METROPOLITAN/NEWS

The Daily Star

land dev rules'

Bangaldesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa)

yesterday formed a human chain in

front of the National Museum at

Shahbag in the city demanding imple-

mentation of land development rules

'Implement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

2004 for private housing.

Develop new coal policy

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a seminar vesterday called for scrapping the proposed coal policy, saying that it would benefit only the foreign companies.

not the country They also demanded that a new committee be formed to develop a coal policy with emphasis on utilisation of coal in the country.

The energy security will not be ensured if the coalmines are handed over to foreign companies and natural resources are exported, they said at a seminar on 'Mass upsurge in Phulbari and coal policy of Bangladesh' at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium, organised by the Progressive Engineers and Architects Forum.

The government should take initiatives to extract coals on its own, rather than handing over the mines to multinational companies, the experts said

Monjura Haq Neela, member-

পরতে

secretary of the Forum, presented a keynote paper in the seminar chaired by its President Harun-or-Rashid

Although the first coal mine was discovered in the country in 1985, the government prepared and published a draft policy on coal on December 1, 2005, which proposes to declare the north-eastern region as Coal Zone and extract coals

mostly in open-pit method, said Monjura. The government published the second draft policy on January 23, 2006, bringing about huge changes in the policy and almost doubled the

coal extraction amount to 20 million ton, according to the keynote speaker All the policies are export-oriented and designed to benefit the foreign companies, Monjura said. She called on the government to

problems lie in the negotiations with the foreign companies, which lack transparency

Referring to fire incidents at Magurchhara gas field, he suggested that the government modify the contracts with other companies

He also suggested taking initiatives to develop industries in order to use extracted coals in the country rather than exporting those through foreign companies.

Criticising the draft policy, Prof Badrul Imam said the government took very little time to develop the policy and did not make it public.

Describing the policy as 'impractical' in terms of the demand for coal in the country and the difficulty of extracting coal, he suggested that a new committee be formed to develop a policy as the earlier ones raised many questions and lack transparency

train people in this sector and extract coals on its own efforts. Prof Nurul Islam said, "The

Lone lion at Rajshahi zoo dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Raishahi

The lone lion Raja of Shaheed AHM Kamaruzzaman Central Zoo Rajshahi died yesterday allegedly due to lack of care and negligence. The lioness of the zoo Rani is

also sick and has not been taking her food properly. Raja was 16 and had been

suffering from diseases for over a year. He died around 10:00am.

However, veterinary surgeon of the zoo and Rajshahi University Prof Jalal Uddin Sardar said Raja had died of old age.

After performing Raja's autopsy he said, "There was a congestion in his lungs and he was suffering from respiratory problems."

Sources inside the zoo, however, said Raja was not given his normal diet of 12kg of meat a day. In several cases, Raja was given

meat of cows and goats which died of diseases. He was also confined in a dirty cage and was not bathed for a long time, they alleged.

The cages of Rani and the tiger were cleaned only after the death of Raja, they added.

The sources also alleged that mismanagement and carelessness have led to many of the animals becoming sick including Mandi the deer.

The lone tiger of the zoo was not allowed to mate with the tigress for a long time and the donkeys were so ill-fed that they now eat paper when offered.

Jalal, however, denied the allenations and said Raia and other animals were given their regular diet.

He said "Mandi is now 32 and that's quite an old age for a deer, he could die anv time.

One killed in bridge collapse in Gaibandha

njured, when an underconstruction bridge on Bonarpara-Nakaihat road in Saghata upazila collapsed on Thursdav

Babu Mia, 40, died on the spot. He hailed from Kuptola village in

LGED engineer Mostafizur Rahman and the other injured people vere taken to different hospitals

people barricaded the road and kept LGED engineers and the contractor confined for several hours. Police later rescued them.



Transparency International

Bangladesh organises a roundtable on

'Harassment and corruption in passport

service and its solution' on the occasion

of launching its study report on the

issue. Venue: National Press Club.

Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio

and Communication and the monthly

Computer Jagat will hold a seminar on

Internet governance: Global, regional

and national perspective'. Venue:

Bangladesh Computer Samity

conference room, Sonar Tari Tower

Ctg people jubilant over Yunus' success

Nobel Peace Prize.

circuits, sources said

"Yunus thinks that a man should

third world.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctq

The people of Chittagong, particu-

larly those of the village Jobra, and Dr Muhammad Yunus' relatives and friends, were jubilant yesterday after receiving the news of his winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

Yunus' brothers, while talking to iournalists at their Panchlaish home, said the joy and pride they felt was bevond expression. "When former US president Bill

Clinton during an election campaign said Yunus could win the Nobel prize for his contribution to economics and activities to alleviate poverty, it made us hopeful," said Abdus Salam, eldest brother of Yunus. "We hoped that one day he

Sen said. would achieve this, and today our dream has become reality and he has been awarded with the honour,"

said Muhammad Avub, another ity," he added "I think he deserved the Nobel brother of Yunus. Bangladesh Economic

Prize for Economics but he missed Association, Chittagong President it." Sen observed, adding that as far Prof Muhammad Sikandar Khan said as he knew, Yunus missed it "It's indeed a great moment of joy for because he believed that the tradius all, and we feel proud of Yunus." tional economy could do very little to Renowned social scientist improve the lot of the poor. Anupam Sen expressed his joy and

Chittagong Chamber of happiness over Yunus' winning the Commerce and Industries, Chittagong University, Agrani Bank He observed that Yunus always and many other business and thought of improving the condition of organisations expressed their joy the poor people, particularly of the vesterday with separate press statements.

not sell his labour, he should use his labour to create means for being self-employed and self-reliance, RU to vacate "Yunus took the initiative to provide them with the funds they all 15 halls needed to move towards prosperduring Eid

RU CORRESPONDENT Woman burnt alive

Rajshahi University Provost Council in an urgent meeting on Thursday night decided to vacate all the 15 residential halls during the Eid vacation, fearing militant attack and violence on the campus. Campus sources said the provost

council wants to enforce its decision from today and keep all the 15 dormitories vacated until November 1, fearing militant attack and violence on the

They said the intelligence agencies on the campus apprehended that the militants might take shelter in the residential halls and carry out any terrorist attack during the long vacation.

The intelligence agencies had earlier cautioned the university authorities about possible militant attack on the campus during the vacation. They also held a closed door meeting with the Vice-Chancellor (VC) professor Altaf Hossain at his residence.

On the report of the intelligence agencies, the provost council held the emergency meeting in the provost office of Shah Mokhdum Hall, the sources added



League, passed away at Ibn Sina

president of BKMEA. He is survived by his wife, thre

graveyard at Mograpara.

entre yesterday at the age of 78,

says a press release.

mourn her death.

BSS, Dhaka

PHOTO: STAR

old-age complications.

Police recovered the charred body of Ratna and sent it to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) morgue for autopsy. An Unnatural Death (UD) case was filed with Bakalia Police Station in this connection Seven fire fighting units from city's different fire stations rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after a three-hour effort. Owner of the slum Shahnewaj

Shanu claimed that damages in the fire would exceed Tk 20 lakh However, the fire service estimated the loss at Tk 10.8 lakh

of different owners were also reduced to ashes in the fire that originated from electric shortcampus

Addressing a rally followed by the human chain, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, vice-president of Bapa, urged the government to protect all canals, lakes, low lands and water retention areas from the land grabbers in order

to save the capital from water logging. Saying that an illegal move has begun to hand over the lands at the fag end of the government, Prof Sayeed called for evicting the land grabbers from khas lands.

Among others, ASM Shahjahan, Dr Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Prof Badiul Alam Majumder, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Mihir Bishwas and Sharif Jamil also spoke

About 12 organisations, including Bela, Blast, Green Voice, Nagorik Uddog and the Hunger Project expressed solidarity with the human

Six cocktails recovered from AL Iftar party UNB, Dhaka

Police recovered six cocktails from an Iftar party arranged by Awami League (AL) at Mirpur in the city vesterday.

Witnesses said police found the cocktails at about 5:00pm when the lests started coming.

AL central leader Tofail Ahmed and local leader Kamal Ahmed Majumdar were, among others, attended the lftar party.

Obituary

Abul Hasnat chairman of Sonargaon Group and former president of Sonargaon

Upazila Awami Hospital due to cancer yesterday at the age of 65, says a press release.

He was also a former vicesons and one daughter.

He was buried at his family

Mosammat Ershadunnessa

Mosammat Ershadunnessa. mother of Shykh Siraj, director (news) of Channel i, passed away at Ibrahim Cardiac and Research

She had long been suffering from

She left behind four sons, four

Her qulkhwani will be held at her

daughters and a host of admirers to

residence at Khilgaon after Asr

prayers on Sunday. Relatives,

friends and well-wishers are

Abdur Rashid Wasekpuri, a senior

journalist and poet, died of old-age

complications at National Cardiac

Institute Hospital in the city on

number of dailies including the daily

Purba Pakistan, the daily Azad and

Death anniversary

The 27th death

anniversary of

Mukundalal

Sarker, a promi-

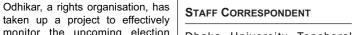
Rashid Wasekpuri served a

Thursday night at the age of 80.

the daily Samachar.

requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Abdur Rashid Wasekpuri



Garments Sramik Oikya Forum stages a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding a minimum wage of Tk 3,000.

Ensure security of teachers

Duta urges govt

justice immediately for the return of peace and security on the campus.

around 12:45am. adjoining areas when the elderly woman Ratna got trapped inside it OUR CORRESPONDENT, and was burnt alive One person was killed and 25 people, ncluding a LGED engineer, were

PHOTO: STAR

Gaibandha Sadar upazila.

After the incident, agitated

Roundtable

Seminar on

e-governance

Time: 3:00pm.

in Chittagong 50 houses, 7 factories gutted

slum.

CU CORRESPONDENT

slum in the city yesterday.

An elderly woman was burnt alive

while 50 thatched houses and

seven small factories were gutted

damaging properties worth around

Tk 20 lakh in a devastating fire at a

Ratna, 65, wife of Samir Das of the

Sources and witnesses said the

fire broke out at a house of the slum

at Masterpole area of Boubazar

under Bakulia Police Station at

The fire spread engulfing the

Around fifty thatched houses,

three shoe and four plastic factories

The victim was identified as

e uncomina violence and find ways to resolve them

Odhikar project

resolve election

to monitor.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

violence

Under the Election Violence Education and Resolution (EVER) project, which started on October 1. Odhikar will work in 45 constituencies across the country.

As political violence in Bangladesh typically disrupts both polling day as well as pre-election and post-election periods. Odhikar tends to go through a six-monthlong study on them, said Saidur Rahman, project coordinator.

"The issues that could lead to election violence will be dug up and the reports would be made public from mid-November serially," he said, adding that the reports would make administration and community aware of the possible violation and would show the ways to resolution

The reports will also be sent to local leaders of political parties concerned and Election Commission to make them aware of the total situation and to take preventive measures, he added.

The EVER model developed by the IFES has proved a success in reducing election violence in Ghana, Iraq, Kurdistan and Guyana, he said, adding that Odhikar is going to follow the model under a partnership project for a free and fair polls.

As part of the project Odhikar in association with International Foundation for Election System (IFES), yesterday launched a threeday training programme for the monitors and divisional coordinators at Biam auditorium in the city.

The Asia Foundation and DFID are supporting the programme.

A total of 45 human rights defenders along with six divisional coordinators would be trained up to observe and report on the electoral process in 45 constituencies.

The training would include providing knowledge on electoral laws, definition and identification of election violence, methods of reporting the violence, role of the monitors and data collection procedures.

Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University, Deputy Attorney General Adilur Rahman Khan, Advocate Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan and representatives from IFES were present at the informal launching of the training session.

Dhaka University Teachers Association (Duta) yesterday urged the government to ensure security

of the teachers. It also called for deployment of armed guards at all important points and introduction of security intelligence on the campus.

At a press conference at its office, Duta leaders said the teachers are now passing days amid insecurity as a large number of progressive teachers including Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof Muntasir

Mamoon, Prof Hasan Azizul Haque, Prof Jafar Iqbal and Prof Akhtaruzzaman have received death threats They also expressed concern

over the failure of the government to identify the perpetrators who gunned down Dr Aftab Ahmed, former vice-chancellor of National University and professor of political science department of DU.

They demanded of the government to bring the real culprits to

UNB, Dhaka

5:56am tomorrow.

City/Town

Dhaka

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

or issuing death threats to them are increasing day by day as no one was given stern punishment," said AAMS Arefin Siddique, former

president of Duta. Prof Sharifullah Bhuiyan, Duta president, said it is the prime responsibility of the government to ensure adequate security of the teachers.'

The incidents of killing teachers

Prof Dr Muhammad Akhtaruzzaman, general secretary of Duta, said it is very regrettable that no one was arrested even after three weeks of the killing of Dr Aftab. He demanded deployment of

armed guards at important points especially at the entrances of teachers' residential areas.

Duta leaders Prof Tajmeree SA Islam, Prof Sadeka Halim, Prof Ashraf Chowdhury, Prof AZM Nousher Ali Khan and Dr Mamun Ahmed were also present on the occasion

Humidity in

Evening

80

87

96

76

95

Morning

86

88

94

82

77

82

100

in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is

likely at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong

divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions

adding that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 24.0 degrees at Rangamati.

Temperature

Max

30.7

27.0

32.8

34.0

32.5

33.5

26.8

in Celsiuspercentage

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said,

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.4 degree Celsius was

The sun sets in the capital at 5:33pm today and rises at

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in

Min

26.8

25.5

25.9

26.5

26.0

24.3

24.8

Roundtable on election Bangladesh New Society Movement

organises a roundtable on 'Upcoming election: Views of the people'. Venue National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Seminar

Time: 10:00am

Banglar Mukh, a cultural organisation, will hold a seminar on 'Five years of misrule of BNP-Jamaat alliance government'. A documentary on independence will also be screened Venue: Seminar Hall, The Institute of Diploma Engineers, Kakrail. Time: 10:30am

Discussion

Ivy Rahman Parishad will hold a discussion and Iftar party to mark the 2nd death anniversary of Awami League leader Ivy Rahman. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Únity. Time: 4:00pm.

Memorial meeting

Moni Singh-Farhad Smriti Trust will hold a meeting in memory of Comrade Mohammad Farhad to mark his 19th death anniversary. Venue: Trust Bhaban, 21/2 Purana Paltan. Time: 11:00am

CJFD meeting

Chittagong Journalists Forum-Dhaka (CJFD) will hold a view exchange meeting and Iftar party. Venue: Jannatul Ferdous Auditorium, 2nd floor, Hotel Imperial. Time: 4:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

Regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Rotarians are invited to attend the meeting for fellowship and make-up. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 4:30pm.



Nagorik Sanghati forms a human chain in front of the Fine Arts Institute at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding immediate steps to resolve waterlogging problems at Bhabadaha in Jessore.

Nobel Prize was long overdue for Yunus

Debapriya mentioned

they observed

Industry (FBCCI).

Chambers of Commerce and

introduced it to the world as a pio-

neer of microcredit. The same

Bangladesh as an emerging nation

at a time when it has been experi-

encing an acute image crisis.

Bangladesh Knitwear

Commerce and Industry (MCCI)

said it is a very deserved honour for

Dr Yunus as well as Grameen Bank

Fazlul Huq, president of

observed the FBCCI president.

forward to better days."

When the country had been

FROM PAGE 1

He is the only contemporary economist whose hands-on poverty alleviation experiment has now become part of the mainstream economic theories and been included in the standard textbooks, noted Wahiduddin

"Yunus has not had much faith in the traditional economic ideas for poverty alleviation. Economic theory has been enriched by his practical work," he said. "Today, microcredit is one of the most influential ideas world-wide for poverty alleviation."

By this award, the Nobel committee has in fact recognised the importance of empowerment of the poor in curbing poverty. That global poverty and peace are interlinked signifies this year's Nobel Peace Prize, he pointed out.

And it is a matter of pride and pleasure for all of us," said Abul Mal Abdul Muhith, former finance minister.

arv idea that succeeded. he said struggling with its image a few years of women

"He has done the country proud and we are very happy. Congratulations!" Muhith went on. Professor Muzaffer Ahmed, who

said. "I am very proud of him. He has done what he dreamt." Debapriya Bhattacharya, execu-

made the Bengali nation proud. Eradication of poverty is the most important challenge for the mankind

time."

justice and social inclusion, female and a great day for the country. "We should take it as an inspiraempowerment and the interest of tion for the country," he observed. the low-income countries,

He said it shows that Bangladesh and its people have the potentials for good things as well.

Rokia Afzal Rahman, convener of Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (BFWE) said this recognition will help the the country's reputation abroad country's women in their struggle for said the business leaders yesterempowerment

Yunus strives to bring the dis-Dr Yunus' winning the Nobel tressed and poor women into the prize is the recognition of successful economic mainstream by providing collateral free small loans, she added. entrepreneurship and enterprise, She said the idea of forming

It proves the country is an groups among the poor women and 'emerging tiger' in the context of lending them start-up money for world economy that Dr Yunus himbusiness have changed the scenario of women empowerment in self had mentioned in his speeches. By winning the prestigious award. Bangladesh.

> "It's an event of great joy. Along with the nation, the business committee is happy about this remarkable achievement," President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) MA Momen said.

"The award has come at a time when the nation is in a state of instability, and this may help solve the ongoing political crisis," he added. Those who have been confused

ago, Dr Yunus's Grameen Bank about the role of microcredit lending scheme will now be able to accept it with an open mind, the DCCI presiperson is here again to introduce dent said

President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) SM Fazlul Haque in a press release said that Dr Yunus has brought a huge honour for the country by winning the award.

Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), said,"When Mentioning his contribution to the the entire nation is going through global campaign for poverty alleviapolitical unrest, this news can work tion, he said the microcredit scheme as an inspiration for them to go of Grameen Bank is followed as a model not only in Bangladesh but Latifur Rahman, president of also in many other developing Metropolitan Chamber of countries.

Relatives, friends and wellwishers have been requested to

nent leader of anti-British Movement, was observed yesterdav, says a press release. Mukundalal, born in 1909 at

Dharmarayer Bari in Gopalganj, played an important role in building strong resistance against the imperialist forces and actively participated in the movement against Zamindar system.

As a member of Awami League, he also participated in major democratic movements including sixpoint and 11-point movement, mass upsurge in 1969 and in the War of Liberation.

Qulkhwani

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of former parliament member Colonel (retd) Anwarullah will be held at MP Hostel Club here

after Asr prayers today. He died of old-age complications at the Combined Military Hospital on

September 30 at the age of 76, a press release said He is survived by his wife and

three sons.

attend the qualkhwani.

showed all that ours is not a country of failure, but of success, they noted. "It's a great news for the nation," said Mir Nasir Hossain, president of

he and Grameen Bank have "It is a great day for Bangladesh. Professor Yunus deserves the the Federation of Bangladesh

award because he has long been pursuing a dream and a revolution-

adding that Yunus gave microcredit to the poor and it worked and another high point is empowerment

taught Yunus at Dhaka University,

tive director of CPD, said Yunus has

and Prof Yunus had made a singular innovative contribution to it, he said. "In that, he is one of the greatest revolutionary social reformers of our

And the award is going to inspire those who are fighting for social **BUSINESS COMMUNITY** REACTION It's not just an achievement for Dr Yunus or Grameen Bank, rather it's a great stimulus for the people groping for something to salvage

गतुम