

## Nominate people with disability in polls

### Speakers urge political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Each political party must make specific pledges regarding the rights of persons with disabilities in its election manifesto and give nomination to two physically challenged people from each division, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

They also called for temporary or permanent ramp at all polling centres, separate room on the ground floor, introduction of tactile ballot for use by visually impaired people and massive awareness programme to ensure participation of 75 lakh voters with disability in the forthcoming election.

National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW), National Grassroots Disabled People's Organisation (NGDO) and Action on Disability and Development (ADD) organised the seminar in the city to mark the International Day of Disabled Persons.

The day will be observed today with the slogan 'e-accessibility'.

ADD Country Representative Mosharrar Hossain observed that while only four per cent of people with disability get access to education, it is impossible to achieve e-accessibility now.

On behalf of the physically challenged persons, Fazlul Azim delivered the keynote speech while Akhtar Hussain, a member of Fulbaria Union, placed their demands.

Former lawmaker GM Quader called on them to add another demand for reserved seats in parliament to ensure their representation.

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, former chief adviser of a caretaker government, however, ruled out the need for such provision, saying that the outcome of such provision was never satisfactory.

"Rather, you must contest the elections directly since you have got extraordinary intellect from the nature," he told the physically challenged people.

Justice Rahman also called on them to raise their voice to establish their rights. They must follow every step of democratic process to make sure that their names are enlisted on the voter list and they can cast their votes properly, he added.

Referring to the glorious achievements of the physically challenged people in the special Olympic, former adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan said that while the persons with disabilities are striving for their democratic rights, able-bodied people are making the country crippled.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud said the state and society are bound to fulfil the fundamental rights of all the citizens.

Umme Kulsum Ranjana, president of NCDW, reiterated the implementation of their demands, saying that the country cannot move forward without the participation of physically challenged people in the nation-building activities.

## 120 children receive prizes in story writing competition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After moving to a new house, little Proma discovered a nest of a sparrow in the balcony. She was absolutely amazed to see the small bird laying and hatching eggs.

But one day after coming back from school, Proma found the nest smashed and the young birds lying dead - they were savagely killed by a child of a guest.

Proma is one of the 120 winners of NIDO-Shaptahik 2000 Golpo Lekho Golpo Jeto Competition 2006. The story on the poignant incident she wrote won her a prize.

The prize giving ceremony was held at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.

Afrina Khanam bagged the first prize in the 'Ka' category while Shukanna Hasan won the second prize and Adiba Tanannum the third prize.

In the 'Kha' category, the first prize went to Sanjana Sanam Mormi while Dil Afroze Sarkar Mim and Salsabi won second and third prizes respectively.

The winners received DVD player, camera, MP3 player along with books, certificates and crests.

Writer Moinul Ahsan Saber, Faridur Reza Sagar and Amirul Islam were on the panel of judges.

"I have been taking part in the competition since it was introduced in 2000. Inspired by my winning awards, children in my area have also started writing and sending stories to the competition," said Farah Ulfat Proma, a student of class four at Viqarunnisa Noon School.

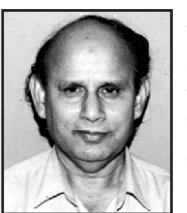
The competition has been organised to prepare the next generation as future leaders so that they can make the country a better place, said Acting Editor of the Shaptahik 2000 Golam Morloza.

Nestle Bangladesh's HR and Corporate Affairs Director Ravi Bekal, Brand Executive Shafkat Alam Sumit, NIDO's Brand Manager Nuzhat Yusuf Bari and Chief Executive Officer of Unirent Ltd Julfikar Ahmed were also present.



Winners of NIDO-Shaptahik 2000 Golpo Lekho Golpo Jeto Competition 2006 pose with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.

## Obituary



Abu Syed Mohammad Quasem, former chief engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board, passed away in Bangkok while undergoing treatment on November 30, says a press release.

He was buried in Tangail on December 2.

His qulkhani will be held at House # 12A, Road # 110, Gulshan-2 in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

## Dada Bhai's death anniversary today

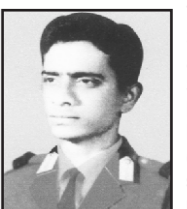


Today is the seventh death anniversary of Rokonzaman Khan Dada Bhai, founder director of Kochi-Kanchar Melan and journalist, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani will be held and foods will be distributed at his residence at 38 Saratogua Road at Narinda in the city at noon. A milad mahfil and discussion will also be held at his residence after Asr prayers.

Relatives, admirers and members of Rokonzaman Khan Dada Bhai Smriti Sangsad are requested to attend the programmes.

## Lieutenant Badiuzzaman



Today is the 35th death anniversary of Shaheed Lieutenant Badiuzzaman (Bir Pratik), says a press release.

Badiuzzaman was killed during a battle with the Pakistani occupation forces at Azampur of Akhaura on this day in 1971.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held at his village home in Gopalganj and at his grave at Azampur in Akhaura.

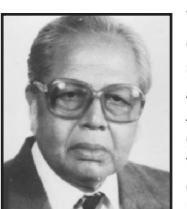
## Jasimunnisa Khan



Today is the second death anniversary of Musammam Jasimunnisa Khan, mother of Atikullah Khan Masud, editor of the Daily Janakantha, says a press release.

On the occasion, members of her family have requested relatives and admirers to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Ashrafuddin Ahmed



Today is the 6th death anniversary of Ashrafuddin Ahmed, legal guardian of the family members of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam in Bangladesh, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his Pallabi residence.

## Quazi Kulsum Kader



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Quazi Kulsum Kader, mother of Jakir Hossein Emon, a journalist of the Daily Samakal, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at her village home at Binoykathi in Jhalakathi and at Banaripara in Barisal after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

## 9 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least nine people were killed and 18 others were injured in separate road accidents in Tangail, Pabna, Natore, Shariatpur and Gopalganj yesterday and on Friday night.

Our Correspondent from Tangail reports: Two people were killed and five others injured in a road accident at Nagarpur upazila in the district yesterday.

Police said the accident took place at around 8:00am when driver of a Nagarpur-bound stone-laden truck from Tangail lost his control over steering. The truck fell into a ditch breaking the railing of a bridge near Nagarpur upazila headquarters, leaving two helpers dead on the spot and injuring five passengers, including the driver.

The identities of the dead could not be known immediately. Local people rushed the injured to Nagarpur Upazila Health Complex while Nagarpur police sent the bodies to Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our Correspondent, from

Pabna adds: At least two people were killed and five others injured in a road accident at Faridpur upazila in the district on Friday night.

The dead were identified as Ranu Pramanik, 30, son of Azizul Pramanik and Roma Rani Das, wife of Shurendranath Das.

The accident occurred on Bhangura-Faridpur highway at Nasrapara village when a Pabna-bound bus hit a passenger-laden Nasiman, a local motorised vehicle, at Nasrapara village at about 7:30pm, leaving Ranu and Roma dead on the spot.

The victims were returning from a bride party, sources said. Of the injured, condition of Babul Chandra and his wife Shova Rani is critical.

UNB adds: An unidentified child was killed and seven others were injured as a bus turned turtle when its driver lost control over the steering at Dattapara on Natore-Dhaka highway yesterday.

In another accident, five people were injured when a human hauler (locally known as Votvoti) skidded

off the road at Arkandi in Singra upazila on the same day.

Meanwhile, a motorcycle rider was killed and another injured when a bus ran over them on a bridge in Noria upazila in Shariatpur yesterday.

The dead was identified as Yakub Mal, 45.

Angry people seized the bus soon after the accident and set fire to it. But the driver managed to escape.

Another report from Gopalganj says: Three teenage boys were killed when a truck rammed into their motorcycle in the town on Friday night.

The victims were identified as Ibadat Mollah, 15, Hitler Molla, 14, and Bashir Molla, 18. They all hailed from Fakirkandi village in Sadar upazila.

"The three friends were going home at Fakirkandi from the town by a motorbike when a speeding truck ran over them at about 9:00pm," police said quoting witnesses.

## 'Political impasse result of bad governance'

### Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said the present political and constitutional impasse is a result of bad governance.

They also said it is high time that the conscious and law-abiding people came forward and joined hands to rescue the country from the brink of destruction.

The roundtable titled 'Is Good Governance Practicable in Bangladesh?' was organised by Development Studies Group of Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) at IDB Bhaban in the city.

Presenting a keynote paper, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, director of Centre for Governance Studies of Brac University, said Bangladesh has made tremendous achievements in some social indicators in the last 15 years, but the feeling among the populace is rather negative due to bad politics.

He also identified some factors that hinder good governance such as permeation of partisan politics at all spheres of public life and weaknesses of formal accountability mechanisms.

Brig Gen (Retd) M Shakawat Hossain said politicisation not only touches the bureaucrats but also

the bureaucratic system and even the armed forces.

"We need to empower our people as they are the main driving forces and that can be done by decentralisation", he said.

Presenting a directional paper, Prof Bazlur Mobin Chowdhury, vice chancellor of IUB, said the present political crisis is not merely a crisis of holding a free and fair election, but also a reflection of the crisis for governance and also making the democratic institutions dysfunctional.

He also said since 1972, the democratic and state institutions have systematically gone through politicisation resulting in rise of partisan bureaucrats and civil servants who serve political parties rather than state and people.

He proposed to strengthen the five key institutions namely Election Commission (EC), Public Service Commission (PSC), Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), University Grant Commission (UGC) and appointment of diplomats.

Prof Omar Rahman, pro-vice chancellor of IUB, and other IUB teachers also spoke on the occasion.

## CPB countrywide protest today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh will stage demonstrations and hold rallies today across the country demanding cancellation of the 'illegal' and 'farce' electoral schedule, reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC) by removing the controversial persons and implementation of their 53-point recommendation.

## Four bombs found at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered four cocktails (homemade bomb) in a packet from Business Studies Faculty of Dhaka University (DU).

Sources said an employee of the faculty dean office saw a packet of sweetmeat behind teachers' lounge at noon and informed the authorities.

On information, Shahbagh police reached the spot and recovered four cocktails from the packet and sent them to Shahbagh Police Station.

Cocktail explosions, their recoveries from different places of the university and gunshots firing have become common since September this year, foiling authorities' repeated attempts to maintain law and order on the campus.

Two main student bodies, BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League, blame each other for exploding cocktails and firing gunshots.

A number of cocktails were recovered from university's Modhu's Canteen allegedly kept by JCD in October.

## Manju for democratic practice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP, Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju yesterday called upon all, irrespective of party and opinion, to continue the practice of democracy to get rid of the ongoing volatility in politics.

"The country is going through a serious crisis, which must be brought to an end," he said while addressing a joining ceremony at the JP central office at Lalmatia in the city yesterday evening.

Former Upazila Chairman of Ishwarganj Ahmed Hossain Bhuiyan, along with more than one hundred leaders and activists, joined the JP, said a press release.

JP Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam, presidium members Abdur Rahim, Begum Kamrunnabha Zafar, Shah Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury, Azam Khan, Col (Retd) Dr Abdul Latif Mollick, Mofzul Hoque, among others, were present.



PHOTO: STAR

Chairman of the Parbatya Chhattagram Jana Sanghati Samity Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma speaks at a discussion organised by Jana Sanghati Samity at the Women's Voluntary Association auditorium in the city yesterday to mark the 9th anniversary of CHT Peace Accord.

## BCL leader killed in crossfire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A local leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was allegedly killed in a crossfire between his accomplices and members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Friday.

Rab sources claimed that Ahsan Habib Babu, general secretary of Durgapur upazila BCL, was an 'outlaw' and he was killed in an 'encounter' with them.

Rab arrested Babu from Taherpur Bazar and the shootout took place when they were returning to Rajshahi, they added.

Babu was killed when he tried to flee away.

The victim's father Afsar Ali, vice-president of upazila Awami League, said Rab members shot his son dead minutes after he was arrested.

Quoting witnesses Afsar said Babu was shot at his head and there was no shootout as claimed by Rab.

Local AL protested the incident and called a dawn to dusk hartal at Durgapur.

AL sources said they will file a murder case in this regard today.

## RU employees observe hunger strike

RU CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of agitating officials and staff of Rajshahi University (RU) under the banner of 'Officer Karmachari Oikya Parishad' yesterday observed a daylong token hunger strike to press their five-point demand including regularisation of jobs of 31 officers and employees.

The agitating staffs threatened to launch fast unto death from December 9, if their jobs were not regularised within December 8.

The leaders gathered on administrative building premises and staged a protest rally with council president Mirza Wazed Hossain Beg in the chair.

They also observed similar programmes today for their demand, campus sources said.

## CA'S MEETING WITH HASINA, KHALEDA

### A positive step to solve crisis: BGMEA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has welcomed the initiative taken by President/Chief Adviser (CA) Iajuddin Ahmed to invite the chiefs of two major alliances for solving the current political crisis.

In a statement yesterday, BGMEA President S M Fazlul Haque hailed the initiative terming it a 'positive step'.

He hoped that the discussions would help evolve a smooth way for resolving the political deadlock and holding a credible election.

Reiterating his concern over the closure of Chittagong port again due to blockade programme of 14-party, the BGMEA president said the port was virtually inactive in last month and the garment sector was the worst victim.

He urged all political parties for keeping the garment sector out of the purview of all political programmes.

Fazlul Haque said if the existing political impasse continues, the image of the country would be tarnished abroad diverting the buyers to other countries.

Due to blockade programme, the garment sector alone suffered a loss of Tk 200 crore every day, he added. He also pointed out that this is the time for receiving order and marketing of winter clothes.

The BGMEA president said due to continued political agitation, the country's over all economy is heading towards a catastrophe.

Jobs of 22 lakh garment workers are also at stake, he observed.

## Two injured in Keraniganj blasts

UNB, Keraniganj

The criminals in an abortive bid to plunder a house at Aganagar exploded about 15 homemade bombs, leaving two people injured yesterday evening.

The injured Bullu, 45, and Anis, 25, were admitted to local Sajeda clinic.

Locals managed to hold one criminal, identified as Halim and handed over to the police after a mob beating. He admitted to the police that they, numbering 12, planned to loot the house of Hajee Asadur Rahman.



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said that night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 29.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 09.8 degree Celsius at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.11pm today and rises at 6:27am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.5	13.7	60	43
Chittagong	29.4	15.8	73	55
Rajshahi	26.5	09.8	78	63
Khulna	26.8	14.5	74	52
Barisal	27.8	13.0	79	88
Sylhet	26.5	14.5	84	75
Cox's Bazar	29.0	17.4	65	57



Young Lawyers' Association forms a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday protesting the attack on the Supreme Court.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Conference

The inaugural session of an international conference on 'What works for the poorest? Knowledge, policies and practices' organised by Brac, Chronic Poverty Research Centre and the Brooks World Poverty Institute in the University of Manchester will be held. Venue: Brac Centre auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

### Seminar

National Association of Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh organises a seminar on HIV/AIDS to mark the International AIDS Day. Venue: BANBEIS Bhaban. Time: 10:00am.

### Conference

Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) organises a conference on 'E-Accessibility' to mark the International Day of Disabled Persons. Venue: Brac Centre auditorium. Time: 6:00pm.