

**FEMA to monitor Faridpur-4 by election**

The Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) Faridpur District Committee as part of its regular activity will monitor the October 27 Faridpur-4 by election being boycotted by the major opposition political parties in scaled down manner through mobile teams only, says a press release.

FEMA Faridpur district committee has completed all preparation in this regard. Earlier district committee has already selected the non-partisan and trained volunteers to observe the by election.

FEMA reiterates that elections devoid of opposition participation erodes the democratic process and deprives the electorate of choice.

**SKOP leaders discuss minimum wage with labour minister**

Leaders of Sramik Karmachari Oikyo Parishad (SKOP) yesterday called on Labour and Manpower Minister M A Mannan to discuss with him the fixation of minimum national wages, reports BSS.

The minister assured the labour leaders that the present government was pledged-bound to protect the due rights of the workers.

He sought co-operation of the labour leaders to establish the goodwill of the government in this respect.

Among others, SKOP leaders Ahsan Ullah Master Mosh, Nurul Islam, Dr Wazedul Islam Khan, Shah Muhammad Abu Zafar and concerned officials of the ministry attended the meeting.

**Rotary Club News**

**Weekly meeting**

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North will be held at 6.00 pm at Hotel Sonargaon, says a press release.

Barrister Monjur Hossain will speak on "Activities of Transparency International in Bangladesh" as guest speaker.

**Police raid on rickshaw making workshops slated**

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka city Hood-body Meramat Mistri O Baidha Rickshaw Malik Sangram Parishad has strongly protested recent police raid on the rickshaw making workshops.

At a meeting yesterday the leaders of the parishad forwarded a 7-point demand to the home minister which include immediate stopping of such atrocities on the workshop workers, returning of all seized items from rickshaw workshops, ensuring security for those working in these workshops.

They also demanded that those engaged in issuing illegal licenses for rickshaws should be arrested immediately, particularly those two organisations detected in 1997 to have issued more than 50,000 illegal rickshaw licenses.

A rally was held after the meeting at the Osmany Uddayan. A copy of the seven-point demand was also handed over to DCC Mayor.

Among those leaders who spoke were parishad's president Shahar Ali, Asmat Ali, A Jallil, Sobhan, Barez, Haji Mannan, Siddiqu Rahman and Md Mo-hiuddin.

**17 criminals held in Ctg**

CHITTAGONG, Oct 24: One Mujibuddowla alias Mujibbya, 20 in 17 criminals cases was among 17 criminals arrested by Chittagong Metropolitan police today, reports BSS.

Acting on a secret information, a strong police team raided a house at Khaja Road of Chittagong thana and arrested Mujibbya, reportedly a Shibir activist. He was a terror of Khaja Road, Balirhat, Bahadurhat and Bakolia, police said.

Different police stations of CMP rounded up 16 others on various charges from different areas of the city.

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Licenced Rickshawowners Association brought out a procession in the city yesterday calling on the authorities not to ban rickshaws without proper rehabilitation of rickshaw pullers.

— Star photo

At the top of the page, there is a small image of a group of people, possibly the rickshaw owners mentioned in the text.

## 'Dhaka will play its due role in UN peacekeeping process'

Bangladesh as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council will play its due role in peace keeping and peace building process, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said yesterday.

"Bangladesh hopes to play a mature, pro-active and facilitating role in the work of the Security Council during the two years of its membership at the very outset of the 21st century," he said.

Azad was speaking at a function organised by United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) in observance of the 54th United Nations Day and to celebrate the membership of Bangladesh in UN Security Council.

Expressing satisfaction over election to the UN Security Council, the foreign minister said it bears a special significance as Bangladesh is committed to the cause of peace and prosperity of humanity in the next millennium.

Referring to the success and failures of United Nations in its 54-year history, Azad said "UN

with its share of successes, failures and lessons learnt has in fact, come out more tampered and stronger than ever before."

The end of the cold war paradoxically has not ushered in a new era of peace and prosperity and for that the UN has before it an ocean of tasks to deal with in the coming millennium, he added.

Minister Shah AMS Kibria addressing the function referred to failures of the United Nations and said peace keeping operations were not carried out the way it was desired and as a result the UN had not come up to the expectation of the people.

He said that the United Nations has contributed in economic integration and social development by effectively expanding its activities through ILO, UNDP and the UNICEF.

Kibria said with the end of cold war, opportunity has arisen for keeping, upholding and making peace in the world.

The Finance Minister thought that UN should endeavour to prevent outbreak of war instead

of sending peace keeping troops.

He said Bangladesh has fulfilled its promises by following the guiding principle of the UN and said the nation has always sided with the peace and signed various treaties, including the CTBT.

"As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Bangladesh will be able to play its due role," he hoped.

Congratulating Bangladesh on its election to UN Security Council, Werner Kiene, Resident Co-ordinator of UN System in Bangladesh, lauded the present government's efficiently handling last year's flood and its aftermath.

He lauded the role of Bangladesh in the UN Peace Keeping Missions.

Werner also readout the message of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

The function was presided over by UNAB Chairman Prof Salahuddin Ahmed and was conducted by Syed Mohammad Shahed, UNAB Secretary General.

He lauded the role of Bangladesh in the UN Peace Keeping Missions.

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