METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

harboured by

mayor, Loby

Khulna BNP faction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A faction of Khulna BNP led by

former lawmaker M Nurul Islam

demanded arrest of criminals har-

boured by the faction led by Mayor

a meeting held with Khulna

Metropolitan Police (KMP)

Commissioner Nazmul Huq on Sunday demanded arrest of the

criminals harboured by the city

mayor and Ali Asgar Lobi as they

were trying to flee the country. They

urged police commissioner to arrest

them immediately for the sake of

Nurul Islam, former city BNP

general secretary Nazrul Islam

Manju, district general secretary

Shafiqul Alam Mona and former city

vice president Morshed Alam were

BNP announced to hold a rally at the

Shaheed Maharaj Square at the

same time today on the occasion of

Revolution and Solidarity Day.

Neither of the two factions got

permission from city mayor or the

KMP commissioner until yesterday

afternoon while the factions were

taking preparation to hold their rally

Meanwhile, both the factions of

Leaders of Nurul Islam faction at

Sheikh Tayebur Rahman.

urges police

peace in the city.

present at the meeting.

80th birth

anniversary

Alam today

of Mahbub UI

Today is the 80th birth anniversary

of veteran poet Mahbub UI Alam

Chowdhury, famed for writing the

first poem on the Language

He was born in 1926 at Gohira

village at Chittagong. He has written

lots of poems, stories, plays and

essays on different genres during

He also led the anti-riot move-

ment in Chittagong in 1950. Later,

he led the language movement as the convenor of Chittagong

Sarbadalia Rastrabhasha Sangram

sarv, a national committee has been

formed comprising nationally

renowned poets, artists, litterateurs

The committee will accord a

reception to Mahbub UI Alam

Chowdhury tomorrow at Shaheed

Zia auditorium of the National

Museum at 5:00pm. Prof Kabir

Mohammad Abdul Goni, father of

Mohammad Amin Uddin Ahmed

general secretary of Supreme Court

Ainjibi Samity, died of old-age

complications at the age of 80 at

Samorita Hospital here yesterday

registrar of the Supreme Court.

admirers to mourn his death.

Abdul Goni was an assistant

He left behind three sons, one

Meanwhile, Awami League

President Sheikh Hasina expressed

her condolence and prayed for the

salvation of his departed soul, says

Supreme Court Ainiibi Samity

President Barrister Amirul Islam,

Bangladesh Federal Union of

Journalists (BFUJ) President

Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul and

Secretary General Abdul Jalil

Bhuiyan, Dhaka Union of

Journalists (DUJ) President Altaf

Mahmud and General Secretary

Omor Faruk and leaders of

Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad

Association of Bangladesh in separate

statements also condoled the death.

127, Azimpur residence in the city.

Death anniversary

On the occasion, different organi-

Kishani Shava and Bangladesh

programmes include hoisting of

national and party flags, milad mahfil,

Today is the

10th death

anniversary of

Abdus Sattar

Khan, founder

president of the

Bangladesh

Krishak

Federation,

SCBA and Democratic Lawvers'

His qulkhwani will be held on

November 10 after Asr prayers at his

also condoled the death.

says a press release.

discussion and rally.

daughter and a host of relatives and

Chowdhury will chair the occasion.

and cultural activists.

Obituary

Bss, Dhaka

morning

a press release.

To celebrate his birth anniver-

Parishad.

Movement, says a press release.

Political will a must for improving Arrest criminals harboured by lives of slum dwellers

Experts tell roundtable

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a news briefing while releasing the

Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2006 prepared by Transparency

UNB, Dhaka

6:09am tomorrow.

City/Town

percentage

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Raishahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

International at National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Biman engr

killed in road

At least seven people were killed in

separate road accidents in Savar,

Sylhet and Chittagong yesterday.

UNB from Savar reports: Two
people were killed when a goods-

laden truck hit another truck from

behind on Nabinagar-Kaliakoir road

Kaliakoir-bound truck hit the lorry

parked near Ashulia Police Station

Noor-e-Alam, 40, and helper of the

lorry identified as Mazid, 18, died on

Medical College Hospital morgue for

for repairing works at about 4:00am.

Police and local sources said a

Driver of Kaliakoir-bound truck

Police sent the bodies to Dhaka

Both the vehicles were also

Another report adds: A police

A police headquarters release

Police arrested the driver Nur

BSS adds: Police said a rickshaw

van driver and a passenger of the van

died on the spot when a bus hit the

human-driven vehicle from behind

near Balibhadra Bazar under Savar

be known, but the passenger was

identified as Ahsanullah, 35, a

mechanical engineer of Biman

when a bus dashed an auto-rickshaw

from behind at Kalaruka near

ber of Dakkhin Surman Union under

Chhatak upazila, died on the spot

and his co-passenger succumbed to

his injuries at Osmani Medical

In Sylhet, two people were killed

Police said Almas Ali, a UP mem-

The identity of the driver could not

constable was killed in a road acci-

dent at Alangkar Cinema Hall cross-

said, traffic constable Shibnath

Sarcar was crushed under the

wheels of a truck while he was on

ing in Chittagong city yesterday.

Uddin and seized his vehicle.

duty at 11:50am.

Bangladesh Airlines.

Chhatak town

among 7

accidents

in Savar early yesterday.

STAR REPORT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a roundtable yesterday underscored the need for political commitment to improving the condition of urban slum dwellers

They also called for transparency and accountability of policy implementing agencies, including government, non-government and donor organisations, towards the community beneficiaries

The Department of Population

Science, Dhaka University, in cooperation with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organised the roundtable on 'Improving slum dwellers' lives: What options do we have?' at a city hotel.

Presenting a keynote paper, Prof Nazrul Islam said the number of

urban dwellers worldwide will stand at 3.1 billion next vear while the cities in developing countries will see a rapid growth of slums and

> during the tenure of mayor Mohammad Hanif The department started functioning with nominal budgetary allocation and it has now become weak.

According to official statistics,

37.9 percent of the country's urban

population were found living under

poverty line at slums and squatters

in 2004, said Prof Nazrul, chairman

At present, there are 12 million

According to a CUS survey

conducted in six city corporations

last year, 55 percent of 9,048 slums

are located in Dhaka while 20 per-

Development Goals (MDGs) is to

improve the lives of slum dwellers,

but no successive governments have

demonstrated any positive attitude

towards them, he said, adding that

only a Slum Development

Department has been set up by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)

One of the Millennium

cent in Chittagong.

slum dwellers in the country, he said.

he pointed out. . Poverty reduction, security of lives and property, physical improvement of slums, proper sanitation facilities, and electricity, gas and housing (space and durability) facilities are necessary to improve the quality of lives of slum dwellers, Prof Nazrul said.

Eviction of slum dwellers without their proper rehabilitation should be

Humidity in

Morning Evening

72

78

86

85

87

70

in celsius

declared unlawful, he added.

Prof S Amin Islam said it is not possible to improve the lives of slum. dwellers unless the political leaders

are committed to it. Prof Nurul Islam called for a national policy for the development of slum dwellers.

He also suggested establishing a Slum Development Bank modelled on Grameen Bank.

Prof MM Akash called on entrepreneurs to establish medium and small enterprises to create employment opportunities for slum dwell-

Abdul Mannan, chairperson of Bastee Odhikar Surakkha Committee, blamed the policy makers for their lack of commitment to improving the lives of slum dwell-

He also demanded education facilities for the slum children in urban areas

Prof Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury, Prof Nashid Kamal, Prof Tasneem Arefa Siddiqui, Prof Nurul Ameen, assistant representative, UNFPA Bangladesh, Salma A Shafi, architect planner of CUS, and Mostafa Quiyum Khan, executive director of Coalition for the Urban Poor, also spoke at the roundtable moderated by Prof AKM Nurun

'Punish those who tried to Bangabandhu'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joybangla Sangskritik Oikyajote yesterday demanded removal of confessed killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The self-confessed killers, including Col Rashid, who are living abroad, came to the country to carry out their activities and then left the country safely during the tenure of the immediate past government, said Awami League presidium

After the killing of Bangabandhu, destroying democracy in the coun-

AL presidium member Abdur Razzak said the President has to prove his neutrality by removing the chief election commissioner and the three election commissioners and depoliticising the administration by

Bangabandhu has sacrificed his life

Zia is 'election engineering', he said and called for the implementation of 14-party's 31-point and 11-point demands in order to ensure a free

Awami League leaders Suraniit Sengupta, Mohammad Nasim, Sohel Taj, Sheikh Abdul Kader, Shafiqul Islam Selim, Morshed Kamal and Dilip Kumar Gomosta also spoke.

protect killers of

and punishment to the government officials who tried to protect the self-

At a protest rally on the occasion of Jail Killing Day at Liberation War Museum, Oikyajote leaders also demanded punishment to all involved in the killing of Bangabandhu.

member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury.

She wondered how they managed to elude the law enforcement

the killers also massacred the four national leaders in the jail, thereby try, she added

November 11.

Prof ASM Arefin Siddique said for the sake of democracy.

The major success of Khaleda

Dry weather likely

at Chittagong and lowest 18.7 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

Temperature

Max

30.9

33.4

30.9

30.2

29.5

32.5

32.5

country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

during the period, Met Office said.

major cities and towns yesterday were:

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country

Highest temperature 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 5.16pm today and rises at

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

Min

23.2

22.9

20.0

23.0

22.0

21.0

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Prof ASM Arefin Siddique speaks at a protest rally organised by Joybangla Sanskritik Oikyajote on the occasion of Jail Killing Day at Liberation War

Ershad's U-turn not to join 4-party

The Progressive Teachers' Society decision in time. (PTS), a pro-liberation war teachers JP sources said most of the body of Raishahi University, urged the president and the chief adviser of the caretaker government to cancel

The teachers' body on Sunday faxed a memorandum to President lajuddin Ahmed in this regard following a steering committee meeting.

the mass recruitment in the univer-

According to the memorandum, the university administration recruited 546 class III and IV employees on daily basis violating university rules and under political consideration in April 2004

It said a number of criminals, muggers and drug addicts got appointment through this recruit-

The controversial appointees physically assaulted teachers and officials and also destroyed valuable properties of the university several times demanding regularisation of their jobs, said the memo.

A case has been filed challenging the contentious recruitment, the

decided to take time to finalise the decision. He will take the right

party lawmakers, except Moshiur Rahman Ranga and Lili Chowdury, opposed going with the BNP. Ranga and Lily Chowdhury told Ershad that JP should join the BNP-led combine if they agree to fulfil its demands. But TIM Fazle Rabbi and Golam Habib Dulal said, " It is not the time to go with the alliance as they will face a debacle in the next election. So we should observe the situation

Sources said lawmakers, who were elected from Rangpur region, strongly opposed joining the alliance. Their party will not get even half of the votes it bagged in the last election if it goes with the BNP, they told the party chief.

According to the sources, Ershad told the party meeting that BNP has changed its earlier position to give JP some facilities for contesting the election.

"I asked for funds for election in your seats but BNP is yet to final-

ise the matter," meeting sources quoted Ershad as telling his party lawmakers.

A source close to JP policymakers however said Ershad could change his position again, and everything will be finalised after the November 12 deadline the Awami League (AL) gave to the chief adviser for meeting its 11-point demand. Ershad would go with the BNP if the AL-led 14-party combine fails to control the situation. Ershad could sit with his party lawmakers on November 15 to take a final decision in this regard.

Sources mentioned that during primary discussion, JP asked the BNP leadership to sign an accord with it but the BNP high command did not agree to it. They however agreed to offer 22 seats for JP candidates in the next election but gave no assurance of financial So, JP did not agree to go with BNP.

But former deputy minister Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, who was involved in the process of negotiation with Ershad as a close aide to BNP Senior Joint Secretary

Daily Star yesterday, "There is no last word in politics and we have come much closer. I hope Jatiya Party will finally join us to save the Terming JP's present decision

a 'temporary' one, he hoped JP lawmakers will change their position and ultimately decide to join the BNP-led alliance.

Earlier on Friday, JP presidium empowered Ershad to take a decision to join the four-party alliance, and Ershad later told reporters that his party would join

But the next day Ershad changed his position and decided not to go with the BNP before the expiry of the 14-party's extended deadline. JP central leaders told him that

if the caretaker government did not meet the 14-party demands within the deadline, and in case they (14-party) decide to boycott the next election. JP could contest the election without joining any alliance. Later, Ershad said he would finalise everything after his meeting with party lawmakers

Copying curbed, quality fell

and misappropriation of funds.

In most cases, 'business strategy' and tender manipulation of the ruling party men were hampering the progress. In Netrakona, followers of a high-flying state minister grabbed the tender and were caught red-handed by the communitymonitoring group.

Besides, the government employed NGOs, which were earlier blacklisted for massive anomalies, in exchange of huge bucks. These NGOs were responsible for the failure of Directorate of Non-formal Education Programme (DNFE).

There are widespread allegations against appointments of teachers having political affiliation.

Sources said 'lobbying' was the greatest problem; sometimes the list was larger than the candidates. The government made four-party 'selection committees' for viva that included deputy commissioners, district education officers, teachers from government high schools and a 'high profile' personality. In most cases, the political personality directed the appointments.

Questions were raised over stinend distribution, where the political representative of the school management committee in alliance with corrupt officials tried not to cite the enrolled children

SECONDARY EDUCATION Massive change violating regula-

As soon as the BNP-led fourparty alliance assumed office, an unprecedented appointment process took place. The education ministry called an interview through which the principals of lucrative colleges were transferred

Ignoring the 'selection grade'. Dilara Hafiz, wife of Maj (retd), Hafizuddin got appointment at Eden College, Moriyam Begum, wife of former LGRD minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at Dhaka College on contractual basis, Shaheda Obayed at Titumir College, and Lutfunnahar Nizam, sister of Sarwar Nizam, at Badrunnesa College.

Prof Dilara after the Eden College turmoil got promotion with bags of denouncement from all quarters. She became the NCTB chairman and later the DG of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Directorate.

During her term, she had frequent visits abroad. She allegedly snatched another tour to Canada from the DG of Directorate of Primary and Mass Education during October 13-25

UNI-TRACK HOAX

Keeping all the 82 recommendations of Moniruzzaman Miah Education Commission in the moratorium, the government at the fourth year of its tenure played a hoax with the nation behind the placard of 'uni-track' education.

Safeguarding madrasas and English medium institutions, students of 14,552 schools under the seven general education boards were brought to a test.

Project Director Bashirul Haque then admitted a huge loss -- Tk 133 crore for construction of school buildings. Tk 68 crore for consultations. Tk 22 crore for equipment, furniture and vehicles. Tk 180 crore for women stipend. Tk 16 crore for human resources development and survey. Tk 57 crore for salaries and Tk 15 crore for training teachers and officials. But he later claimed the total expenditure for uni-track system was no more than Tk 32

The initiative was taken to bring mainstream students one step down and upgrade madrasa education; emphasis was given on religious studies but not on mathemat-

National Curriculum and Text Book (NTCB) Board Chairman Ahsanul Kabir blatantly supported the move and slated eminent aca-

The textbooks underwent distortion, which according to the NCTB chairman was nothing but adoption from the ministries of information and liberation war'.

demicians for opposing it.

Though the managing committee was supposed to monitor the proceedings of a school, a government directive for selecting members after the consent of the local MP or a political personality has taken the process away from community choice.

Former BNP lawmakers Nasiruddin Pintu is the chief of management committees of 16 schools and colleges, SA Khaleque is involved with five and Salahuddin with nine educational institutions. Gross anomalies in connection

with stipend distribution among the girl students were rife. Reports show 32.4 percent students had to pay Tk 40 each and the total amount of money from such drive stands at Tk 3.42 crore.

On the other hand, 22 percent of the girl students had to pay Tk 45 each or Tk 2.57 crore in total for Over 2,000 teachers and employ-

ees were fired illegally, including Principal Hamida Ali of Vigarunnisa Noon School & College, Principal Shvamoli Nasreen of Udavan School and College and Principal Kazi Faruq Ahmed of Sheikh Burhanuddin On the other hand, pro-ruling

party teachers were promoted. At a city college, a principal was sations including Bangladesh appointed on the recommendation Krishak Federation, Bangladesh of Giasuddinal- Mamun, leaping 21 Adivasi Samity, chalked out an elaborate programmes. The

The government filed 8,000 cases against teachers for their support to opposition or launching movements for their rights. At one point on August 16, police charged batons on teachers leaving seven

Tk 376 crore of the education ministry and Tk 9 crore of the department of primary and mass education were left idle and returned in the last fiscal year. But the non-government teachers were not paid according to their demand, meeting of which was an election

pledge of the BNP. **EDUCATION BOARDS**

Secondary and higher secondary education boards became the pasture of crooked fellows. The network of 'procurer nexus' became as strong as ever.

not a single day they did not get phone calls for registration of schools and colleges that failed to meet government requirements. From 2003 the government

A board official said there was

started distributing computers to schools, colleges, madrasas and vocational training institutions. As many as 1,506 computers were distributed till then. Sources said the board authori-

ties were under pressure at the fag end of the government. This year 523 computers were distributed and more are in the pipeline

MADRASA EDUCATION Though people across the country voiced concern over militants' links with madrasa education, the government paid no heed to it.

As many as 1.582 madrasas were established across the country during 2001-2005, while the numbers of new schools and colleges are 580 and 619. Newly set up Kawmi madrasas was kept out if this list.

The economic review 2005 shows the number of general educational institutions, which receive government funds, has increased 9.74 percent against a 22.22 percent growth of madrasas from 2001

The picture was different during the 1996-2001 rule of Awami League-led government. The number of general educational institutions rose by 28 percent while madrasas by 17 percent then. Educationists believe madrasas

have negligible contributions to creating skilled human resources in the country. Still these institutions received an average 11.5 percent of the total education budget in the last

The government also announced recognition of Dawra degree under Kawmi madrasas equivalent to Master's degree.

With no knowledge of the Bangladesh constitution and very little of Bangla, English and mathematics up to class V, Kawmi students are now getting the licence to go for jobs with the mainstream

Sources said Kawmi madrasa leaders with Fazlul Hague Amini at the front launched a demonstration and submitted a memorandum to the then prime minister last year.

A committee was formed which proposed the recommendation to be forwarded to the University Grants Commission. But UGC officials said there was no such paper at the office.

Alaullah Wasel, press secretary of Islami Oikya Jote said, they have attached the Pakistan UGC recommendations. He however failed to confirm whether the recognition came after the Pakistan UGC paper. The prime minister had said. "The recognition was announced after an overall review.

ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS & PRIVATE **UNIVERSITIES**

In the last five years, the country experienced a boost in English medium schools and private univer-

Forty institutions were established during the period and now the number of English medium schools in the city stands at 60. Of them, 22 are in Dhanmondi Residential Area and six more will be launched here

Ataur Rahman Khan, school inspector for Secondary and Higher condary Education Board, admitted that there is no standard in monitoring these.

Sources said a recently formed committee recommended establishment of Bangladesh English medium education board. The committee also suggested "an international curriculum for the students of English medium schools".

The number of private universities now stands at 54. Students of Stamford University, Darul Ihsan University and Asian University-Uttara staged demonstrations to press home their demands for recognition, proper facilities and a ban on mass admission.

A high-up of the University Grants Commission speaking anonymously said there are limitations in the monitoring system.

"Firstly, the officials were ordered not to talk to media, and secondly, the education minister himself is dissatisfied with the standard of private universities.'

But he expressed the hope that the situation will be improved soon, though registration of six universities has been cancelled already. Meanwhile, on October 19,

registration of five universities was cancelled. Another university. named Green University, was excepted because the proprietor is a relative of former Jamaat lawmaker Delwar Hossain Saidee.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION In addition to appointments of professionals allegedly with political affiliation, question leaks in three consecutive general BCS examinations -- 24th, 25th and 27th -- made

the PSC controversial

The public universities lost credibility for unchecked nepotism. Political affiliation rather than quality has become the norm for appointment at the universities

The BNP-Jamaat coalition started its journey through violating the University Autonomy Act, 1973. All vice chancellors of the public universities were changed over-

Not even a single university escaped the vile grip of cronyism and politicisation. Without the recommendation of the Coordination and Development (C&D) committee, over a dozen teachers were appointed in several departments including chemistry, sociology, soil, water and environment, law, geography, marketing, pharmaceutical chemistry, computer science, English, population science and in Institute of Fine Arts

Official sources said the current Dhaka University authorities have appointed 100 officers and more than 600 lower grade employees in recent years. Allegations are rife that almost all of these employees were appointed either on political or parochial consideration.

The scenario is almost the same at other public universities. People took to street against the appointments of 544 employees at the university administration. On October 20, a white paper on irregularities was unwrapped. Sources said 85 percent appoint-

ments at Chittagong University were made on political grounds. The teachers' association against this backdrop filed a public interest litigation case which is still pending.

Rajshahi University and Shahjalal University of Science and Technology passed a volatile RU Shibir activists aided by

authorities unleashed a rein of terror on the campus. On October 14, the authorities ordered to vacate all dormitories fearing Shibir cadres might not restore their hold on the halls during the caretaker government's tenure.

Apart from these institutions, gross anomalies occurred at the Open University and National University as well.

TIB REPORT Transparency International, Bangladesh termed it one of the

most corrupted sectors. Of the 18 sub-sectors, the TIB found incidence of corruption at 14 sub-sectors. Huge amount of money was drained out through abuse of power, bribe, grabbing money, fraudulence, nepotism. irresponsibility in performing duties, realising money forcefully, threaten-

In these cases of corruption, the government officials were found guilty in 45.23 percent cases, and 49.19 percent were not brought to

ing, and irregularity in government

Even a member of parliamentary standing committee, Shah Shahid Sarwar, on the 20th meeting on 'government pledges' explained his experience with Education Engineering Directorate as 'mysterious' and pointed finger at the institution for all sorts of embezzlement.

SENSE OF INSECURITY Professor Aftab Ahmed of Dhaka University was shot at his Fuller Road house and succumbed to injuries. No-one was arrested in this

An RU employee regretted to The Daily Star, "During the Liberation War Pakistani junta established a concentration camp at the Shamsujjoha Hall. Now Shibir is playing the same role. This hall has become the base camp of Shibir on the campus. The deaths of Prof Yunus and

Prof Taher remain as the epitome of brutality. Yet Shibir leader Salehi, main accused in the Taher killing case, boastfully moved around the campus. In the mean time, another professor of RU and eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Hague received death threats.

Earlier in 2004 during Ekushey Boi Mela. Humavun Azad was chopped on the Mela premises. Popular writer Prof Zafar Iqbal has become the target of killers and got frequent threats from an evil quarter.

Besides, police atrocity at the female hall of Dhaka university on July 23, 2002 and keeping the investigation report at the moratorium reminded people of an eerie darkness

HASTYALLOCATION

The government hastily allocated money in three projects just 12 days before its tenure expired

structure of the universities, Tk 194 crore, to develop registered nongovernment primary school (third phase) Tk 814 crore, and to renovate and reconstruct PEDP-2 project Tk 1,182 crore were allo-

To upgrade quality and infra-

College Hospital The injured driver is undergoing RU teachers urge CA to cancel mass recruitment

RU CORRESPONDENT