## DOWN TO EARTH

## Parking Problem In City

By AS M Nurunnabi

An offshoot of the acute traffic jam in Dhaka city is indiscriminate parking of cars. trucks and buses in comparatively busy road crossings. commercial areas and shopping arcades. In modern cities in developed countries, they plan for parking lots for the busy areas like the commercial zones, shopping areades and the like. In places where there are high-rise, multi-storied buildings, specific facilities for parking are provided. In many cases, they have underground parking lots and even multistoried ones above ground

Such kind of indiscriminate parking as seen in Dhaka city not only impedes the movement of comparatively slowmoving traffic but also creates problems for pedestrians. If we look at the principal commercial centre at Motifheel, we will find the magnitude of tribulations caused by such free-style parking. Existence of kutcha bazars all over the area and indiscriminate parking of staff buses here and there are causing deterioration of proper environment of this important commercial centre, and this is a cause for concern. Because creation of proper image of this place is a matter of significance particularly for foreign investors diplomats and businessmen. This is, therefore, a

sensitive issue. Almost all the footpaths in the Motifheel area remain under the occupation of hawkers and vendors. Lately during a fortnight-long programme, the traffic control authorities have reportedly cleared some of the wayside pavements from such illegal occupation. Apart from this, traffic authorities have claimed to have succeeded in creating some measure of awareness during the past few days among the users of the roads in matters of abiding by the traffic rules. From past experience, it is, however, felt that this does not hold the magic to solve the traffic problems. Things may return to their chaotic position once again and soon enough, as remarked by some observers. And this chaos, in all probabil-

Violation of COC

EC receives 8

more complaints

from six district inquiry

committees against eight

more candidates for violating

the election Code of Conduct

dul Jalil (Naogaon-5) and SM Akbar (Magura-1) of the Awami

League Dewan Nurunnabi

(Nilphamari-2) of the BNP, SMA Rab (Khulna-3) of the

Jativa party. Rashed Khan

Menon (Barisal-2) of Workers

Party, and independents Hasina Banu Shirin (Khulna-

3), MA Awal (Magura-1) and Manjurul Ahsan Munshi

candidates and Nilphamari

district BNP to refrain from vi-

olating the COC in the future.

runnabi of Nilphamari-2, and SMA Rab and Hasina Banu

Shirin of Khulna-3 to remove

their posters containing

"Objectionable remarks'

dates shall be punishable with

fine as per law, said a EC press

ceived a report from

Netrokona district inquiry

committee that ruled out

complaints against Mojibur

Rahman of Netrokona-1, filed

by Kalmakanda . Thana BNP

President Abu Sayeed Chowd-

not to lodge any false com-

Four beheaded for

bombing of Riyadh

military facility

Arabia said today it had be-

headed four nationals found

guilty of the bombing of a mili-

tary facility in Riyadh in

November in which five

Americans and two Indians

in a statement reported by the

official Saudi press agency

(SPA) that the four were exe-

cuted in the capital Riyadh

Aziz bin Fahd bin Nasser Al-

Muathim, Khaled bin Ahmad

bin Ibrahim Al-Said, Riyad bin

Suleiman bin Ishaq Al-Hajeri

and Mosleh bin Ali bin Aedh al-

SPA said they had been

found guilty of planting the car

bomb at the US-run Saudi na-

tional guard military training

centre on November 13. About

60 people were wounded in

Shamarani.

the blast.

It named the four as Abdul-

The Interior Ministry said

were killed, reports Reuter.

DUBAI, May 31: Saudi

plaint in the future.

It warned the complainant

Failing to do so. the candi-

The Commission also re-

within three days.

release vesterday.

It also directed Dewan Nu-

The commission asked the

The candidates are: M Ab-

(COC), reports UNB.

(Comilla-4)

The Election Commission yesterday received complaints

ity will remain until the next such drive by the police. In this context, one

hawker affected by the police drive in the area was bitter in his complaint, saying that we as hawkers are compelled to eke out a living by our occupation of the pavements, but the rich people occupy the roads by their haphazard parking of their cars. This is, indeed, one of the reasons for the stupendous traffic jams in the Motitheel Commercial Area. Except for the parking space in front of the Uttara Bank building. there is no parking space n the whole area. As a result, motor vehicles belonging to banks, insurance companies and other commercial concerns and also to visitors who come to their offices are parked in lines on both sides of the main roads. Sometimes these vehicles occupy substantial road space by parking in two or three lines. Similar scenes may be observed before Islam Chamber, Janata Bank, BCCI. Rahman Chamber. Dhaka Stock Exchange and MCCI buildings. In the Dilkusha area and on the roads adjacent to Banga Bhaban, the offices located there have no parking space of their own In non-commercial areas

also, it seems there is a general lack of awareness of the need for parking space for the multi-storied structures coming up or already completed. Examples in this respect are the new Central hospital located at the eastern end of the Green Road and the Gonosastha hospital located on the Mirpur Road No. Dhanmondi RA — both under process of construction. Eastern Plaza on the Sonargaon Road has made some provision for underground parking arrangement, but it is felt that with further growth of traffic on this road which is inevitable for a shopping complex of that big size, such un derground parking arrangement may prove limited in fu-

It is felt that in the interest of easing traffic congestion, there is need for a change in outlook in the matter of provi-

sion of parking space. For this purpose, the question of using ground floors, where possible, may be considered. Such vacant spaces as are still available in the Motifheel Commercial Area may be considered for construction of multi-storied parking facility. Another suggestion is that the parking space available in front of the Ittara Bank and beside the Shilpa Bank may be turned into a multi-storied parking fa cility which may be made use of on commercial basis. With these possible projects, both the Dhaka City Corporation and the private sector may be associated

Steps also need be taken in respect of the office buses which are parked haphazardly on the main roads, in the Motifheel CA after unloading their passengers. The conspicuous sites for such disor derly parking are Janata Bank crossing, Biman office, Dilkusha and the roads adjacent to Banga Bhaban. Such staff buses which stay on at these places throughout the office hours are the cause of serious traffic jams. It is felt that such state of affairs should not be allowed to continue. The offices concerned should take urgent remedial measures in this regard. It is suggested that on completing their trips both ways, such staff buses may be parked outside the Motifheel Commercial Area near the road in front of the Notre Dame College or some suitable roads near the Kamlapur Railway station.

It is further suggested that a small parking charge may be realised through a suitable agency for entry and stay in the commercial area during office hours. It may be noted that in many cities in western countries, parking charge is realised for use of parking

lots owned by private party. The bottom line is that the traffic situation in the Motijheel Commercial Area has assumed such ominous character that it behoves the authorities concerned to take urgent remedial steps to relieve it as far as feasible in the present circumstances.

### FEMA to engage 30,000 election observers

Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) will engage some 30,000 observers across the country to monitor the June 12 parliamentary election and make a report shortly after the polls, reports UNB.

FEMA chairperson Fakhruddin Ahmad told newsmen at the National Press Club yesterday that training for the polls observers were going on in different stages and the entire process would be completed by June 7.

that the June 12 election is held without any irregularities, and be free, fair and acceptable to all in the present political context of the country," said Ahmad, a former foreign sec-

tion of 170 organisations willing to monitor elections, has taken up elaborate programme to assist in holding the coming general elections in a free, fair and impartial manner.

#### Arms factory found in Maheshkhali

lice unearthed an arms factory in a cave of the Hoanok hills in the deep forest of Maheshkhali island in the district today, re-

Acting on a tip. Maheshkhali thana police encircled the hill early in the morning. but the illegal arms manufacturers, numbering 4-5. managed to slip out of the police dragnet.

gle-barrel gun, four sawed-off riffles, 10 butts of guns, 10 barrels, lathe machine and saw from the spot. They suspected that the tools were used for making firearms.

facturers might be members of a well-organised team who shift their factory when chased by the law enforcers. Last week, another arms factory was unearthed by Maheshkhali

With this, police recovered 25 illegal arms from different parts of the district and arrested 98 wanted people during the 24 hours till 6 pm to-

awareness among the electorates about the importance of vote and the responsibilities

Citizens are also encouraged to monitor the polls to check fraud, irregularities and rigging, and create a safe environment conducive to free and fair elections, he said

We want the voters to take part in the process to elect a democratic and representative government by freely exercising their right to franchise."

further disclosed that they have already received permission from the Election Commission to monitor the election, but are yet to get a clearance to monitor the counting process

FEMA secretary general Firoze Hasan said the total budget for the task is Tk 70 million. A large portion of the money is coming from Britain's Overseas Development Administration, Canadian International Development Agency Ford Foundation, SIDA, USAID and the governments of Denmark and the Netherlands.

### Myanmar junta frees 54 NLD

official radio said today the military government had released those people taken into detention last week for questioning, reports Reuter

The authorities concerned have sent back those who were temporarily called in for questioning to their respective residences" said radio Yangon. without elaborating further

Democracy (NLD) Party official at the house of dissident leader Aung San Suu Kyi said he had heard that 54 people had been released so far.

about 54 so far, but we are expecting more," the NLD official told Reuters. He said the released activists were expected to gather at Suu Kyi's house later today. Last week the military gov

ernment detained about 261 pro-democracy politicians and

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#### Steel's remarks unwanted: BNP

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has strongly protested British MP David Steel's statement expressing skepticism about holding of free and fair elections in Bangladesh on June 12, reports UNB

A spokesman for the party yesterday described Steel's remarks as "unwanted and an interference in the internal affairs of Bangladesh."

Anwar Zahid, a member of BNP's national election coordination committee, urged the government not to allow any foreigner to make any statement interfering into internal affairs of the country and tarnishing the national image.

David Steel, who lead threemember delegation of Swedenbased International Institute of Democracy Election Assistance (IDEA), left Dhaka Thursday ending week-long mission in Bangladesh.

He said at a press briefing before departure that they were still skeptical of a fully free and fair election on June 12 in view of the "past record of lack of democratic practice and culture as well as election irregularities.

Talking to newsmen at the BNP's Kakrail office vesterday evening, Anwar Zahid said, "No foreigner has the right to make such comment on Bangladesh.

'It was the 200-year British colonial rule which demol ished our societies, exploited us mercilessly and hanged hundreds of patriotic sepoys in the name of queiling insurgency . . . It was British imperialism which perpetrated massacres at Jalianwalabag overlooking minimum norms

David Steel's country where to speakers were short dead.

Steel's statement, the BNP spokesman apprehended that his observation might destabilise the situation in Bangla-

## The Midnight Rile

#### 50 killed in Siberian rail accident

MOSCOW, May 31: At least 50 people were killed in a rail accident in western Siberia today, according to a provisional toll by local government officials, reports AFP.

## City AL Leader

From Page 1

close to his family said. They added that earlier on Thursday might Shahabuddin received at least three phone calls reportedly from some local youths willing to join AL. The youths had sought an appointment with him so that the joining ceremony could be arranged yesterday, the local

As Shahabuddin came out of his residence he found a young man who invited him to meet his other associates waiting round the corner of the narrow lane, about 30 yards away, willing to join AL. locals and family sources said

When Shahabuddin came to the corner of the lane, an auto rickshaw with three passengers arrived on the spot. They gave him a big bouquet of flowers, according to a female wit-

The youngmen shook hands with Shahabuddin then all I could here was gunshots," the witness added

Fatally injured Shahabuddin dragged himself into the nearby house and cried for help the witnesses said The autorickshaw sped off towards Shyamoli. Some others of the locality said that two youngmen in a motor bike also followed the auto rickshaw.

Hundreds of leaders and activists of the AL and its front organisations rushed to the DMCH and Shahabuddin's residence as the news of the killing spread in the city. Several protest processions were brought out in different

parts of the city demanding arrests and punishment of the

killers. Meanwhile, Mohammadpur thana police last night said they arrested three youths in this connection. "We are interrogating the three persons. aged between 25 and 27 who were arrested from a slum in Agargaon area," said an officer

at the Mohammadpur thana. Meanwhile Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday condemned the killing of A S M Shahabuddin and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those responsible for

the incident. In a statement she also es pressed her sympathy with the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul, said an AL press release.

The AL president said such incident of killing proved that a free and fair election was not possible without recovery of unauthorised arms and arrest of terrorists.

She demanded of the caretaker government to create a congenial environment for holding of a peaceful elections by immediate recovery of arms and arrest of the terrorists. City AL president

Mohammad Hanif and acting general secretary Akhtarul Alam in a joint statement yesterday also condemned the killing of Shahabuddin and demanded immediate arrest of the persons responsible.

Gano Forum president Dr Kamal Hossain, convenor of Samriddha Bangladesh Andolon Salman F Rahman, Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote in separate statements also condemned the killing.

#### Polls observers

From Page 1

arrive in Dhaka on June 8. The European Union would send a 35-member polls observer team and it would arrive

on June 9, sources said. A Japanese team of observers led by Shin Sakurai. MP and Vice President of Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary League, is due to come on

A two-member Filipino

team is also due shortly. The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, based in Sweden. would send a monitoring team. headed by Sir Sonny Ramphal

sources concerned said. Besides, a four-member team from Denmark may ob-

serve the polls. The Election Commission is taking steps to provide ID cards to the foreign observers while the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs will provide protocol services, the sources pointed

#### DSE trading

From Page 1

election if political stability Some market operators.

the coming election. They argued that as all the major political parties are committed to a free market economic policy, the investors should not fear the results of the election.

"We believe that the capital market would remain undisturbed in future no matter which party forms the next government," said MA Huq Hawlader, former honorary secretary and now a councillor

of the DSE. He said the prices of the shares have fallen because some foreign investors are selling out their stock shares. If they continue selling stock

The volume leader of the week were: Apex Weaving

### Hockey

ughly one-sided affair. Rafiq raised his tally in the tournament to seven with another goal a minute before the long whistle.

group engagements against Malaysia and Japan on June 3 The Bangladeshi line up in

yesterday's match: Shamim, Mamun, Nixon, Rabi, Haider, Khurshid, Ehtesham, Alamgir, Kamal and Musa.

### Narayanganj yesterday. Khaleda: Don't fall

From Page 1

She said that in the name of non-cooperation, they had forced closure on the Chittagong port which was allowed to function even during the War of Liberation. "They did it to serve the interest of another country," she alleged.

Begum Zia told the electorates: "You have to determine on June 12 which direction the country will take - towards development and prosperity or towards terrorism, anarchy and destruction. Your single vote can save the country's independence and sovereignty.

The former prime minister said that her government was pursuing policies and taking steps to build the country as an economic tiger in line with Thailand, Malaysia and Korea with the resources and manpower given by the Almighty.

"But a deep conspiracy against the nation forced us to remain poor," she alleged, referring to hartals, blockades and strikes during the last two years that impeded the country's advancement.

Seeking people's support in the next polls, Begum Zia said vote overwhelmingly for the BNP, giving a verdict through ballot against "conspirators, terrorists, extortionists and the vested quarters out to destroy the Country." Mentioning her party's future programmes, she said

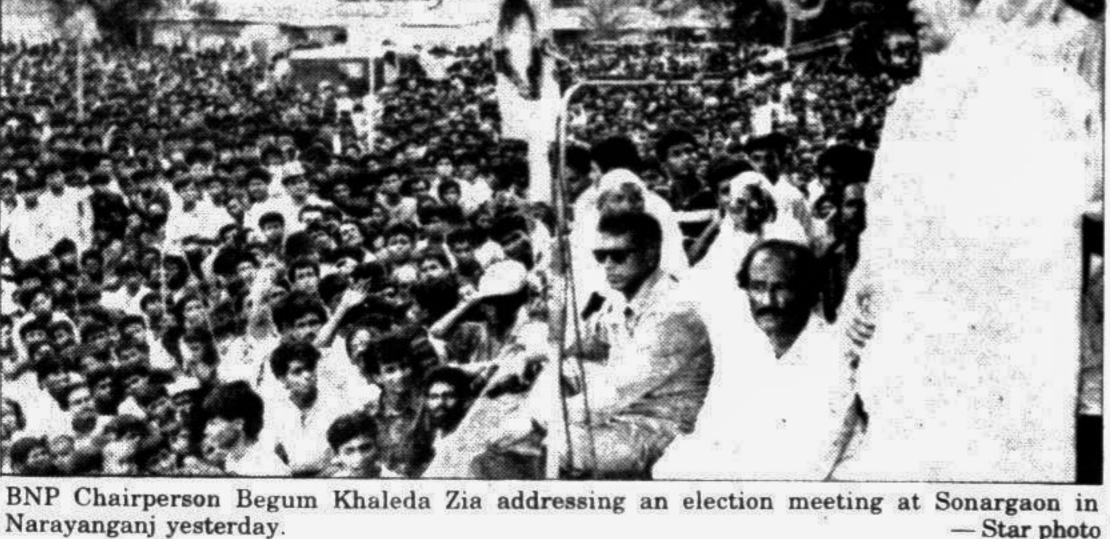
pension for elderly citizen and extend the free education and stipends for girl students up to the intermediate level. At the meetings, the BNP chairperson introduced party candidates Ataur Rahman Khan Angur (Narayanganj-2), Prof

that the BNP would introduce

Kakrail election camp that Saber during campaign, was giving importance to honest Rezaul Karim (Narayanganj-3), leadership to eradicate terro-Sirajul Islam Siraj (Narayanrism from Motijheel-Sabujbagh

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gani-4), Sadek Hossain Khoka

(Dhaka-7) and Salahuddhi

BNP central leaders Ehsanul

Kabir Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan.

Kamruzzaman Ratan and Ha-

Dhaka-6

daily, has already brought in

some new tactics in polls cam-

paign by employing advertising

firms and 'star' sportsmen to

Other prominent candi-

dates in the race in Dhaka-6

are Abdus Salam of Jatiya

Party, Ahmadullah Bhuiyan of

Jamaat-e-Islami and Saifuddin

some party workers, were on a

door-to-door campaign at

South Mugdapara area while

this correspondent met him

yesterday noon. Talking to this

correspondent the BNP

candidate said he did not

believe in making pledges.

"Those who make many

promises to voters just before

the elections do not do any

good to people but, bluff

led a number of processions at

Rampura, Malibagh Chow-

dhurypara and Khilgaon areas

during the morning hours

yesterday. A large number of

party workers with big-size

replica of AL election symbol

'boat' over their heads chanted

various slogans in the

this correspondent at their

Some workers of Saber told

A groeer at Mugdapara.

The candidates are facing

when asked for comment told

this correspondent that he

expected a tough fight be-

the common complaints of

water crisis and frequent po-

wer failure from the residents.

tween Abbas and Saber.

Saber Hussain Chowdhury

people," he said.

processions.

Mirza Abbas, alongwith

Ahmed Manik of Gano Forum.

From Page 1

drum up support for him.

bibur Rahman Habib also spoke

Besides local leaders, the

Ahmed (Dhaka-4).

at the meetings.

Simon Peres

From Page 1 elections. Sitting cross-legged on the mosque carpet, he appeared pale and downcast. His Cabinet was to meet this evening in a special ses-

the Israeli elections. Palestinian leaders have expressed concern that a Netanyahu victory would slow or paralyse negotiations over the final status of the West Bank.

sion to discuss the outcome of

Gaza Strip and Jerusalem. "Maybe the next government will hesitate and postpone," said Mustafa Natche. the Palestinian mayor of the West Bank town of Hebron. "Maybe there will be a continuous delay in all the fields. This will be dangerous for the

peace process. Throughout the campaign. Netanyahu said he would take a tougher line than Peres. He has said he would expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank, block the creation of a Palestinian state and not discuss the future of Jeru-

He said also said he would' not honour a commitment by Peres to pull troops out of most Hebron after the elec-

> **Tidbits** From Page 1

ties, mago ma ogo ma, dhaner shishe vote na dile bhalo lage na .... Bangladesher Dhaner Shisher Nei Ko Tulona (mother oh mother, I do not feel well if sheaf of paddy is not voted for, mother oh mother. Bangladesh's sheaf of paddy has no comparison.)

Supporters of one of the candidates were propagating his election pledge that he would give computers to youths, not arms. At Tongi Diversion Road

near Moghbazar crossing. some campaigners who were reportedly 'Jatiyatabadis' turned Awami Leaguers. They had initially set up a camp with posters of BNP

But later, local people noticed that it was an Awami League camp. Most of the campaigners were the same, but the posters had changed. they said.

#### Election dialogue From Page 1

High School ground in Gazipur yesterday.

voters before the polls, they

On the question of increasing military expenditure. Dr Kamal and Feroz Rashid stated that national security was of vital importance and could never be compromised. Speaking on the Special

Powers Act. Dr Kamal said that

he had refrained from voting

and offered to resign as a member of parliament when this Act was passed. Feroz Rashid said that in the last five years they had suffered from this Act by the "democratic government' which their government had

voided. But, Dr Kamal reminded the JP leader that this took place on the last day of Ershad regime and that they had used it generously in the nine years prior to that. The JP candidate defended the state religion introduced by the Jatiya Party government

while Dr Kamal said he had

filed a writ petition challeng-

ing the 8th amendment to the Constitution. Unless a consensus is built, it is best left as a pending case, Dr Kamal added. Feroz Rashid stated the three main points for his campaign — society free from terror and violence, equality of

women and a free market economy. Dr Kamal's three main points are: Rule of law, improvement in the quality of education and creation of an environment which will nurture the development of a free and democratic culture, and support the changes to ensure

#### Pakistan to buy 40 Mirage jets ISLAMABAD, May 31: Pak-

everyone's human rights.

istan has signed contract to buy 40 used Mirage jet fighters from France for around 120 million dollars, Pakistani and French sources said here Friday, reports AFP.

The 40 planes will be delivered over two years by a French electronics firm, Sagem,

## Hasina: Elect AL

From Page I establishing an exploitationfree society. Without stability economic development is not possible," she said.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing an election projection meeting at Rajbari

The former opposition leader in parliament said the Awami League will also set up new mills and factories for rapid economic growth. She said her party would encourage small and cottage industries to create job opportunities for women.

She told people that by voting for boat in 1970, people had achieved independence. "Now vote for the boat for economic self-reliance," the Awami League chief said. Hasina, who returned to the

capital early today after a 2-day marathon electioneering in greater Mymensingh and Narsingdi districts, resumed her hectic campaign by addressing a public meeting at the Tongi Mill Gate in the morning. She also addressed sched-

uled meetings at the Pubail

Adarsha College ground, Kaliganj Pilot School ground, Chupair High School ground, Chandpur, Kapasia Pilot High School and Rajbari Maidan in Gazipur town. Besides, she also addressed a number of wayside gatherings. Thousands of people from

traits of Bangabandhu and Hasina as well as the party's election symbol, boat. The AL chief noted with satisfaction that it was due to people's movement that the caretaker government had been installed to ensure their right to vote. But the BNP is once again trying to destroy

the next election by injecting

far and near assembled at the

meetings, carrying the por-

into it black money and terror-She also criticised BNP's failure to properly manage all sectors life during its 5-year tenure. "It was a government of inefficient and corrupt people. They plundered crores of taka

belonging to people. Replying to a criticism against her party, the AL chief said 5-year activities of the BNP will demonstrate who

## were lackeys of India. "They

made Bangladesh a market of India on the one hand and did nothing on the other for the northern region when it was subjected to desertification due to remorseless withdrawal of the Ganges flow above Farakka.

- Star photo

it was Khaleda Zia who forgot the question of sharing Ganges water when she signed the joint communique with India in May 1992. She was critical of the Article 11 of the communique

She noted with anguish that

those who had migrated to India from this country after 1947. During the meetings she introduced her party candidates: Ahsanullah Master (Gazipur-2), Akhtaruzzaman (Gazipur-3)

and Afsaruddin (Gazipur-4).

which empowered India to

pushback to Bangladesh all

#### Jamaat to establish rule of Allah if elected: Azam

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, May 31: Ameer of the Jamaat-e-Islami Prof Golam Azam has called upon the people to cast their votes in favour of Jamaat in the next elections to establish rule of Allah in the country.

He was addressing a big public meeting arranged by the Sylhet district Jamaat at the Registry Maidan of Sylhet town this afternoon.

Presided over by Master Abdul Latif, the meeting was also addressed by Dr. Shafigur Rahman, Barrister Abdur Razzaque, Professor Abdul Hannan, Azizur Rashid Chowdhury.

Terming the June 12 election as crucial he said, if either of the 3 major political parties is voted to power, the fate of people will remain unchanged. These parties had no quality except the politics of power. During the last 25 years, these parties failed to meet the basic needs of the common people, he said.

### prevails after the polls.

however, did not agree that the market was affected due to

shares the market would go down further, he added.

(63,450), Orion Infusion (55,360), Beximco Pharma (55,600), Chic Tex (31,500), Beximco Dying (35,880), BOC Bangladesh (24,410). Ashraf Textile (16,325). Chittagong Cement (13,644), Meghna Cement (9,850).

### From Page

ge in the pattern of a thoro-

The win has given a fillip to Bangladesh's hopes of finding a place among the last four. Bangladesh have two more

and 5 respectively.

#### coordinating cells at the district, thana and national levels. he added Ahmad informed that the alliance has also chalked out programmes for creating

and duties of the voters.

"It is an urgent necessity

He said that FEMA, a coali-

At least one observer will be posted in every polling centre, the FEMA chief said. Besides. there will be roving coordinating teams to monitor the functioning of the observers and

## COX'S BAZAR, May 31: Po-

ports UNB.

Police recovered one sin-

Police said the arms manu-

The FEMA chairperson

# activists

YANGON, May 31 Myanmar

A National League for

They have been released

Criticising some parts of

# of democracy," he said. Zahid maintained that it's