

## MICROCREDIT 'UN to endorse Halifax Declaration'

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh will strive to ensure that the goals of the Microcredit Summit to reach out to 175 million of the world's poorest find a place in the UN General Assembly resolution on microcredit, said Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, ambassador and permanent representative of Bangladesh to the UN.

He was speaking at the plenary of the Microcredit Summit on Friday in Halifax, Canada, according to information received here on Saturday.

The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution on microcredit every year, of which the Bangladesh delegation is a key sponsor. This year the draft will be suitably amended to incorporate the Summit goals, the Ambassador said.

Dr Iftekhar praised the work of Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus for speaking the message of microcredit, not just in Bangladesh, but across the globe.

He said that a nation can only develop when it relies on its own intellectual resources, and the idea of microcredit is such a resource, Bangladesh will actively be involved in the ongoing UN reforms so that "development is placed in the centre-stage of UN activities," he added.

## ANTI-ADULTERATION DRIVES 2 oil refinery firms fined in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court in separate anti-adulteration drives yesterday fined two oil refinery firms over Tk 1 lakh for loading and transporting edible oil in unhygienic drums without labels.

Sources said the court in a drive at a godown on Strand Road in Double Mooring area seized drums of palm oil having no label with the dates of production and expiry on them and fined the firm M/S Ilias Brothers (Pvt)

## Deadline for CU admission forms extended

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) authorities extended the time of sale and submission of admission forms for first year honours courses for the session 2006-2007 till November 26.

However, the date and time of the pre-scheduled admission tests will remain unchanged, said a university press release.

Limited Tk50 thousand.

In another drive, the court seized a truck loaded with unhygienic drums full of edible oil at Airport Road and fined the firm VODT Oil Refineries Limited Tk75 thousand.

Chittagong Port Authority Magistrate Md Munir Chowdhury led the drive with the help of Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute and Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

## 8 shops gutted in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least eight shops were gutted damaging property worth over Tk 7 lakh in a fire at Miresarai upazila in the district early yesterday.

According to fire service sources, the fire broke out at a grocery shop at Karim Ullah Market of Shafer Ali Bazar at around 12:05am and spread fast engulfing seven other adjoining shops.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit, fire sources said.

## LDP showdown in Ctg today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Leaders, activists and supporters of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in Chittagong, especially the southern part of the district, are caught in a festive and enthusiastic mood centering the newly formed party's first showdown at Chandanaish upazila this afternoon.

Party insiders and political circles here, however, believe that more wonders are waiting for all in Chittagong and many more aggrieved rank and file members of BNP and its partners of the four-party alliance may formally join LDP at the first public meeting scheduled to be held at 2.00pm today at Gachbaria College ground.

LDP Executive President Col (ret) Oli Ahmed will address the public rally as the chief guest in front of the people of his own constituency, Chandanaish (Chittagong-13).

Former lawmaker Mahi B Chowdhury, organising secretary of LDP, and former lawmaker Abdul Karim Abbasi along with other central and local leaders will also join the rally to make it a grand success and show-down as well," said Shahadat Hossain Selim, a central leader and party's Chittagong divisional coordinator, yesterday afternoon.

A preparatory meeting in this regard was held at its city office yesterday where the leaders, activists and supporters of LDP were instructed to make the rally successful. "We've taken all necessary preparations for the rally," Selim further said.

District police said they will also deploy sufficient forces in and around the rally premises to maintain law and order during the LDP gathering. Sources said LDP would also organise two more showdowns in the following two days. A rally will be held tomorrow at Patiya upazila and another one in the city on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Chittagong South District unit of BNP has dropped its plan to hold a counter rally at Chandanaish today. Instead they would hold rallies at Patiya and Lohagara upazilas, party sources said.

"We are not holding any public meeting tomorrow at Chandanaish where LDP is scheduled to hold a rally because we decided to avert any unpleasant incident," Ahmad Khalil Khan, unit BNP president, told this correspondent yesterday evening.

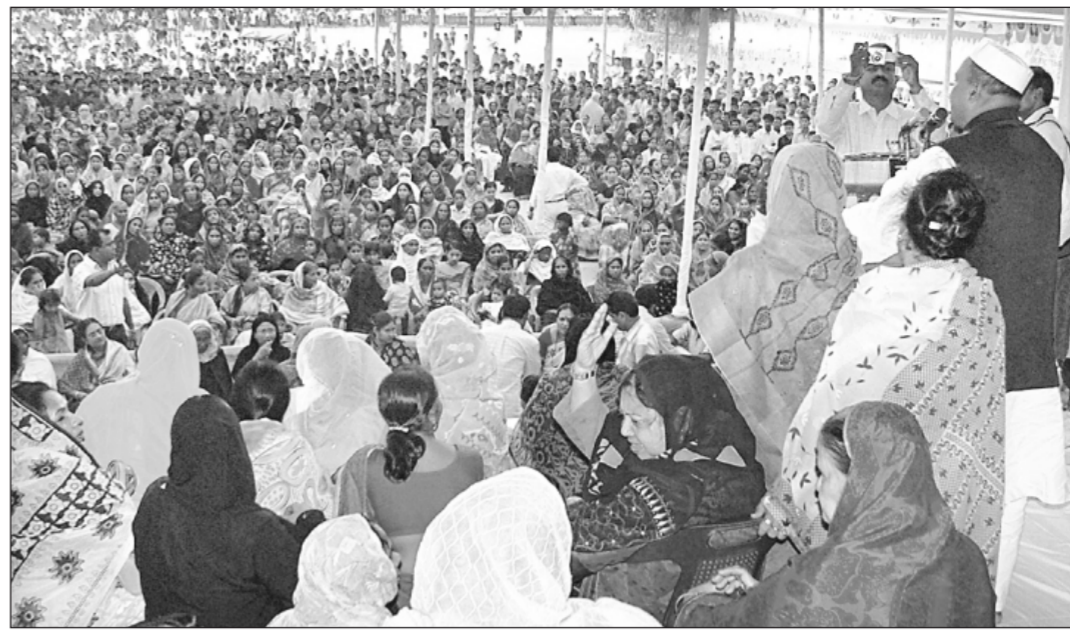


PHOTO: STAR

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury speaks at a women's rally organised by Sammilita Nari Sangram Parishad demanding resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner at Laldighi Maidan yesterday.

## All out movement from today if CEC not withdrawn

Speakers tell Chittagong rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a rally here yesterday urged all to be ready for an all out movement from today if the caretaker government doesn't withdraw the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz within the time set by the 14-party combine.

The rally was organised by Sammilita Nari Sangram Parishad, Chittagong unit at the Janatar Adalat (Parliament of the People) at Laldighi Maidan.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor and Divisional Coordinator of 14-party combine ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was the chief guest at the rally with Parishad President Hasina Mohiuddin in the chair.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Rawshan Ara Yusuf, acting Mayor of CCC Anjuman Ara Begum, city Awami League General Secretary Kazi Inamul Haq Danu,

female commissioner Sabiha Musa, women activist Jasmin Sultana Paru, Hasina Mannan, Tapati Sen Gupta and Nilufar Jaman addressed the rally among others.

CCC Mayor alleged that President lajuddin have failed to prove his neutrality through neglecting the people's demand of withdrawal of CEC MA Aziz.

He urged all to participate at the blockade enforced by 14-party from

today. Speakers said women community sacrificed a lot and played a glorious role during the liberation war in 1971 extending their hands to help the freedom fighters.

They would come to the street again for the sake of democracy and for establishing the right to franchise, they said.



PHOTO: STAR

Battalion Commander in the War of Liberation Baburul Hossain Babul speaks at a freedom fighters' rally at Rangmahal Point in Sylhet yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Liberal Democratic Party takes out a procession in the port city yesterday ahead of today's grand showdown.

## MURDER CASE 12 get life in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

A Chittagong court sentenced 12 people to life in prison yesterday for killing one Abdus Sobhan 15 years ago.

District and Sessions Judge ANM Bashirullah gave the verdict. The judge acquitted seven others as the charges brought against them were not proved.

The lifers are Mohammad Ayub, Ershad, Shahidul Islam Khokan, Ibrahim, Elias, Diderul Islam Kanchan, Bakhter, Shamsul Islam Shamsu, Abul Hashem, Rashid Ahmed, Mohammad-bin-Kashem and Nazrul Islam, court sources said.

All the convicts hailed from

Rangunia upazila. Ayub, now in jail, is wanted in 24 criminal cases with Rangunia Police Station. Two other accused died during the trial.

The prosecution story, in short, is that the convicts gauged out the eyes of Kabir Ahmed and Sabur Ahmed, both sons of Abdus Sobhan, in March, 1991 as they filed a case accusing them of robbery.

Later, Soban filed another case against them in this connection. The miscreants threatened Sobhan with death as he refused to withdraw the cases.

They then kidnapped and killed him on October 30, 1991 while he was returning home from a local market.



PHOTO: STAR

With radish in their hands, Jana Udyog forms a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club yesterday demanding reconstitution of the Election Commission.

## Stop anarchic demonstration

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubo Ainjibi Dal yesterday formed a human chain on High Court premises urging all political parties to stop their anarchic demonstration programmes and to set a different political culture.

The young lawyers also urged the election commission to announce the election schedule immediately to maintain democracy in the country.

At the programme, they also announced their month long programmes and vowed to resist any malpractice and injustice and swore to uphold the constitution.

Convener of the Forum GM Rabbani presided over the programme while Barrister AKM Fakhru Islam, Barrister Abdullah Al Mamun, Advocate Touhidur Rahman and Advocate Abu Yusuf Sarkar also spoke.

## LAUNCH CAPSIZE Three more bodies recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Three more bodies have been recovered bringing the total number of death to nine in a launch capsized in Barisal on Wednesday last.

The victims were identified as Fatema Begum, 31, Obaidul Huq, 2, and Maleka Begum, 60, wife, son and mother-in-law of Nurul Islam Khan of Jangalia under Mehendiganj upazila.

Earlier, the body of another son of this family Suman, 5, was recovered.

Besides, the bodies of other five were identified as Shamsunnahar Begum, 35, wife of Motaleb Gazi, Sima Begum, 20, daughter of Ismail Gazi, Shamsunnahar Pakhi, 30, wife of Malek Farazi of Jangalia, Lily Begum, 45, wife of Latif Sardar of Mehendiganj and Rizia Begum, 35, wife of Abdul Kader of Tunjibari.

BIWTA official Saiful Islam and leaders of Barisal Launch Owners Association Sheikh Abdur Rahim and Azizul Huq Akkas handed over Tk 4000 to family members of each victim for transportation and burial of the dead.

Besides, each family of the victims will be given Tk 20 thousand, they added.

The ill-fated launch ML Mehdi-1 with more than 60 passengers on board capsized near Saheber hut Channel of Kirtonkhola River when it was hit by two dredgers Kadam Rasul-3 and Al Kaed at about 3:30pm just after a few minutes of departure from Barisal river port.

At least 10 passengers went missing while others were rescued by launches and speedboats.

The BIWTA vessel Hamza salvaged the launch with six bodies inside the launch on Thursday noon.

Police detained the dredgers, but failed to arrest anyone in this connection.

Sources said Lima Express, a trawler-like mechanised boat owned by Barisal Kotwali BNP Secretary Azizul Huq Akkas, was registered as motor launch ML Mehdi-1 and plied regularly on Barisal-Lengutia-Jangalia-Mehendiganj route without any valid route permit, fitness certificate and skilled manpower.