alone.

"We are preparing our candidates for 63 seats", he added.

He also said they want to continue agitation with the proliberation forces and distribution of the seats will be considered when the issue of defeating the alliance government as well as the communal forces comes.

CPB President Monjurul Ahsan Khan said no qualitative change has been made so far due to the antipeople policy of the government.

CPB leaders Syed Abu Jafar, Ruhin Hossein Prince, Sajjad Jahir Chandan, Mahbub Alam, Ahsan Habib Lavlu and Shahidullah Chowdhury were also present.

1st syndicate meeting of Kazi Nazrul University held

The first meeting of the syndicate of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam University was held yesterday at University Grants Commission (UGC) meeting room with its Vicechancellor (VC) Dr M Shamsur Rahman in the chair, says a press release

While welcoming the syndicate members, Shamsur Rahman urged them to conduct the university activities with their administrative knowledge and experience.

Decisions regarding student admission from the next year, immediate recruitment of teachers and employees and completing other necessary processes were also taken in the meeting.

The academic activities of the university will start with four depart ments -- Bangla Language and Literature, English Language and Literature, Music and Computer Science and Engineering.

Dr Ashraf Siddique, chairman of trustee board of the Nazrul Institute, Dr Mahbubur Rahman Liton, vice president of State University of Bangladesh, Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan, joint secretary of Ministry of Establishment, Prof Dr Tareq Shamsur Rahman, member of UGC and Prof Harun-or-Rashid Shikdar, chairman of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, were present at the meetina

Customs Excise and Vat Executive Officers' Association stages a demonstration in front of their Segunbagicha office in the city yesterday demanding trial of the killers of Akbar Syeed Chowdhury, an inspector of Customs Excise and Vat Department.

EC now passing buck on court for delay

FROM PAGE 1 preparing a fresh voter list began following a unanimous decision of its members.

"Preparation of the voter list has been delayed because the Election Commission had to take on the task of updating the existing voter list to implement properly the verdict and order of the court after it had already started preparing a fresh voter list following a unanimous decision by the commission. So, if the regulations are to be followed, it will not be possi-

ble to complete the tasks of printing the updated voter list and preparing a CD of it before the election," sources quoted from the summary. In defence of seeking the exemp-

tion, the EC also said it is difficult to follow the provision in PPR for allowing 21 days for the vendors to prepare tender documents. Prices quoted in tenders for similar jobs in the same area will also vary if the tenders are to be floated in accordance with PPR

argued the EC. "So, confusions will prevail in peoples' minds despite following the egulation," the EC said.

Besides, the expenditure will increase compared to the spending during the similar task done in 2000. the commission said adding, "So, the possibility of the Election Commission's image being tarnished remains.

In reply to the EC's request, the Cabinet Purchase Committee on August 30 asked the EC Secretary to discuss the issue with the secretary to the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) under the planning ministry and to place the matter again before the cabinet committee with the opinions of the two secretaries

"The Election Commission secretary and the IMED secretary will place the issue before the cabinet committee with their opinions in light of Public Procurement Regulations 2003. So

that the issue does not require an HC directives for updating the existing elaborate discussion when it is placed before the cabinet committee. Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman opined in the letter

sent to the EC Secretary by the Cabinet Division Sources at the EC Secretariat said the date for the meeting between the two secretaries has yet to be fixed. The government introduced PPR

2003 in a bid to ensure transparency and accountability in public procure-PPR is applicable to all public

procurements by the ministries, divisions, departments, various government agencies under them, local government bodies, public corporations and other public bodies. Any exception to this is allowed when the government deems it needed in the interest of national security or national defence or because of an emergency

The regulation makes it mandatory to follow the process prescribed in it for awarding any work order involving TK 1 crore or more. The EC Secretariat said it will have to spend more than Tk 15 crore to finish printing the updated voter list and to

prepare a database IS EC'S DEFENCE LOGICAL? Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz earlier put the blame on the law ministry and on the office of the attorney general for wastage of Tk 43 crore during the preparation of the now defunct fresh voter list as he claimed that he continued the task on consultation with them.

But the draft electoral roll was declared illegal by the Supreme Court as it had been prepared ignoring the January 4 High Court (HC) directives.

July 21. The EC's activities so far regarding the preparation of the voter list the list was completed on August also do not justify blaming the Supreme Court (SC) for the delay in completing the task. The CEC ignored the January 4

10 and the keeping of the updated list opened for public inspection

ended yesterday.

scious state while Ridwan, the other brother, is still missing. Police and witnesses said Jomman along with wife Rehena AkhterTithi, 26, and his two brothers went to the Laboni point of the beach to take a bath at about 5:00pm, but the three brothers got

one hour of struggle.

voter list and continued preparing the

controversial fresh voter list. But the

two erstwhile election commission-

ers, M Munsef Ali and AK Mohammad

Ali were in favour of implementing the

HC directives and they urged the

remained absent from the office and

compelled the government to appoint

two new election commissioners,

Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and SM

After the appointments of the two

election commissioners, the CEC

convened an EC meeting on January

19 and with support of the two newly

appointed election commissioners

took the decision to file an appeal

After filing the appeal with the

Appellate Division of the Supreme

Court, the CEC continued preparing

to update the existing voter list.

Finally, the EC started updating the

existing voter list by allowing its

officials to sit in local election

offices from July 1. In the face of

severe criticisms, the EC started

sending its officials for door to door

visits to update the voter list from

The field level task of updating

Zakaria, on January 15 to provide him

with a majority in the EC.

against the HC directives.

voter list.

Amid such a situation the CEC

CEC to convene an EC meeting.

two months ago.

They said the NGOs/MFIs could

successfully reach and provide

financial services to the tribal poor

living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

and the programme should be

The NGOs should also under

Chaired by M Tajul Islam, direc-

tor of FNB, and moderated by

Atigun Nabi executive director of

INAFI Asia and INAFI Bangladesh,

the workshop was also attended by

Md Abdul Awal, director (Linkage)

of CDF, and Mohammed Taregul

Jessore, Barisal. The national

roundtable on the issue will be held

in the third week of this month

take self analysis and identify their

under-achievements with the

extended to the remote areas.

reasons, they added.

Plan Bangladesh

His family members have arranged Qurankhwani and milad mahfil to mark the day.

Prof Noman Smriti Sangsad has also arranged various programmes, diving team of Yeasir Lifeguard including a discussion rushed to the spot and managed to find out only the two brothers after

KM Rahman Tithi said they got married only

> The second death anniver sarv of KM Rahman, a former EPCS officer, will be observed today, says a press elease He retired as

ADC of Tangail in 1973. He made significant contribution to the development and establishment of schools, colleges, madrasa and orphanages at his home village at Kalia in Narail.

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Tona in Kalia and at Dhaka to mark the day.

Tohin Ahmed Bhuiyan

Today is the second death anniversary of Tohin Ahmed Bhuiyan, son of Mostaque Ahmed Bhuiyan, principal officer,

Bangladesh Krishi Bank, says a press release

A student of Jagannath University, Tohin died in a bus accident at Sonargaon in Narayanganj on this day in 2004.

Sarat Chandra Mandra



recitation of the Holy Geeta, distribution of Geeta. kirtan and feeding of the Vaishnavas will be held at his home in

Pathakkandi, Madaripur. Friends and admirers have been requested to attend and pray for salvation and eternal peace of the departed soul.

the fresh voter list and published a draft of it on May 3. But the Appellate Division on May 23 declared the draft voter list illegal and upheld the HC directives for updating the existing The CEC took over one month to start implementing the court's verdict which had directed the EC