

# Move for dialogue a ray of hope to end political crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of both ruling BNP and opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday showed positive attitude over the much-awaited dialogue on electoral reforms while civil society members and business leaders also hailed the move.

They also said political deadlock is to be settled or the democratic system will be damaged.

"At last, the dialogue is going to happen. Although it's late, this dialogue will lead to a compromise", said Communication Minister Nazmul Huda. Education Minister Osman Farruk also expressed similar views.

This positive gesture came at a talk show titled "Tritio Matra" recorded by Channel I, a private television, yesterday in a city hotel. The programme will be broadcast for three days starting today, said the organisers.

AL Presidium Member Abdur Razzak, Jatiya Party (JP) Presidium Member Kazi Firoz Rashid, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leader ASM Abdur Rob, former adviser to the caretaker government ASM Shahjahan, Centre for Policy Dialogue's (CPD) Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, President of Bangladesh Political Science Association Dr Ataur Rahman and FBCCI President Mir Nasir Hossain were the panel members.

"People did not give all their mandates to BNP and Awami League as there are other political parties inside and outside the parliament, so the dialogue should take place between all parties", said Rob.

Firoz Rashid said, "This dialogue is nothing but an eye wash. Both the BNP and AL will compromise between themselves only to come to power."

He castigated both the parties for spreading corruption and damaging democratic institutions.

Abdur Razzak said, "If we (BNP and AL) agree, we can bring any reform for the interest of the people." In a query, he said all the political parties should agree on reforms to avoid hartal.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya urged the political leaders not to give nomination to the corrupt and dishonest politicians.

# Depression crosses Orissa Coast

UNB, Dhaka

The depression over northwest Bay of Bengal crossed Orissa-coast on Friday midnight and lies over Orissa and adjoining area as a land depression yesterday morning.

"It is likely to move north-westwards further and weaken gradually", said a Met office special bulletin.

Sea will remain moderately rough. Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted local cautionary signal no-3.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay have been advised to remain close to the coast till further notice.

# Strong network a must to control use of drugs

Speakers at a meeting yesterday underscored the need for building networks among law enforcer agencies to control the use of drugs and narcotics and prevent spread of HIV/AIDS in the city.

The meeting titled 'Police, pris-

ons, narcotics and community services: A tripartite project to reduce crime, drug dependence and to prevent spread of HIV/AIDS in Dhaka city', jointly organised by Ministry of Home Affairs and South-South Centre, Bangladesh was held

at the conference room of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Additional Secretary Md Mohammad Mohsin chaired the meeting while Khondaker Zakiur Rahman, Dr Amzad Ali and Mahidul Islam also spoke at the programme.

## Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Ln Monoara Mohsin, wife of Engr Md Mohsin Mullick, will be held at her residence at House # 103, Road # 9A, Dhanmondi R/A

in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Monoara, Region Chairperson of Lions Clubs International, District 315 B-2 Bangladesh and founder president of Lions Club of Dhaka Sunflower, passed away on Thursday night due to cardiac arrest at the age of 64.

She was buried at Banani graveyard on Friday after namaz-e-janaza at Khankayea Sirajia in the city after Juma prayers.

She left behind her husband and two sons to mourn her death.