

# 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 dinner 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.

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 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

in the future.

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.

## 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 per cent rise (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 'anti-people policy' of the government.

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

The announcement was made at a press conference organised by CPB at its central office in the city yesterday.

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

While reading out a written 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 election is created."

When asked whether they will join the Awami League (AL) led 14-party alliance to contest the next 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 liberation 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 anti-people 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 Vice-chancellor (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 departments - 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 meeting.



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

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 country.

With successful implementation of the programme with huge number of MFIs, largest outreach than any other country in the world and the volume of loan, Bangladesh will be the ideal place for establishment of the regional headquarters that will be beneficial for the MFIs of 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.

Jointly organised by Plan Bangladesh, Credit and

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 representatives of about 50 NGOs/MFIs.

The participants said that over the years microfinance has become a structured and professional operation and hoped that the Microcredit Regulatory Authority will be supportive of the NGOs by creating an enabling environment.

Expressing satisfaction that the Banking sector is showing increasing interest in MFI, the speakers reiterated that the commercial banks should take the lead as the alternative financial source for the MFIs as there is acute shortage of loan funds in comparison with the demand.

They also suggested that the commercial banks should have proper mechanism to ensure revolving fund flow to the NGOs instead of providing terminal loans.

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 extended to the remote areas.

The NGOs should also undertake self analysis and identify their under-achievements with the reasons, they added.

Chaired by M Tajul Islam, director of FNB, and moderated by Atiqun Nabi, executive director of INAFI Asia and INAFI Bangladesh, the workshop was also attended by Md Abdul Awal, director (Linkage) of CDF, and Mohammed Tarekul Hoque, specialist of the Family Economic Security programme of Plan Bangladesh.

Earlier, the regional workshops were held in Dhaka, Bogra, Jessore, Barisal. The national roundtable on the issue will be held in the third week of this month.

## One dies in quicksand in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

An expatriate Bangladeshi died after he along with his two brothers sank into quicksand on the sea beach in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Mohammad Jomman, 40, was declared dead after the divers of Yeasir Lifeguard rescued him and his brother Arman, 20, and took them to Sadar Hospital. Arman was lying in the hospital in an unconscious state while Ridwan, the other brother, is still missing.

Police and witnesses said Jomman along with wife Rehana Akhter Tithi, 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 stuck in the quicksand.

As Tithi raised an alarm, the diving team of Yeasir Lifeguard rushed to the spot and managed to find out only the two brothers after one hour of struggle.

Tithi said they got married only two months ago.

## 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 guest.

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 Martyr, Dr Mostak Hossain and James Jayanta Sarkar also addressed.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Seminar

Campaign for Good Government will hold a seminar on foreign investment, natural resources and public interest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 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 anniversary

Today is the 9th death anniversary of Prof Mohammed Noman, an eminent educationist, says a press release.

Recipient of 'Ekushe Padak', he was also awarded President Gold Medal as the best teacher.

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

Prof Noman Smriti Sangsad has also arranged various programmes, including a discussion.

### KM Rahman

The second death anniversary of KM Rahman, a former EPCS officer, will be observed today, says a press release.

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.

Quarkhwnani 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

Today is the 6th death anniversary of noted social worker Sarat Chandra Mandra, says a press release.

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

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

## 7-yr girl killed after rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seven-year-old girl was raped and killed at Shyamipur in the city yesterday.

The victim is identified as Tania Akhtar, daughter of a fruit vendor Jamal Howladar of Karimullahbagh in Shyamipur.

Jamal, who sells sugarcane juices on street pavement beside his house, went out keeping Tania seated at his place at 11:00pm on Monday.

"When I returned in just 15 minutes, I could not find her," he told the reporters, adding that since then she had been missing.

Locals found her body from a nearby bushy place at Karimullahbagh yesterday morning.

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.

## Health dept employees announce fresh agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Field level employees of health 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 observe a four-hour hunger strike a day on September 6 and 7.

They would start an indefinite hunger strike at Muktangan in the city from September 8 and start the same programme on the Shaheed Minar premises of each divisional head quarters sans Dhaka, from September 9.

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

rural areas from September 11.

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 five-point demand.

Their demands include giving the health assistants technical (diploma) status, revision of current salary structure, increasing travel allowance and renaming some of the posts of health department in the field levels.

While addressing the agitating health workers at Muktangan, General Secretary of the Association M Harun-or-Rashid Matubbar said that they were forced to announce such programmes as the government did not pay heed to their just demands.

## 'Remain alert to opposition plot against polls'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

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 guest at the Chittagong Divisional Rally of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Laldighi Maidan.

Presided over by JCD Central President Azizur Bari Helal, the rally was attended by former JCD president Fazlul Hoque Milan MP and Central General Secretary Shafiq

Bari Babu as the main speaker and special speaker respectively.

They said nobody can spoil the definite victory of BNP in the next general election if the activists and leaders of JCD play their role sincerely leaving aside feud or division.

The rally, attended by hundreds 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 his anger and told The Daily Star that every programme of Chittagong JCD has so far ended in chaotic 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 guests 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 yesterday 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