# DOWN TO EARTH Water-logging haunts city dwellers

By Khalilur Rahman

People who come with their sick animals to the central veterinary hospital near Fulbaria in the metropolis are the worst sufferers. Sometimes they wade through ankle-deep raw sewage that remains stagnant in front of the hospital at Kazi Alauddin Road. The situation further aggravates during the monsoons when rain water submerges the adjoining areas. This happens as both the underground sewer lines, one for carrying off sewage and the other for draining out rainwa-

(DCC). But the Public Works Department (PWB) which car ried out work on the expansion project did not take up the matter with those authorities. Moreover, the architectural design of the hospital

buildings had faults, he alleged. Explaining the disadvantages of the newly constructed hospital building, an official of the hospital said that the corridors and the rooms of the three-storey building are drenched during rains as there are no sheds. Rain water en-



ter, fail to function.

The problem of sewage disposal facing the central veterinary hospital for quite a long time did never get due attention of the concerned authorities, hospital sources told The Daily Star. Unsound planning and lack of initiative have all through stood in the way of proper development of this lone institution set up by Nawab Sir Ahsanullah.

The expansion programme of the hospital complex including the staff quarters completed last year at a cost of Taka 3.35 crore by the authorities also ignored the basic problem of faulty drainage system, according to an official of the Livestock Directorate. The official said that the crisis could be resolved with the help of WASA (Water Supply and Sewerage Authority) and the Dhaka City Corporation

Before the construction was undertaken the probable faults in design were brought to the notice of the relevant government agency by the livestock official. But the hospital staff complained that the observation of the Livestock Department on the building design was not liked by the government architect. One of the architects politely reminded the livestock official that their task was to deal with animals and not the building construction, an aggrieved hospital staff said. Medical equipment and other materials, therefore, cannot be kept or stored on the floors due to lowing in of rain water. Separate tables are needed for placing some of the equipment to protect those from water, another official reported.

ters the rooms as if these were

open places, he resented.

nary hospital poses a particular inconvenience to the road users. This busiest portion of the road has developed big ditches and depressions and waste water remains stagnant almost round the year. The ac cumulation of waste materials not flushed out because of faulty drainage system emits an unbearable stench. The overall atmosphere in the locality appears to be suffocating. With regard to the new construction at the hospital complex, a PWD source said

A section of the main thor-

oughfare from the old railway

hospital to the central veteri-

that there was no fault in the design of the buildings and that the construction was carefully carried out. He, however, admitted that rain water finds it way into the corridors and parts of the rooms in the absence of sunshades. Necessary measures are being taken in this regard, the source added. The source categorically said that the problems arising out of the blockage in sewer lines was absolutely the job of WASA to look after and that the PWD had nothing to do about it.

When contacted, a senior official of the WASA told The Daily Star that water-logging of city areas was a general problem and required concerted efforts to solve it. Over the years the storm sewers which drain out rain and waste water in the metropolis have become choked at different points. Proper maintenance and cleaning of the underground lines are utterly lacking. The lone pump station at Narinda has lost 60 per cent of its efficiency in draining out waste water. The length of the storm sewer lines is about 265 kilometers (km) of which half is under the management o WASA and the other half is maintained by DCC. This has given rise to fresh complicacies. The DCC has inadequate skilled manpower for maintaining underground sewer pipes which were so long operated by the Public Health Engineering (PHE) under the Ministry of Local Government. It was handed over to the DCC a few years ago. Inadequate maintenance of storm sewer lines by the DCC has contributed to water-logging, sources said.

But all these are minor causes responsible for stagnation of water in the city during rains, a senior WASA engineer told the Star. The major cause of water-logging is the closure of natural outlets and canals in the metropolis over the last

three decades, he pointed out. The sewage disposal system is also under heavy pressure due to the alarming rise of the city population and limited facilities available with WASA in terms of men, materials and resources, WASA sources said. This has resulted in the over flowing of sewer lines much to the inconvenience of the city dwellers, he stated

# BNP questions

elected?

democracy.

From Page 1 Col. 8 a non-partisan candidate should be elected as president on the basis of national con-

sensus, was not reasonable. He said newspaper reports showed that the third and the fourth largest parties in the parliament - Jatiya Party and Jamaat - were ignorant about the nomination of Justice Chowdhury, and thus he was not a candidate of the combined opposition.

Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar said either Justice Chowdhury was not told the truth at the time of obtaining his signature on the nomination paper, or he accepted the consensus of the Awami League as a 'national consensus'. If the first was correct, Justice Chowdhury was subjected to injustice. If the second was correct he has done injustice

to people's mandate, he said. He termed as unfortunate the contention that Justice Chowdhury has become a candidate to protest against the discourteousness of the BNP and said it was difficult to believe that a man who considered himself to be competent to become president could side with a camp opposed to a democratically elected gov-

ernment. Salam Talukdar posed a question that if Justice Chowdhury's nomination from

pawn of so-called challenge." Editor : S. M. Ali

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## Diarrhoea

From Page 1 Col. 4 chari says: Diarrhoea claimed nine more lives in Mohalchari and Luxmichari upazilas of the district during the last week raising the death toll to 30 in greater Chittagong Hill Tracts. According to informed sources, five died in Mohalchari

and four in Luxmichari. The two upazilas are the worst affected. Hospital source said more than 300 people have been affected by the disease at village Goraaichari and Dhumnighat in

Mohalchari upazila while sev-

eral hundreds were attacked

in Luxmichari upazila. A large number of patients have been coming from affected areas everyday to the Sadar hospital and upazila health complexes for treat-

#### Firing, blasts ransacking on DU campus: 1 hurt

By DU Correspondent A group of armed youths firing shots and bursting bombs ransacked a snackbar and beat up its employees on Dhaka University campus Thursday. One teaboy was also

injured in blast. The teaboy, Iqbal, was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with head injury from the bomb splinters.

Witnesses said the armed youths ransacked the DUS (Dhaka University Snacks) near TSC protesting tearing of posters earlier hung on the shop walls demanding release of Masudur Rahman, a Chhatra

# Left student alliance formed

By DU Correspondent

A new student alliance, Democratic Student Alliance (DSA)", was formed with eight left-leaning student organisations pledging to gear up a progressive student move-

The formation of the DSA was announced at a press conference held Thursday at the Madhu's Canteen of the Dhaka

University. The student organisations that formed the alliance are Chhatra League (N-S), Chhatra Union (BCU), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), Chhatra Moitree (BCM), Chhatra Federation (BCF), Chhatra League (S-S), Gonotantrik Chhatra Union (GCU), and Chhatra Samity (BCS).

The new student alliance vowed to root-out terrorism from the educational institutions and gear up the movement for realising the tenpoints prepared by the now defunct All Party Students Unity (APSU).

The press conference blamed the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (S-A) for the disunity among the students and the dissolution of APSU.

## BCL activist stabbed

By DMCH Correspondent A BCL activist was stabbed by unidentified miscreants at Elephant Road on Wednesday

The Democratic Student Alliance, however, decided to begin its movement by holding an anti-terrorism rally and procession on October 6.

## BSC

From Page 1 Col. 6 ship's repairing charge for a

longtime. The General

Manager of chartering section

rushed to Singapore on receipt of information and got the ship released by clearing the outstanding dues of five lakh US But immediately after the release the ship was again detained as the commission money of the concerned agent there remained unpaid. The

commission amounting to 1,50,000 dollars was paid and the vessel released on September 21 when it sailed for Chittagong port. The trouble with Banglar Sourav has caused delay in lightering a mother tanker that resulted in a per day de-

murrage of 30 thousand dollars, the BSC source added. In addition to meeting the debt burden to settle the cases for release of the ship it incurred some fixed operating costs and other incidental expenses during its nine-day de-

tainment period. It is reported that the Corporation has fallen defaulter to over 60 such repairing companies, most of those at Singapore that may bad to more much incidents.

## Nomination papers

From Page 1 Col. 8

tion of the nomination papers. The last date for withdrawal of candidature has been fixed on September 30. The time for withdrawal of candidature will expire at 2.30 pm.

The polling will take place on October 8 between 2 pm, and 5 pm in the Assembly Hall of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Members of the 330-seat Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) will vote to elect the President.

On behalf of the candidature of Abdur Rahman Biswas, BNP leaders and ministers including Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Barrister Rafiqui Islam Miah, Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Major Gen. (Retd) Majidul Huq, Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, Sadek Hossain Khoka, Whip Khondker Delwar Hossain, and Syed Shahidul Islam Zaman MP, were present during the

On behalf of Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury, Awami League leaders including Abdus Samad Azad, who is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad, and Tofael Ahmed, MP, were present, while on behalf of Al-Haj Mohammad Mokbul Hossain, Shahjahan Khan, MP, (AL Madaripur) was present during the examination of nomination

The Chief Election Commissioner, Justice Abdur Rouf, was assisted by Election Commissioner Justice Syed Meshbaul Hossain and Secretary of the Election Commission Secretariat, Ayubur Rahman, during the scrutiny.

# The Midnight File

### Romanian PM forced to resign

BUCHAREST, Sept 26: Thousands of Romanian coal miners paraded through Bucharest today rejoicing after forcing Prime Minister Petre Roman's government to resign and shouted that President Ion Iliescu must go with him. The demonstrators, besieged the Romanian television station in northern Bucharest tonight and bombarded it with petrol bombs, eyewitnesses said, reports Reuter.

#### Pak newsman killed in Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Sept 26: Mehammad Basharat Abbast, a Pakistani journalist has been killed by security forces in Indian-administered Kashmir. Meanwhile Pakistani newspan pers are to observe a oneday strike Sunday to protest violence against reporters, the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) President, Farhad Zaidi, said here Thursday, reports

# Unusual low

From Page 1 Col. 5

dhury, Director, Bangladesh Meteorological Department told the Daily Star the trough of low extending from the Arabian Sea is persisting as it is repeatedly getting activated by incursion of moisture from the Bey of Bengal.

Again steering winds at upper air has been very weak for some time. The flow of strong steering wind would have helped faster movement of the system towards the north east. In the absence of strong steering wind the movement of the system has been very slow. As it continues to get energized by incursion of moisture it continues to cause precipita-

Weather experts have the impression that the trough of low is likely to cause heavy rainfall in the central part of Bangladesh for another two

The rainfall induced by the system has so far remained concentrated to Rajshahi division, part of Jessore, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet regions. Some northern districts in Rangpur, Dinajpur region and the southern districts of the country remained largely unaffected by it.

Radar images on Thursday showed that the system moved a bit south-eastwards. It is likely to move to Assam in India. If the system causes maximum precipitations in Assam too, another wave of flash floods from the rivers in the Meghna basin is likely.

#### Biswas

From Page 1 Col. 8

Rahman Biswas. With Jamaat's 20 votes BNP nominee's votes will rise to 190.

There is every possibility that two independent mem-Major (retd) Haftzuddin and Nurul Islam Mont - would vote for Abdur Rahman Biswas. Both of them and Biswas hall from Barisal.

Besides the independent members, Workers Party MP Rashed Khan Menon, NDP MP Salahuddin Quader Choudhury, JSD MP Shahajahan Straj and Islamic Oikya Jote MP Maulana Obaidullah also may vote for Biswas. If these six votes tilt toward the ruling party candidate, Biswas is likely get 196

Awami League and its allies have 99 votes and Jatiya Party 35. If Jatiya Party votes for Badrul Haider Choudhury, the combined strength of Awami League and Jatiya Party will be

# Shahabuddin

From Page 1 Col. 7 thanked the Acting President for his guidance as the Supreme Commandar of the Armed Forces. Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Muhammad Muhaiminul Islam, Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hussain Chowdhury and PSO to the Supreme Commander Brigadier M S A Bhuiyan were

Thursday.

Earlier, the Acting President was given a ceremonial Guard of Honour by a smartly turned-out contingent drawn from the three services at the BAF Base Bashar in the Old Air Port. On arrival he was received by the chiefs of three services. The Acting President took salute and inspected the

### Downpour

From Page 1 Col. 5 Basabo, part of Rampura went

under knee-deep water. Movement of traffic came to a standstill during the rainfall. Office-goers had the most difficulty in attending their

Attendance in the government, semi-government and autonomous bodies was thin. The worst sufferers were the students particularly those who had to appear at examina-

tions in some city schools. Rain water submerged dwellings in many low-lying areas in the city. Residents were found staying on machans' in their inundated house. At Minto Road, water remained stagnant in the compounds of many VIPs till

late in the evening. In some places, reports of water contamination due to leakage in the main supply lines were received.

This has exposed the inhabitants to serious health hazards, a resident of Faridabad told The Daily Star.

An official of the Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA) said that faulty drainage system was responsible for slow disposal of rain water.

The natural outlets and canals that used to drain out rain water from the city to the river Buriganga and Shitalakkhya were filled up over the years. Closure of these outlets, mainly 13 canals, is largely responsible for the accumulation of water, the WASA official pointed out. He also admitted that the

storm sewers were not functioning smoothly as these were blocked at many points due to the absence of proper mainte-

The Acting President also visited the Supreme Command Headquarters where he exchanged departing greeting with senior defence officials. He was presented crests of the three services by the respective chiefs.

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed addressing high military officials at Armed Forces headquarters on

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed also called upon the officials last night to extend their wholehearted cooperation and assistance to the newly elected government for expediting country's economic progress and attaining political stability.

He said this while talking to the secretaries and additional secretaries in charge of the ministries who met him at Bangabhaban to bid him

farewell. Justice Ahmed said whatever may be the form or character of the elected government, its success depends upon the efficient permanent administrative machinery. He said the officers are the servants of the people and they should perform their duties and responsibilities without fear or favour keeping in view the interest of the country.

Justice Ahmed said if he had achieved any success during his tenure of office as the Acting President, it was largely due to the wholehearted cooperation and assistance of the officers and employees of the government.

Principal finance secretary Khurshed Alam and cabinet secretary Siddigur Rahman were, among others, present in the meeting.

# Rangpur medical

From Page 1 Col. 7 After a small contingent of police force had failed to control the situation, the college authorities sought the help of the BDR who managed to bring the situation under control. Members of the BDR remain deployed in the college cam-

The injured were identified as Anwar Hossain, a secondyear student of Rajshahi University, Taufiqur Rahman Ripon, a first-year student of the management department of Carmichael College and Mahmud Hossain, a BCL activist. All three have been admitted to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital and their condition was stated to be critical, according to hospital sources.

Police arrested 12 persons in this connection and recovered a loaded pistol, a cut-rifle, 23 Chinese axes, 12 large knives, one 'ram dao'. Koreas.

### 'US impeding Korean reunification'

By Staff Correspondent A visiting high ranking North Korean official said in Dhaka yesterday that after the Gulf war the United States has become more arrogant and is shipping nuclear weapons to South Korea.

"After the Gulf war the US has become more haughty and is shipping to South Korea new nuclear weapons and binary nuclear weapons where it has already deployed 40,000 troops and 1,000 nuclear weapons," Chon Yon Ok, Vice-President of the Cultural Committee for Foreign Countries of the DPRK said as chief guest at a seminar in the auditorium of the National Press Club.

The seminar organised by the Bangladesh Nationa Committee for Korean Reunification was presided over by Rashed Khan Menon. President of the Committee. It was also addressed by

North Korean Ambassador in Dhaka Kang Dol Sun, Hasanul Huq Inu, Nurunnabi, Mahbubul Huq, Garib Newaz, Ahmed Rafiq and Dilip Barua.

Ms Chon said that the US has already mapped out a '120day Korean war scenario' and was staging nuclear war exercises and provocative military moves to attack the DPRK first She alleged that the United

States is trying to control the Republic of North Korea and other South Asian countries by deploying nuclear weapons in South Korea. The deployment of weapons in S Korea was an outrageous infringement on the sovereignty of the DPRK she said.

She said that if the South Korean authorities sincerely wanted reunification, they should accept the fair and reasonable reunification pro-Ambassador Kang Dol Sun

give great inspiration to the people of the DPRK in the campaign for reunification. Rashed Khan Menon said that the United States was in-

said that the seminar would

strumental in delaying the process of reunification. He extended the cooperation of 11 crore Bangladeshis in the pro-Hasanul Huq Inu said after

the changeover in the Soviet

Union the imperialist was

stretching its reaches world-

wide to destroy all peace programme. The other left leaders also condemned US role in the reunification process of the

# Opposition meet

From Page 1 Col. 5

- PID photo

Chowdhury MP, of the Jatiya Party, Advocate Ansar Ali MP of Jamaat-e-Islami, Shamshuddoha MP of the CPB, Suranjit Sengupta MP of the Ganotantri Party, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, MP of the NDP, Rashed Khan Menon, MP of the Workers Party, Shajahan Siraj, MP of the JSD (Siraj)

and others. Jamaat sources told The Daily Star that Ansar Ali attended the meeting at the request of some Awami League leaders. He went to Parliament. for some other business.

Jamaat insiders confirmed that the party would back Abdur Rahman Biswas.

Reliable sources stated that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had discussions with Jamaat leaders Matiur Rahman Nizami and. Ali Ahsan Mujaheed at Sugandha before announcing the nomination of Abdur Rahman Biswas. Jatiya Party sources told

The Daily Star that the party was still undecided about lending support to Badrul Haider Chowdhury. A senior JP leader said that the party was working on two

options — to vote for Badrul Haider Chowdhury or to abstain from voting. Jatiya Party high command hinted that the party members

would vote for Badrul Haider

Chowdhury only if the winning chance was there. Otherwise the JP members would abstain. The meeting called by Sheikh Hasina Thursday attended by Munirul Huq Chowdhury was considered a

lower level representation at

the meeting. The representatives of major opposition parties told the meeting that they would report back to their respective parties and would discuss the matter in the party forum.

Earlier Sheikh Hasina introduced Badrul Haider Chowdhury to the opposition MPs present and narrated the background story on nominating the former Chief Justice as the presidential candidate. She sought support of all the op-

position groups. Sheikh Hasina regretted that she could not contact and consult all the opposition groups before nominating

Justice Chowdhury. The meeting scheduled for ll am was delayed by two hours due to the heavy downpour in the morning and lasted

On Wednesday night BNP leaders also contacted Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury to

for an hour.

know his mind. Food Minister Shamsul Islam personally went to see Justice Chowdhury at his residence while BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam

Talukdar and Information

Minister Nazmul Huda contacted him over telephone. They however reminded Justice Chowdhury that he would not get a majority in any way in the election. But Justice Chowdhury said that even if he was descated he would not

withdraw his candidature. UNB adds: Briefing newsmen after the meeting Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina said the ruling party had failed to come up with a consensus presidential candidate in due deference to aspiration of the people.

Sheikh Hasina urged all parliamentary groups to rise above party interests and elect a neutral personality to country's top and prestigious post of President.

"It would have been good for the nation if the government party could put up an acceptable candidate to the presidency on the basis of national consensus but, unfortunately, they could not rise above their petty party interest," said

Narrating the background of fielding Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury as a presidential candidate, she said "We awaited initiative from the ruling party, but there was no such initiative till 12-15 pm yesterday."

The ruling BNP's attitude, she said, prompted her to request former Chief Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury to be a candidate of national consensus for the office of President, and "he accepted my request."

Justice Chowdhury was present at the press briefing. Describing the former Chief

Justice as "non-partisan, aeeeptable and respectable national personality", Hasina said he was nominated as presidential candidate in the spirit of the historic 19th November declaration of three alliances." Justice Chowdhury, she

said, might face a "numerical

defeat" in the election, but he

has taken a very bold stand

considering the interest of the people and the nation. "In the interest of democratic process, we always tried

to forge consensus on national issues. The 11th and the 12th amendments to Constitution were the reflection of national consensus, she said, adding "we could also have chosen a consensus candidate for the presidency."

#### He said there was no constitutional provision for a nonpartisan president nor did the party that has nominated Justice Chowdhury propose the insertion of any such pro-

vision in the Constitution. Thus

by nominating a partyman BNP

has not committed such an

illegal act' that Justice

Chowdhury had to protest by

had many other people in the

petent to become president,

but it did not nominate them

because the party wanted to

strengthen parliamentary

BNP believed there were

many more people outside

Parliament who were compe-

tent to become president. But

since it could nominate only

one candidate it had no option

the anger of Justice

Chowdhury would go as soon as

he would understand this and

realise that a certain quarter

was using his image as the

Salam Talukdar said that

but to forget about the others.

Juliya Sangsad who were com-

Salam Talukdar said BNP

making himself a candidate.

a party and the idea he floated

had already not made him

(Justice Chowdhury) contro-

versial, would the post of pres-

ident not become controversial

if Justice Chowdhury were