Electioneering gaining momentum in Sylhet

From Iqbal Siddique

SYLHET, May 8: Election eering has started gaining momentum in this region after the Eid vacation with more and more people talking about the June 12 parliament elec-

Though the major political parties, except Jamaat, are yet to announce their nominations, people in general have begun speculating on the prospects of likely candidates of different parties as well as of individuals who may join the

Though not yet announced. Humayun Rashid Chowdhury is a probable AL candidate from Sylhet-1 (Comprising Sylhet Sadar and Companyganj thanas). He joined AL last year. Khondaker Abdul Malik, a BNP central leader, who was elected in 1979 and 1991 may not be in the race this time, if is learnt. Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman or exchairman of Sylhet Pourasabha AFM Kamal may be nominated by BNP to face Humayun

Babrul Hossain Babui. former upazila chairman, has reportedly confirmed his ticket from Jatiya Party. Babul is, however, facing resistance from his party fellows, on the ground of his 'absence' during the recent movement.

In Sylhet-2 (Baiagan) and Biswanath thanas), district BNP President M A Hag is an aspirant for party nomination. Ilyas Alt, former JCD leader. was elected in the February 15 elections, it may be recalled. Shah Azizur Rahman, exupazila chairman of Balagani District AL Secretary ANM Shafique and Luthfur Rahman are lobbying for AL nomination, sources said. JP may nominate ex-MP Moksud Ibne Aziz Lama

in this seat. According to speculations, in Sylhet-3 (South Surma and Fenchuganj), ex-JP MP Abdul Mukit Khan may contest against Awami League and BNP candidates. Mahmudus Samad Chowdhury or Dewan Farid Gazi, ex-state minister, may

get AL ticket for this seat Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury, a industrialist and director. Pubali Bank Ltd. is reportedly getting BNP ticket. He was defeated by JP candidate in 1991 but was

elected to the 6th parliament. In Sylhet-4 (Jaintapur and Gowainghat thanas) Imran Ahmed, who was elected several times, is reportedly getisations. ting AL ticket. Dildar Hossain Selim, Secretary, district sports association, is also an other nomination seeker from

the party. Former finance minister Saifur Rahman may be the BNP nominee from the seat. JP's Abdul Hannan may be in the race there.

In Sylhet-5 (Kanaighat and Jakiganj thanas), Moulana Obaidul Haque, lone MP from Islanii Oikkya Jote in the 5th parliament, may face trouble from two other candidates from two major parties this time. it is learnt BNP may nominate Abdul Kaher Chowd hury, who was elected in the February 15 elections and Awami League may in nominate Hafij Ahmed Majumder, industrialist and Director, Pubali Bank or Mashuk Uddin Ahmed, local people speculate.

Jatiya Party may nominate Rezaul Haque, son of ex-minister MA Haque. MA Matin Chowdhury is also an aspirant for JP ticket. Khelafat Mailish and Jamiat c Olama-e-Islam may also put up candidates against Moulana Obaidul Haque, sources say,

In Sylhet-6 (Golapgan) and Beanibazar). Nurul Islam Nahid, who was defeated by Sharfuddin Khashru of JP in may get AL ticket Khoshru joined BNP last year and was elected to the 6th Parliament. But this time, Sved Mokbul Hossain, who joined BNP last year and was elected as an independent candidate in 1986, is also vying for BNP ticket. Ex-upazila chairman Mujammil Ali or Alhaj Kunu Miah may get JP ticket, it is

GDP growth static

to go for successful supply

management along with demand management so that consumer price indices do not increase. Exports during fiscal 1994

95 increased by 37.1 per cent compared to 6.3 per cent in the previous year and stood at 3473 million dollars. But this was offset by a huge import of food grains. Imports grew by 39.2 per

cent in the year and stood at 5834 million dellars. Growth of imports was 2.9 per cent in the previous year

The report said that domestic investment in the industrial sector increased significantly during 1994-95. Term loans for industries by the banking system posted a 57.8 per cent growth to Tk 3490.67 crore. Disbursement of term loans for industries also increased by 59.5 per cent to Tk 2214.03 crore.

The Bangladesh Bank re port said this huge micrease in investment had either helped setting up or rehabilitation of 15667 industrial units that would generate employment for 114163 workers.

Trade deficit in 1994-95 increased significantly to 2361 million US dollars from the previous year's 704 million US dollars.

But the share of retention of foreign currency by the exporters increased to 25 per

From Page 1

humanist Rabindranath de-

voted himself with all his spirit

and entity against conflict in

man to man, malice in society

to society, and jealousy in na-

to establish peace in our coun-

try so that every people can

flourish with dignity," he said,

paying rich tribute to the liter-

ary giant who was awarded the

highly prestigious Nobel Prize

Habibur Rahman said:

"We've to carry out unitedly our

efforts to uproot terrorism

keeping in mind the ideals of

Rabindranath." As the first step

for establishing peace, defence

has to be built up in the minds

of people, he said, adding

"dispersion of education is

needed to build up the fortress

He mentioned that throughout his life. Rabindranath

reiterated that "mother tongue

is the breastmilk for educa-

tion." The great poet cited

Japan to show that the inter-

mediary role of non-mother

tongue in higher education

would bring nothing good for

Poet Sufia Kamal, in her ad-

dress, called Rabindranath an

extra-ordinary organiser, say-

ing that the great poet had en-

deavoured all his life to im-

prove the educational, cultural

and economic condition of the

us, Rahman said.

"It is the utmost necessity

tion to nation.

of peace."

The Chief Adviser said that

cent during the year from the previous years' ten per cent. The report noted with op-

timism that if the supply man agement of food grains could be strengthened by increased food production and import activities and if this could be matched by a pragmatic demand management, the country would achieve a desired growth rate by curbing inflationary pressure.

It pointed out that bank rate has been raised thrice to 6.5 per cent and 91 day bills have been introduced to arrest monetary expansion and Taka has also been devalued twice to make exports competitive.

Gunfight kills one in Maheshkhali

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, May 8: One person was shot dead and 16

others were injured during a tierce gunfight between two groups at Mudir Chara under Maheskhali Thana tonight. The clash started over the

distribution of goods of trawler that was stranded in char last night. At least 150 shots were fired during the clash killing the driver of the trawler and injuring 16 others locals who returned here said The identity of the de

ceased could not be ascer

As a social reformer, Ra-

bindranath has no parallel, the

elderly poet said adding that

the great poet had also taken

initiatives to make the youth

force aware about social injus-

Publication of

textbooks in

open market

allowed

The government has de-

cided to allow the publication

of textbooks in open market to

solve the problem of availability

of textbooks for Class Six and

Class Nine in view of the

breach of promise by Bangla-

desh Book Publishers and

Sellers Association, reports

handout, the Education Min-

istry had taken in hand the

work of revision and improve-

ment of textbooks from Class

Six to twelfth class in 1994.

Though the Bangladesh Book

Publishers and Sellers Associa-

on main subjects from the

month of November last year

to February this year and posi-

tives of some books in March it

Persons or agencies inter-

failed to market the relevant

ested in printing and publish-

ing books have been requested

to contact the National Cur-

riculum and Textbook Board.

books on time, it said.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on

behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motifheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City

Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News &

Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A,

Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No:

88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

According to an official

Tagore's birthday

Khaleda visits Sylhet today, Hasina from May 14

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, May 8: BNP chair-person Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to reach Sylhet by the first flight of Biman at 11:10 tomorrow. She will offer fateha at the shrine of the great saint Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) and talk to the local leaders of BNP and its front organ-

However, she will not address any public meeting on the day and return to the capital by the second flight of Biman at 2:10.

Meanwhile, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will begin a three-day visit to the greater Sylhet region on May 14. She will visit the shrine of the saint Hajrat Shahjalai (RA) and address the first election meeting in Sylhet on the day.

She will address a public meeting at Sunamganj the next day and two other meetings at Habiganj and Moulvibazar on

Cyclone weakens

The cyclone over north Bay moved east northeastwards and crossed Chittagong-Teknaf coast near Cox's Bazar at 9 am yesterday and weakened into a land depression over Cox's Bazar and Chittagong regions, reports UNB.

A Met office special bulletin said that the cyclone was likely to move further inland and weaken gradually.

Under its influence, coastal districts of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Feni and their offshore islands and chars are likely to experience gusty or squally wind at the speed of 45-60 kilometres per hour with rain or thundershowers wherein river ports shall hoist cautionary signal number one

Maritime port of Cox s Bazar has been advised to lower danger signal number seven and to hoist local cautionary signal number three.

Maritime port of Chittagong has been asked to lower dan ger signal number five and to hoist local cautionary signal number three. Maritime port of Mongla has been advised to ower signal.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay have been advised to remain in shelter till evening yesterday and afterwards may proceed with caution.

Divisional EC office yet to be set up at Sylhet

By Staff Correspondent Divisional Election Commis

sion office is yet to be set up in Sylhet and the Election Commission (EC) is still to take any initiative in this regard. EC of ficials said.

At present the Chittagong divisional EC office is also covering Sylhet region, they said adding that the five other divisions have Election Commis sion offices.

When the matter was brought to the notice of the EC officials, one of them pointed out that offices of many other departments were also not set up in Sylhet because it is a new division

The Election Commission Office, at the divisional level, works as the head office of the districts under its jurisdiction. sources said.

"The EC has never re quested the government to set up such an office in Sylhet although Sylhet became division more than a year ago with five districts under it," an EC official said.

DU Senate rules allow formation of probe body, says DUTA secy

By DU Correspondent

A committee to probe the allegations of corruption against the Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University and his administration could be formed as per provisions of the DU Senate Regulations, Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, a Blue panel senator and general secretary of the DUTA, claimed here yesterday.

Prof Émajuddin Ahmed, the Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of the senate, at a requisition meeting of the DU Senate on Tuesday rejected a proposal for setting up of such a committee saying it could not be formed without any specific allegation.

The special session was adjourned till May 28 following a walkout by 39 senators amid a pandemonium protesting what they said reluctance of the VC to form the proposed commit-

Dr Siddique told The Daily Star that the Senate Regulations empowered the Senate to form any committee without any specific allega-

He referred to articles 57 and 58 of the regulations in this connection. Article 57 reads: "A motion for appointing of a committee on a subject under debate or for the resolution of the meeting into a committee may be made by the member at any time, and without the notice required by regulation 9."

Article 58 said, "A motion for the appointment of a committee must define the purpose for which the committee is to serve and the number of the members to compose it."

Launching of UNAIDS in Bangladest

UNDP resident representative Eimi Watanabe launching the UNAIDS programme in Bangladesh at a press conference at the Jatiya Press club yesterday. - Star photo

sive outbreak, particularly lack

of awareness or knowledge

about transmission and pre-

vention of HIV/AIDS, the high

rate of Sexually Transmitted

Diseases (STDs), cross-border

prostitution and neighbouring

countries with a high preva-

lence of the disease, experts

speaking in explicit terms

about sex, and also for young

people to admit to being sexu-

son for the National AIDS

The NAC, established in

1985, and over 72 NGOs al

ready working in the area of

STDs/HIV/AIDS, will collabo

rate with UNAIDS in an effort

to coordinate national policy

organise advocacy activities

and address key issues includ-

ing education and information

about the disease, safe blood

transfusions, cultural attitudes,

ever joint venture of six organ-

isations of the UN system.

Though UNAIDS is a non-fund-

ing agency, its global pro

gramme aims to aid govern-

ment departments, NGOs and

communities to respond to the

One killed, 7 hurt

From Page 1

Nag, was on his way to his

residence at Shakhari Bazar

area. famous for hand-made

Narayan, who sustained fatal

bullet injuries in his belly, was

immediately taken to Mitford

Hospital and later shifted to

PG Hospital where the doctors

the police patrol team of

Sutrapur police picked up two

alleged muggers. The police

team came under attack when

it reached the Shakhari Bazar

demanded release of the per-

team started chasing the al-

leged muggers from Victoria

Park near Jagannath Uni-

clash, the gang snatched a

shotgun and a walkie-talkie set

from police on duty, police

said adding that they recov-

ered the snatched police

equipment early morning and

arrested one Monish Sarker in

were SI Golam Maola, consta-

ble Abdul Hai, Quyum, Shamsu,

Amir Hossain, police said.

Abdur Rashid, Shawkat Ali and

of Narayan was sent to the

Dhaka Medical College

case was lodged in connection

Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

with the death till last night.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society organised a rally in the city yesterday on the occasion

of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.

Meanwhile, the dead body

Sutrapur police said that no

The injured policemen

this connection.

area as a section of the locals

Police said that the patrol

At one stage during the

The trouble began following

declared him dead.

Narayan, son of late P Nath

The witnesses said that

about 12 am. witnesses said

epidemic.

bangles.

sons held.

versity.

UNAIDS marks the first

and promotion of safe sex.

ally active," said a spokesper

Committee (NAC)

"There is difficulty in

UNAIDS launched in Bangladesh

By Staff Correspondent

AIDS (Acquired Immunode ficiency Syndromel is a worldwide emergency, which is now threatening Bangladest said Eimi Watanabe, UNDP representative, at the launch ing of UNAIDS in Bangladesh vesterday

UNAIDS is a worldwide joint programme of UNDP UNESCO, UNFPA. UNICEF WIIC and World Bank, which became officially operational on January 1, 1996, to combat the HIV/AIDS through global cooperation Speaking at the National

Press Club, Ms Watanabe, who is also UN resident coordinator, stressed the need for im mediate action, as over 6000 people are becoming infected by HIV every day worldwide. In Asia alone, the number of

AIDS cases increased more than eight-fold (from 30,000 to 250,000) during 1994-95. and the number of people with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS, could reach over 10 mil lion in Asia by the end of the decade, according to WHO. As there is no cure or vac-

cination for HIV/AIDS to date, the only form of projection was awareness and modification of risky behaviour, said Ms Watanabe. "Accurate information can save lives. There must be clear communication about the disease.

HIV was first reported in Bangladesh in 1989. Though limited statistics show that prevalence is relatively low at

JP Office Case Trial of Ershad, others resumes

The trial of deposed President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and two others in a corruption case relating to alleged misuse of government money for party purposes resumed yesterday after a lapse of several months, reports BSS.

The Special Judge's Court which is holding the trial of Ershad and his alleged accomplices ordered in September for recalling three witnesses, including two from delence, to ascertain facts in the matter of the case. Former Minister Mostafa Jamal Haider and former works secretary MA Rouf are co-accused with Ershad in the Special Case No. 50 of 1993, better known as the Jatiya Party Office Case.

Because of some technical problems and objections raised by defence counsels, the deposition of recalled witnesses. particularly from prosecution. could not take place in the last few months.

Mohammad Isa Haq, prosecution witness (PW) number 3 one of the three witnesses recalled for further testifying. deposed yesterday in the court of First Sessions and Special Judge Akhlakur Rahman Chowdhury.

in city present, the country has nearly all the conditions for an explo-

city yesterday Aminul Islam Babul, 19, a

Babul, son of late Abdur Razzak of Khilgaon area, was kidnapped by the gang on Biswa road at about 10 am. family sources said. The armed gang took Babul

in his belly. They also stabbed him in his head

(DMCH) where he breathed his last at 1.30 pm. The killing was reportedly

Flash floods in greater Barisal

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL. May 8: Lowlying areas in the southern region of Barisal division continue to be inundated by flood waters.

land with standing Irri crops have already been submerged in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola Barguna, Jhalakathi and Peroipur districts.

Kirtonkhola river near the Barisal town area have also been inundated. In Bhola, flashflood has en

gulfed a huge tract of cropland in Chechra union under Tajumuddin thana.

NAP (Muzaffar) 21-pt polls manifesto

press conference in a hotel here Prof Ahmed said if voted to power his party would salvage democracy and shun those political activities which obstruct industrial production and export trade. Prof Muzaffar said his party

would strengthen the local government institutions through decentralisation, stop terrorism, recover illegal arms, strengthen social security and create congenial atmosphere on the campus. The manifesto also includes

introduction of firing squad to stop corruption, ensuring free primary education at the earliest, reduction of gap between rich and poor, and introduction of unemployment al

College student murdered

A college student was murdered at Shahjahanpur in the

Medical College Hospital

the result of previous enmity.

Several thousand acres of

Low lying areas of Palashpur and other charland along the

Chairman of Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP-Muzaffar) Professor Muzaffar Ahmed yesterday announced a 21-point election manifesto pledging the voters restoration of the 1972 Constitution. Releasing the manifesto at a

- Star photo

BY DMCH Correspondent

first year HSC student of Khilgaon Model College, was shot dead by a gang of about five terrorists near Shahjahanpur Railway colony at about 11am. police and medical sources

to a club near the colony, tied him with a palm tree and fired He was rushed to the Dhaka

terviewed.

night.

dates at a meeting this after-

From Page 1 together have 78-seats.

dhury, the JP acting chairman talking to a group of journalists at the Banani office yesterday evening complained that they did not yet receive permission from the Home Ministry to meet their jailed leader H M Ershad. He also informed the

newsmen that the Chief Advisor had not replied to their request for a meeting with Ershad. The JP will announce its

manifesto at a press conference at its Banani office today. The party is also scheduled to announce its list of nominees for all the 300 parliamentary constituencies of the JS tomorrow.

Foreign observers

the members of the European Union, according to sources concerned

The Commonwealth Secretariat is learnt to have requested member countries to send a possible list of election monitors for the June 12 elections.

A delegation of three am bassadors of the European Union during a recent courtesy call on Chief Adviser Habibur the polls.

server. Poll monitors from the UK are also expected to come. However, the largest number of poll monitors is ex pected to come from Europe

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Election Commission are coordinating matters relating to the foreign observers.

The Midnight Eile

18 killed in Delhi fire

NEW DELHI, May 8: A major fire in a market in the Indian capital killed at least 18 people and injured one person, police said. The fire started in a faulty electric transformer and quickly spread to two adjacent shops that stock and sell engine oil, eyewitnesses and police said, reports AP.

7 killed, 34 hurt in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

Seven people, including a The injured were admitted minor girl were killed and 34 to the hospital. Police seized others injured in separate road the bus, but the driver fled the accident in Rangpur, Siraigani and C'Nawabganj yesterday. Our Correspondent from

including a woman, were killed and 20 injured when a bus fell into a ditch on the Rangpur-Bogra highway yes-Police and witnesses said the Madarganj-bound bus from

UNB reports: Four people

Rangpur skidded off the road fell into the ditch at about noon at Islampur in Mithapukur thana. about 20 kilometres from here. Passengers said the bus met

with the accident while trying to make way for a rickshaw-

Two of the dead were identified as Abul Mia. 65, and Mofazzal Hossain, 55. The other two, including a middle aged woman, were not identified immediately The injured were admitted

to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Condition of three of them was said to be critical. The driver of the bus managed to escape. A case was

filed with Mithapukur thana A Sirajganj report adds Two people were killed and 13 others critically injured when a bus plunged into a road side ditch at Subarnapara in Belkuchi thana yesterday.

Police said Hossain Ali helper of the bus, died on the spot while passenger Sakhawat Hossain, 22, succumbed to his injuries at Sirajgani General Hospital.

Candidates' list From Page 1

at 8.30 pm today provided it was finalised by that time. Otherwise, he added, the list would be announced tomorrow

morning. BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia chaired yesterday's meet ing of the standing committee. She would fly to Sylhet this morning for visiting the mazar of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) and return to the capital in the afternoon

Awami League chief Sheikh lasina will announce the list of 300 party nominees at the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city at 10 am tomorrow (Friday), AL Joint Secretary Abdul Jalil said last

Hasina would make the announcement before leaving the city for Tungipara, Gopalgani, to offer fateha at the grave of her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Meanwhile, the 11-member AL Parliamentary Board (ALPB) met for the third consecutive day yesterday at an undisclosed place in the city to select the 300 candidates from among 1485 aspirants who were in-

According to party sources, selection of candidates from all the constituencies, except a few 'strategic ones', was finalised at the ALPB meeting that continued till 00:30 last

A senior AL leader told The Daily Star that the ALPB might finalise the list of its candi-

JP interview

Mizanur Rahman Chow-

From Page 1

Rahman proposed to send a group of observers to monitor It was also learnt that the Australian government would send at least one official ob-

and the Commonwealth coun tries at the non-government level.

C'nawabganj writes: A minor girl was killed and a boy was seriously injured in a road accident at Moharajpur. 3 kilometres from Nawabganj town

today at around 9 am. Ruby. 7, and her brother Mamun, 10, were going to their grand mother's house from Kalinagar by a bicycle. At that time a Shibganj-bound truck hit them. Ruby died on the spot and Mamun was rushed to the Nawabgani Sadar Hospital and later transferred

to the Rajshahi Medical

College Hospital in a critical

DU admission tests begin today

honours courses of the session 1995-96 begins today, university sources said, reports BSS. This year, a total of 58,966 students will compete for 3752 seats under four units, of

the university, the sources

Test of 'Ga' Unit will be held at 10 am today 'Gha' Unit tomorrow. 'Kha' Unit on May 17 and 'Ka' Unit on May 24. Faculty sources said 20546 students will fight for 1010 seats in 'Ka' Unit, 13768 for about 1600 under 'Kha' Unit.

Khaleda

9980 for 580 under 'Ga' unit

and 14672 for 600 seats under

Gha Unit.

From Page 1 along with several hundred workers and supporters joined the BNP expressing their confidence in the leadership of Begum Zia

JP Trishal thana president Abdur Rashid and secretary Abdur Razzak also joined the BNP yesterday, party sources Begum Zia asked the peo-

ple, particularly the new-comers to her party to realise the evil designs of those who played with the lives of crores of people by waging a non-cooperation movement." She referred to the shut-

down of the Chittagong port. setting of fire to vehicles on the roads, destruction of the garment industry as a result of the noncooperation movement. The BNP chairperson told the crowd to find out reasons

of anarchy. She criticised the Awami League's election manifesto that called for repeal of the Vested Property Act.

that worked behind those "acts

Welcoming the new-comers, the BNP chairperson called upon all nationalist forces to rally round the banner of the BNP.

Money power

From Page 1 leaders of the party, but the BNP would spend a lot of money with a view to getting at least a simple majority in the Jatiya Sangsad," an AL leader

We cannot just sit idle under such circumstances." A top JP leader said: "During the interviews of the

nomination seekers, the ques-

tion relating to the aspirants'

ability to meet the election ex-

penses in the highly competitive poll race would be vital." About the progress in selecting the party candidates, a BNP leader said: "Most of the 300 candidates nominated by the party for the February 15 elections are likely to be nominated again for the coming polls." Changes might take

place in some 50 seats, he

The AL had done adequate 'home work' on selecting party candidates, said one of its leaders. "We are not in a position to be amateurish this time, especially when the coming polls is very crucial for As an electioneering party,

the JP is always prepared with a list of possible nominees. said one of its elections strategist adding: "A few changes may be made for some constituencies from the already prepared list."

Electoral offence From Page 1

ballot paper in one more centres in the same election.

F. Removes bailot papers

from vote centres during the

polling, or G. Provokes or hires anyone to do above acts. For committing any of the aforesaid offences one will be punished with seven years

imprisonment at the maximum with fine or the lowest two years rigorous imprisonment. Police can arrest the guilty for committing above-mentioned offences without warrant as those are cognizable.

non bailable and non-negotiable and the offences can be tried in session courts.

Admission tests of Dhaka University for the first year