METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Vow to bring war criminals to book

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in a meeting yesterday vowed to bring the war criminals to book, if AL-led 14-party combine and LDP together are voted to power in the next general election.

The meting was held commemorating the Martyred Intellectuals Day at a community centre at Mohakhali in the city.

The meeting also marked joining of around 500 activists and leaders of BNP and its front organisations. Former acting general secretary of Organisation of

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Persons with Disabilities.

political rights.

Speakers at a discussion have

urged the government to ratify the

UN Convention on the Rights of

They said the Convention, which

was adopted by the UN General

Assembly in New York on

Wednesday, sets out in details the

rights of physically challenged

persons, including their civil and

Development (ADD) organised the

discussion on the ratification and

implementation of the UN

Convention at the National Press

Prior to the discussion, ADD

marking the Martyred Intellectuals Day

photography

Commonwealth Press Union

(CPU) has invited photographs for

the '2006-07 Commonwealth

The theme for the award this

This is an open competition for

The photographs will be judged

all Commonwealth residents. The

on the interpretation of the theme

deadline is January 17, 2007.

competition

Photographic Awards'.

year is 'Achievement'.

C'wealth

UNB, Dhaka

press release

tant form of media.

Canberra, Australia,

250 pound sterling.

will be in London in March 2007.

Club in the city on Thursday.

The Action on Disability and

Islamic Conference (OIC) Arshaduzzaman also joined LDP in yesterday's meeting.

Now politicians are being killed by the 'crossfire of law', said LDP President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury in the meeting. On the High Court verdict on former president HM Ershad, he said the verdict raised questions

He also demanded to defer the ection by a month.

Prof Badruddoza also blasted the president/chief adviser regarding the resignation of Sonali Bank chairman. The caretaker government transferred the chairman just

Call to ratify UN Convention on

rights of persons with disabilities

Country Representative Mosharraf

Hossain, at a press briefing, said the

Convention is the result of a pro-

longed struggle to eliminate discrim-

ination against the persons with

ties to ensure a supportive environ-

ment in the polling centres so that 75

lakh physically challenged voters can

exercise their right to franchise in the

Monira Khatun of National Council

of Disabled Women (NCDW) said

there are some people who torture

deaf and dumb women taking the

seats for women with disability in

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion organised by AL at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday

of 6:00pm today

She also demanded reserved

advantage of their vulnerability.

Speaking at the discussion,

upcoming election

He also called upon the authori-

because the bank did not approve a loan proposal by his son, he alleged. LDP Executive President Col

Oli Ahmed said BNP government has rewarded the Jamaat leaders who were collaborators during our liberation war. He pledged to bring the war criminals to justice if LDP and 14-party combine together win the upcoming election.

Bangladesh is not safe under the leadership of Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman, he alleged.

parliament.

tions." he added.

WEATHER
TODAY

No change in temperature

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours as

country in the early morning, Met Office said in a forecast

recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 9.0 degrees at Satkhira.

ture may remain nearly unchanged.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Satkhira, Jessore

Yesterday's highest temperature of 27.3 degree Celsius was

The sun sets in the capital at 5:14pm today and rises at 6:35am

and Srimongal and it may continue, it said, adding that night tempera-

LDP General Secretary Maj (retd) MA Mannan, Jahanara Begum and Arshaduzzaman also addressed the meeting

Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka

University said the government

would not have to face much finan-

cial involvement to implement the

Convention, it will help get financial

assistance from the donor organisa-

of The Daily Star, said physically

and mentally challenged persons

often become the victims of discrim-

commitment, networking of civil

society and sensitising the

policymakers to help implement the

She laid emphasis on political

"If the government ratifies the

Sultana Razia, editorial assistant

The victims alleged that they informed the police during the robbery but they didn't arrive in

traders of the same bazar.

Robbery in 11

town in the early hours of yester-

and Tara when they tried to resist

the gang. The injured were rushed

After committing robbery in

these houses for two hours, the

gang stormed into seven more

houses in Paschim Kandapara

area nearby and took away valu-

ables. The house owners are also

houses in

Narsingdi

area at about 1:30 am.

to Sadar hospital.

UNB, Narsingdi

Jubo Dal leader shot dead

A Jubo Dal leader was shot dead by unknown assailants in Ghoshpara area of the town early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Badal Khan, 38, a member of the executive committee of Jubo Dal district unit and general secretary of ward-7 of Sadar pourashava unit.

Witnesses said the assailants wearing masks stormed into the house of Badal breaking open the door at about 3:30am. They stabbed him indiscriminately and opened fire on him, leaving him dead.

Later, the police sent the body to nospital morque. Family members suspect that

internal party conflict might have led to the killing.

RU campus tense over holding of cultural function at same venue

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University (RU) unit of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote yesterday protested the cancellation order of the director of the Teachers Students Cultural Centre (TSCC) to hold its scheduled function on the

Taking a written permission from the TSCC authorities on December 10, the Jote decided to hold a twoday cultural function on the premises of Martyred Memory Archive on December 16 and 17 to observe the Victory Day.

However, in the morning the TSCC authorities sent a letter to Jote president and general secretary mentioning that the Bikalpa Sangskritik Sangstha, a cultural organisation of Islamic Chhatra Shibir, will hold their functions at that venue on December 16 and 17.

The letter however mentioned that the Jote can hold their cultural function at any other place on the campus, sources said.

On receiving the letter, hundreds of Jote activists gathered in front of the TSCC office and met with its

director Jote President Saiful Islam and General Secretary Amit Chakrabarti told a group of newsmen that they will hold their scheduled function at the

same venue at any cost A TSCC source said following a threat by ICS cadres, the authorities had allowed the BSS to hold its function on the venue fearing vio-

"I cannot do any thing against them," said TSCC Director Abdur Rahman Siddiqi confirming the Shibir threat

Tension has been running high on the campus over the holding of functions by two cultural groups at

Evening

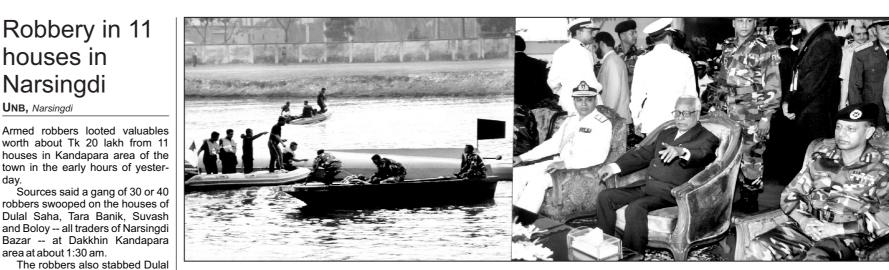
Chhadim High School students finally get back SSC certificates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Madhaiya Chhadim High School at Chandina in Comilla finally got back their Secondary School Certificate (SSC) certificates and mark sheets recently, thanks to the intervention of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), says a press release

The headmaster of the school kept the certificates and mark sheets of 50 students under his possession in order to force them to enrol in a college established by a former lawmaker.

Failing to retrieve their documents, the students contacted BLAST, who served a legal notice to the headmaster in November. The civil society members also stepped in and settled the issue. Admitting his fault, the headmaster returned the certificates to the students.



Military

opens Bss, Dhaka

hardware

exhibition

Army paratroopers descended

from the sky while air force jets

staged spectacular flypasts as

President lajuddin Ahmed opened

a military hardware display yester-

fighter jets flew past in low altitude

releasing coloured smoke to salute

the president as soon as he inau-

gurated the military hardware

display releasing colourful balloons

and cutting a red ribbon at the

National Parade Square in the city.

Moeen U Ahmed, Navy chief Rear

Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan, Air

Force chief Air Vice Marshal

Fakhrul Azam and Principal Staff

Officer (PSO) of the Armed Forces

Division Major General Md

Jahangir Alam Chowdhury

received the president at the dis-

play venue organised jointly by the

Army chief Lieutenant General

Three F-7 and A-5 air force

day marking the Victory Day.

President/Chief Adviser lajuddin Ahmed witnesses rescue operations demonstrated by the armed forces after inaugurating a military hardware display at the National Parade Square in the city yesterday.

Deferring election date impossible: Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is quite impossible to defer the date of general election, reiterated former law minister Moudud Ahmed at a roundtable yesterday.

The constitution does not give anybody the power to hold election after 90 days of the caretaker government, he added.

The roundtable titled 'Democracy and Judiciary: Current Concern' was organised jointly by National Integration and Development Council (NIDC) and Caucus of Young Legal Professionals at Cirdap auditorium in the city. Speaking as chief guest,

Moudud criticised the 14-party opposition combine saying," We are yet to know which is their last demand.'

Pointing to the incident of vandalism on the premises of Supreme

Court (SC) on November 30 by pro-Awami League (AL) lawyers, he said the Chief Justice's (CJ) order to stay the proceedings of writ petitions challenging the legality of the president's taking over as chief adviser was not unprecedented.

Such stay order also took place earlier, and what the senior lawyers could do on that day was to request the CJ to review the stay order instead of creating a bad example for the young lawyers by vandalising different sections of the Supreme Court, Moudud added.

They are blowing hot and cold in the same breath, he said, adding that they are speaking of the separation of judiciary on one hand and on the other hand they are disobeving the CJ by telling him not to go to

Terming the vandalism on SC premises 'totally unprecedented'

the speakers said it was a criminal offence and it took place under the direct provocation of a group of senior lawvers.

Demanding their exemplary punishment, they said the pro-AL lawyers attacked the institution which is the safeguard of the constitution.

NIDC Executive Director Dr Mahfuj Parvez presided over the discussion while former general secretary of Bangladesh Political Science Association Prof Hasan Mohammad presented the keynote

Prof Borhan Uddin Khan of Dhaka University, Prof Akhter Hossain Khan, Barrister Abdullah Al Mamun, Journalist Maruf Kamal Khan, Dr Mamun Ahmed, Barrister Nowshad Jamir and Barrister SM Atigur Rahman also spoke.

> "Dare devil army commandos' came down hanging in ropes from makeshift high towers while navy troops demonstrated their undersea operations as the president went round various stalls and pavilions set up by the three services and witnessed both light and heavy weapons and equipment in different stalls.

> The Bangladesh Navy erected a model ship BNS Ali Haider at the display site where the Air Force demonstrated their fighter jets, helicopters and transport planes, and the Army showed their war hardware, including tanks, armoured vehicles

Meanwhile, an ISPR press release said the display would remain open for all from 9:00am to 5:00pm on December 16-18 and 20-22.

47 Armed Forces personnel get honorary commission

Bss, Dhaka

A total of 47 Armed Forces personnel, 41 from Bangladesh Army and six from Bangladesh Navy, have been granted honorary commission and promotion on the occasion of

the Victory Day. Fifteen Honorary Lieutenants were promoted to the rank of Honorary Captain in the active list of the Bangladesh Army. On the other hand, 26 Master Warrant Officers of the Bangladesh Army and 6 Master Chief Petty Officers of the Bangladesh Navy received Honorary Commission. These honorary promotion and honorary commission will be effective from December 16, an ISPR press release said yesterday.

TRIPLE MURDER

3 arrested in **Joypurhat**

Bss, Rangpur

Police arrested three members of a notorious robbers and muggers gang from village Baroil in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat in the early hours of yesterday in connection with the Khetlal triple murder case, official sources said.

Police said that the motive behind the three on-duty village defense police (VDP) personnel killing at village Fanshitola under Mamudpur union of Khetlal upazila is now becoming clear. A joint police team of several

thanas picked up suspected killers Anisur Rahman, 25, Shahadat Shomojhder, 26, and Kamruzzaman, 26, of village Baroil in nearby Akkelpur upazila in the small hours of today.

The arrested persons are being nterrogated at Khetlal police station, the officials said. Three on-duty VDP personnel

were slaughtered by some miscreants in the village Fanshitola in the early hours of Thursday.

They are Abdul Jalil, 45, of village Aymapur, Bachchu Mia, 46, of village Rasulpur-Mamudpur and Roich Uddin, 48, of village Baroil under the same union.

CA blamed for trying to hold polls as per **BNP-Jamaat** design

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Manjurul Ahsan Khan yesterday said the chief adviser (CA) to the caretaker government (CG) is working to hold the election according to the design of the BNP-Jamaat alliance.

At a discussion at the party office in the city, he said the CG is yet to implement the demands of reconstituting the election commission (EC).

Manjurul said the EC is also dillydallying to correct the updated voter The CA deployed army while the

country was about to return to a peaceful state from violence, he said, adding the CA is now asking them to take rest. The spirit of the liberation war

cannot be established without socialism, one of the four main principles of the constitution, he

CPB General Secretary Muzahidul Islam Selim, Adviser of Gonotontri Party Azizul Islam Khan, Presidium member of National Awami Party Amena Ahmed and CPB central leader Morshed Ali were present on the occasion.

Duja convening committee formed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duja) yesterday formed a nine-member convening committee with Masum Al Zaki of The Bangladesh Observer as convener and Sheikh Adnan Fahad of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) as member secretary, says a press release.

The committee was formed at a general meeting at Duja office on Thursday night, after announcing the executive committee dissolved, as its tenure expired on October 22.

The convening committee will hold an election to elect new executive committee for the year 2006-2007 within given two months.

Other members of the convening committee are -- Joint Conveners Golam Mortuza Antu of Ajker Kagoj, Ashraful Islam Kochi of daily Sangbad and Kamrul Hasan Khan of The Daily Star, while Khomanee Ehsan of daily Banglabazar, Jannatul Ferdous Tanvi of bdnews24.com, Sohel Mamun of daily Bhorer Dak and Daud Mohammad Isa of The Bangladesh Today were nominated as members.

Qazi Saifuddin Ovi of Bhorer Kagoj and Ishtiaq Hussain of daily Samakal will perform as the advisers of the convening committee.



BNP leaders at a discussion organised by BNP at Ramna Botomul in the city yesterday on the occasion of the Victory Day.

Musical evening

Asia Shilpa O' Sanskriti Sabha organises a musical evening with Tagore songs. Venue: 62 Science Laboratory

Cultural programme Swid Bangladesh and Khilgaon Girls'

High School will present a cultural programme at the last day of the weeklong Victory Festival organised by Liberation War Museum. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time:

Concert

Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children's Environment (ARISE) presents the first ever concert by street children. Venue: In front of Wasa Bhaban, Karwan Bazar. Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Gono

Parishad will hold a discussion commemorating the Victory Day. Venue: Moni Singh Farhad Trust Bhaban. Time:

Conference Centre. Time: 10:00am. Vaccination programme

Photography

A photography exhibition on liberation

war, organised by High Commission of

India, will begin. Venue: dance and

Music Teaching Centre, Dhanmondi.

Time: 12:00noon. The exhibition will run

till December 31 from 10:00am to

With the theme 'Peace', United Nations

organises a programme

commemorating the 35th Victory Day of

Bangladesh. Venue: Plenary Hall,

Bangladesh-China Friendship

Commemoration

exhibition

Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital (JBFH) organises a vaccination programme to mark the Victory Day. Venue: Vaccination centre, JBFH. Time:



Police picked up a number of Jatiya Party activists who vandalised vehicles at Paltan intersection in the city yesterday to protest High Court's verdict that handed party Chairman HM Ershad two year's imprisonment.

as well as technical quality, said a The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: The Canberra Times, City/Town Temperature Humidity in Commonwealth Broadcasting in celsius Association. The Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Morning 70 Secretariat, Toronto's Globe and 25.6 15.8 Dhaka Mail and the Royal 26.3 Chittagong 13.8 Commonwealth Society have Rajshahi Khulna 25.0 jointly organised the event to 25.6 27.3 10.8 14.2 promote photography as an impor-Barisal Svlhet Cox's Bazar There are two new categories



Awards will receive 1,000 pound Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited awarded scholarships to 160 meritorious and sterling and further prizes will be needy students, including 10 visually impaired students, who passed SSC awarded to the regional winners. examination this year and are studying at HSC level in different colleges. Dr For rules, criteria and the full Salehuddin Ahmed, governor of Bangladesh Bank, gave away scholarship details on the awards, plus winawarding letters to the students at a simple ceremony at Osmani Memorial ning photographs from previous Auditorium in the city on Wednesday. Md Yeasin Ali, managing director of years, please visit Dutch-Bangla Bank, presided over the function. Additional Managing www.cpu.org.uk and click on the Director of the bank AHM Nazmul Quadir was also present.