

What's on today

ICAB seminar: Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) will organise a mandatory CPE seminar on "Finance Bill-2000". Venue: ICAB auditorium. Time: 2:30 pm.

DCCI discussion meeting: Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) will hold a discussion meeting on Nooruddin Ahmed, former president of DCCI and FBCCI. Venue: DCCI auditorium. Time: 3:00 pm.

Porosh discussion meeting: Poribesh Rokkha Shopoth (Porosh) in association with Coalition of Environmental NGOs (CEN) will hold a discussion meeting on "How Green is the Proposed Budget?" Venue: Porosh Office, 9/12 Block-D, Lalmatia. Time: 4:00 pm.

Discussion meeting: Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangkritik Sangstha (JASAS) will hold a discussion meeting on "4 years of Awami Misrule". Chief guest: BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 4:00 pm.

Premier show: Centre for Development Communication will hold the premiere of three documentaries it has produced in association with Save the Children Fund, UK on Child Rights. The Documentaries are *Sishu Pachar* (Trafficking of children), *Bashay-Kajer Shishu* (working children at home) and *Prathamik Shiksha* (Primary education) all directed by Md Jahangir. Venue: Goethe Institut, House no 10, Road no 8, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:15 pm.

Award giving ceremony: Noted artist Ferdousi Mazumdar will be awarded the 'Abul Kashem Dulal Smriti Padak 2000'. Chief guest: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed. Venue: Mahila Samity auditorium, Bailey Road. Time: 6:00 pm.

Prerona cultural programme: Prerona, a new socio-cultural organisation for the visually impaired will hold a cultural programme. Venue: Main auditorium of National Museum, Shahbag. Time: 6:30 pm.

Int'l SOS Childrens Village Day: SOS Youth Village and Vocational Training Centre Dhaka will jointly hold a prize giving ceremony and cultural function on occasion of International SOS Childrens Village Day 2000. Chief guest: Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru. Venue: SOS Youth Village auditorium, Plot No 1, Block A, Mirpur 13. Time: 7:30 pm.

Meeting: An emergency meeting of the steering committee of Prokrichi-BCS Coordination Council will be held. Venue: BMA Bhaban, 15/2 Topkhana Road. Time: 7:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Discussion meeting: Dhaka Ahsania Mission will hold a discussion meeting on "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking". Venue: Mission's auditorium, House No 19, Road No 12, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4:00 pm.

BAF discussion meeting: Bangladesh Anti-Drug Federation of NGOs (BAF) will hold a discussion meeting on the occasion of "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking". Chief guest: Minister for Home, Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Nasim. Venue: Hotel Sundarban. Time: 5:00 pm.

MPCL debate programme: The ATN School debate competition will be held. Organiser: Multimedia Production Company Ltd (MPCL). Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Road No 7, Dhanmondi R/A.

Weather

Moderate falls likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls at one or two places over Chittagong, Sylhet, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.5 degree Celsius at Satkhira and the lowest 23.7 degree Celsius at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.13 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.6	23.9	92	89
Chittagong	27.2	24.5	95	100
Rajshahi	33.6	25.0	84	94
Khulna	34.0	24.5	88	86
Barisal	31.2	24.8	89	92
Sylhet	27.0	24.0	100	100
Cox's Bazar	30.0	26.0	98	93



PIB Board of Directors Chairman Advocate Gaziul Haque speaking at a dialogue on 'Women and Children Affairs' organised by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) for editors and news editors. UNICEF's Chief of Information and Advocacy June Kunugi is seen on his right.

Law minister says

Ombudsman institution will be established for good governance

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Mafin Khasru yesterday said that the Ombudsman Institution would be established in the country for ensuring transparency and good governance in public administration, reports BSS.

The establishment of the office of Ombudsman is a constitutional mandate contained in the Article 77 of our Constitution, he said while inaugurating a National Workshop on the establishment of Ombudsman Institution in Bangladesh at a city hotel.

Presided over by Secretary-in-Charge of the Law Ministry Mohammad Abdul Hye, the function was addressed, among others, by Danish Ambassador to Dhaka Finn Thilsted, Project Director Afzal Hossain Ahmed

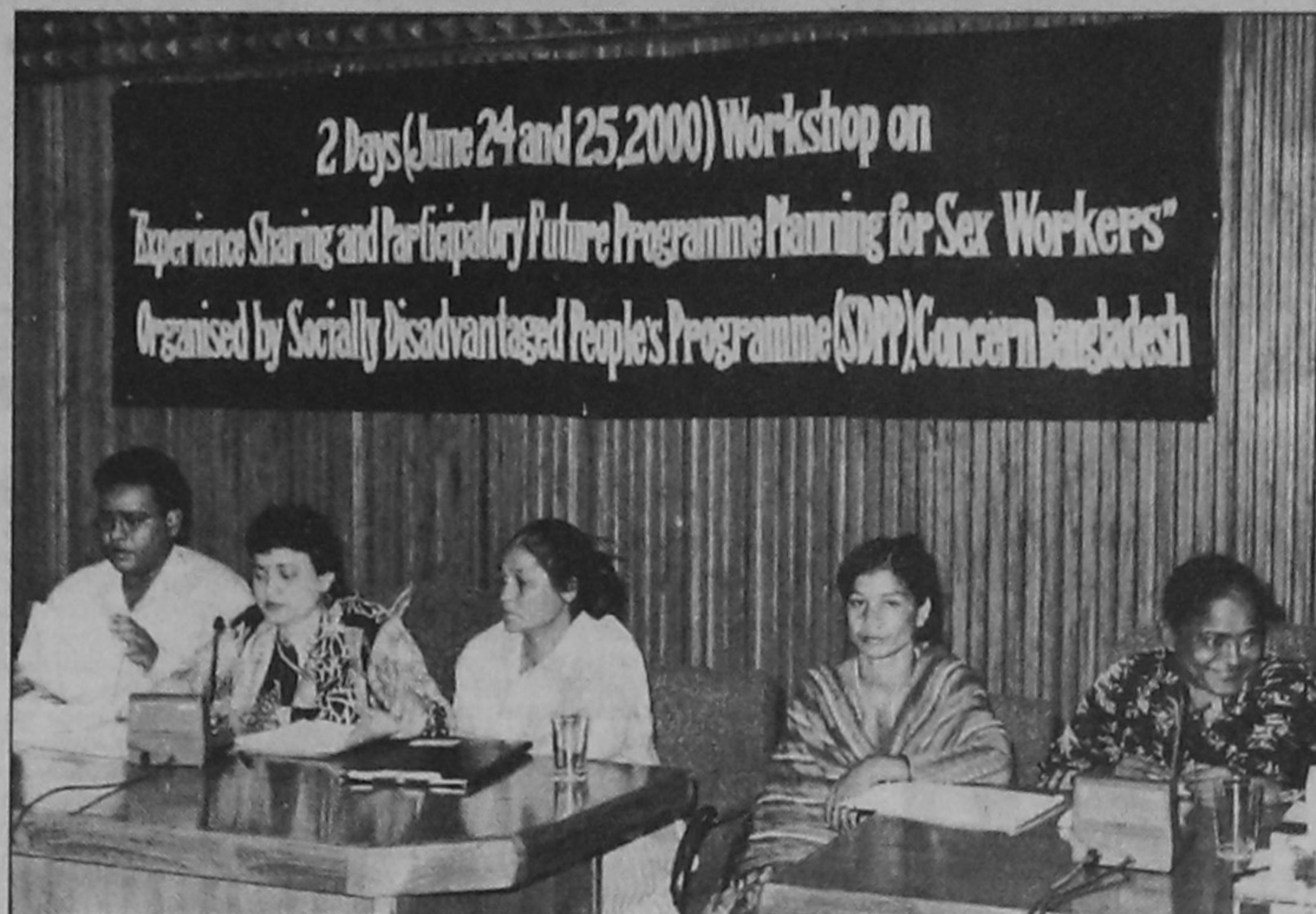
and Consultant for the project Khandkar Mohammad Abu Bakar.

The Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry and Royal Danish Embassy in Dhaka jointly organised the workshop.

He said it is unfortunate that after 29 years of the country's independence, we are going to establish such an institution.

Danish Ambassador Finn Thilsted said after the Second World War, the Danish society became complicated and Ombudsman Institution was established in the country 1953.

He said an Ombudsman has an important role in the administration to check corruption and to address the public problems.



Dr Rudaba Khandakar, coordinator of the Socially Disadvantaged People's Programme (SDPP), speaking at a 2-day workshop on sex workers that opened at the IDB Bhaban in the city yesterday.

Positive approach towards sex workers emphasised

2-day regional workshop opens in city

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a workshop yesterday strongly felt that a massive campaign should be launched for social education and family level counselling for sex workers to enable sound and healthy growth of their family life.

They said that local government functionaries and local leaders and non-government organisations should be engaged in the process to build this positive approach towards the sex workers countrywide.

Organised by Concern Bangladesh, the workshop on "experience sharing and participatory future programme planning for sex workers" will make set of recommendations at the concluding session today.

A large number of participants including sex workers from across the country as well as West Bengal of India attended the workshop. Government, donor agency, NGOs and UN mission officials were also present.

One speaker said, "it is certainly not appropriate to encourage professional sex work, but denial of its existence is also not realistic."

She said that since professional sex work is difficult to eliminate completely, the above mentioned interventions can aim at reducing the size of its participation and also to confine the sex workers in a homogenous or in a defined area instead of inducing them to be dispersed throughout the society.

Another participant said that providing the sex workers with shelter both for their work and residence will come as a relief, especially so in the face of alarming conditions of HIV/AIDS spreading.

Other speakers mentioned that establishing sex workers' rights has become a priority issue. A speaker said, "In their efforts to address problems of the socially disadvantaged people the government, NGOs and donors should join hands together."

She said that many programmes have been taken in the past for welfare of sex workers but most of them have failed largely due to lack of coordination amidst them and because of wrong approach. Government, donor agency, NGOs and UN mission officials were also present.

sex workers based on the necessity of the donors of NGOs but we should actually do is design programmes based on sex workers needs and choices.

Other speakers said that the majority of sex workers in brothels or floating, experience various degrees of torture, especially after the Tanbazar and Nimtoli eviction.

David Humphrey, acting country director of Concern, while welcoming the participants in the two-day workshop said, "The idea of the workshop is to enhance greater cooperation among the donors, NGOs and the public administration concerning the socially disadvantaged people in the country."

In the morning session Dr Rudaba Khondker, Director of Concern briefed the participants on socially disadvantaged people's programme.

Advocate Hossain Shahid of Concern discussed issues related to law, legislation and prostitution while Mahbuba Mahmood, convenor of Shonghiti, an alliance formed to protest against eviction of sex workers discussed about the problems of the sex workers.

Obituary



Prof. Harun-Ur-Rashid, former Principal of Government Science College, died of brain haemorrhage today at the Intensive Care Unit of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). He was 61, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, two sons, relatives and a number of friends and well wishers to mourn his death, family sources said yesterday.

Prof. Harun, who hailed from Fultala of Khulna and was a younger brother of Minister Salahuddin Yusuf, went on LPR few months ago from the Government Science College.

He was the secretary of the Jessore Education Board and National Textbook and Curriculum Board.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Fultala, Khulna after his namaz-e-janaza at Dophkhola Jame Masjid yesterday.

Professor Shib Prasanna Lahiri, a member of the first Public Service Commission of Bangladesh government and editor of Bangla dictionary of Bangla Academy died yesterday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader expressed deep shock at the death of Lahiri. He prayed for peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

He quoted from the Janakantha, Prothom Adh. Bhorer Kagoi, Maqav Zafin and The Daily Star to complain that these newspapers carried "contradictory reports" about the alleged kidnapping.

Abul Hasnat said, the Janakantha reported on June 23 that the kidnapping incident took place on June 17. It was done in a "pre-planned way" to belittle him to Awami League councillors who came to Dhaka from across the country on that day, he alleged. Other papers carried the news yesterday.

He further alleged that some people were let loose to commit crimes in the name of his sons. "Whenever caught in acts of crime, they introduce themselves as sons of Chief Whip". He cited several instances and claimed that in those incidents the victims even failed to recognise his sons.

Conspirators are trying to defame my family by sponsoring untrue reports about my

observed today, says a press release.

Nazir Ahmed was associated with different organisations as Bangladesh Kendriya Pat Chashi Samity, and greater Jessor-Kushtia Pat Chashi Samity.

Ahmed was one of the founder vice-presidents of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS).

'Tougher laws needed to address loan defaulting culture in country'

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 24: Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism, Housing and Public Works Engr. Mosharraf Hossain called upon private bankers in the country to remain alert against loan defaulters to avoid the growing 'defaulting culture' and stressed the need for introduction of tougher laws to address this bad practice.

Mosharraf also advised the commercial banks in private sector of the country to provide loans in rural areas and rural industries where, the rate of recovery is around 98 per cent.

The minister said this while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Bank Asia, Agrabah Branch, as the chief guest at a local hotel here this morning.

The minister said that the present government was trying to discipline the banking sector and to stop the loan defaulting culture. Loan defaulters are now very tactful and influence banks to provide their associates with crores of taka in loans, he said while asking the private bankers to be aware and cautious of this kind of practice.

Chittagong City Major A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury said, we are continuing efforts so that private banks operate successfully and don't run the risk of winding up because of loan defaulters.

Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong, A S M Mobaidul Islam was the guest of honour at the function with Chairman of Bank Asia M S M Syeduzzaman in the chair.

The ceremony was also addressed among others by Vice Chairman of Bank Asia A. Rob Chowdhury, Director Jahir Uddin and Director Romio Rouf Chowdhury while the vote of thanks was delivered by Managing Director of the Bank Quazi Baharul Islam.

Form JS probe body

From page 1

sons I have reasons to believe that my sons are being blamed for acts of crime committed by others," he said without identifying the conspirators.

The Chief Whip told the Speaker that he was so helpless that he did not dare to ask Dhanmondi police to supply him the copy of the general diary lodged against his son. "I had to request Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Surajit Sengupta to collect the copy because I was afraid police might file another GD against me if I telephone them."

Alleging that the OC of Dhanmondi thana was also harassing his wife, Abul Hasnat said, "I am the Chief Whip with the rank and status of a cabinet minister. But where lies my power? Just imagine about the power I hold!"

He told the House that the OC of Dhanmondi thana who was earlier suspended for three years on charge of corruption dared to file a GD against his wife.

The Chief Whip sought protection from the Chair, saying that he and other MPs of the ruling party were helpless and feeling scared due to police activities. "You are our (the MPs) guardian, Mr. Speaker. Please, give us protection."

Businessman, journalist mugged in city

By Staff Correspondent

A businessman and a journalist were mugged in the city yesterday.

Mohammad Kamal Hossain, 35, a hosiery trader, was stabbed and robbed of Tk 80,000 at Kaptan Bazar in the city yesterday morning, said hospital sources.

Kamal came from Deobhog, Narayanganj.

A gang of muggers stabbed Kamal in his left hand and left thigh and took away the money, said hospital sources quoting the victim. He was admitted to the DMCH with severe injuries.

When contacted, Sutrapur police said they were not aware of the incident.

In another incident, a gang of muggers took away Tk 10,000 from a journalist while he was returning home.

Absar Ahmed Rupak, 25, a staff reporter of Dainik Matribhumi, was robbed of Tk 10,000 near Kanapalpur over bridge at about 11:30 pm on Friday night.

A gang of three encircled Rupak when he reached near the bridge in a rickshaw. The gang beat him and took away the money.

None was arrested in this connection, police said.

AL appointed partymen in EC to rig polls, alleges BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the government has appointed "controversial, incompetent and partymen" as Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner to hold the Upazila and Zila Parishad polls as well as to rig future polls.

Addressing a series of way-side rallies yesterday at different places of his own parliamentary constituency at Shibpur in Narsingdi district, he said resignation of the Awami League government and holding of early parliament elections are now people's demands and the consequence of ignoring the demands would be dreadful.

He said any polls prior to the national elections will be rejected and people would resist it. He urged the government to quit immediately and handover power to a caretaker administration for holding national election in the country, said a press release.

He said the government has nakedly politicised the EC to rig future elections and resort to terrorism to return to power again. As part of its conspiracy, the AL earlier appointed CEC unilaterally and now appointed a "controversial and own party man" as Election Commissioner.

The AL, by appointing its own men in the EC has proved to the people that it hatched conspiracy to return to power through vote dacoity, rigging and terrorism, he said.

WASA pipelines

From page 1

are close to the surface cause contamination of the supply water by germs from drains. A purification system installed in about two-thirds of the pump houses has become less effective due to this, said a WASA official preferring anonymity.

WASA officials said more than 75 per cent of its total network is of PVC pipes which are in a good service condition. Besides, WASA recently introduced high quality Ductile Iron (DI) pipes through those do not cover more than one per cent of the total network.

When contacted Kazi Mohammad Sish, Chief Engineer of Dhaka WASA said the old pipes should be immediately replaced in phases because cracks and leaks in those result in contamination of supply water due to low pressure of water.

The cracks and leaks will cause wastage of water due to high pressure when the Syedabad water treatment will start operation, he added.

WASA officials however said about 40 km of its unserviceable pipeline were replaced recently and a project for replacing another 40 km pipeline is under implementation.

Besides, WASA has a programme to replace a large part of the old unserviceable supply lines with the assistance of World Bank, officials added.

Shawkat Akbar

From page 12

In the city said, One of the front-ranking and celebrated actors of the country, Shawkat Akbar made his debut in the feature film "Dul Jiban" in 1964 with the then leading lady Rosy. His qualities as a serious actor first bloomed up in two Urdu films — "Bhaiya" and "Talash" directed by Kazi Zahir and Mustafiz in Dhaka during the late 1960s.

Zahir Raihan's "Jibon Theke Neya", the film depicting the Bangalee's movement for self-rule, was yet another evidence of how Shawkat Akbar portrayed his skill as an actor by playing a role quite different from that of "Bhaiya". After independence, he switched over to character acting and appeared in "Dhaka Me" where he played a role of a benevolent mastan.

He also started directing a film named "Biman Bala" but could not complete it for financial constraints. He acted in more than 250 films.

Quality of education

From page 12

public schools has to be removed. Madrassah education is the most expensive one, he mentioned.

ASHK Sadek laid emphasis on keeping education management away from politics. There is a great demand for good teachers. There are many schools where the standard of teaching physics, chemistry and mathematics is very low because of lack of qualified teachers, he said.

The government has taken steps for training teachers. But many of them are not able to absorb the higher training, he said.

JS body

From page 12

forms it would be possible to attract foreign direct investment and create an enabling investment atmosphere.

The developments in the sphere of regional, sub-regional, changing international trading and commercial structures, free market economy, and tariff structures were also discussed at the JS body meeting.

It stressed decided that everyone should rise above party interest to project the country's foreign policy.

Dakhil exams results to be published June 26

Results of Dakhil examinations held this year under the Bangladesh Madrasha Education Board will be published simultaneously from all centres at 4 pm on June 26, an official handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

All examinees have been advised to collect the results from their respective centres or institutions.

Heads of all institutions have also been advised to collect the results from the official in charge or secretary of the concerned centre, who will collect the same from the office of the district administration.

Results will not be available at the board or the Ministry of Education or any newspaper office.

PM: Healthcare

From page 12

The Prime Minister asked the hospital authorities to take care about the disposal of hospital waste, which she said, might spread diseases in the residential area if it is not managed properly.

She said without considering the capacity and civic amenities of an area some people are constructing hospitals, industrial units and educational institutions. These are creating problems for the people residing in that area, she said.

For unplanned construction of hospitals and business units in the residential areas, the city dwellers are facing the problems of water, power and traffic jams, she said.

The Prime Minister suggested that hospitals are set up with modern equipment and facilities far from the capital, saying if the people can go to Velor, London, USA for better treatment, then why they will not be able to go outside the capital.

"Go out of the capital, choose a big area," she told the physicians for constructing hospitals and assured government's help in this regard.

Ctg: 11 killed

From page 1

slipped into a drain at noon at South Kulshi in the city, police said.

Two others, identified as Feroza Khatun, 55 and Bulbul, 65, were killed in hill collapse during rain near Hathazari road today, sources said, but police could not confirm it.

Meanwhile, torrential rain today triggered flash flood in the city and its surrounding areas. Met office recorded 134 mm rainfall in 9 hours from 6 am today. Met office made a forecast of more rains.

The low lying areas in the city's Chawkbazar, Mirzapool, Katalganj, Rahamatganj, Chak-tai, Halishahar, Bakalia, Chandgao, Pahartoli, Hathazari, Paltia and Satkania Keranirhat were submerged by rain water, police and witnesses said.

Some kutcha houses were damaged at Hathazari and Paltia due to flood while local rivers were flowing above danger mark.

Flood water also entered the Hathazari, Pahartoli and Chandgao police stations.

Most of the city roads went under knee-deep water, forcing suspension of traffic for few hours from 1 pm today. Residents were forced to stay indoors due to heavy downpour.

Ship movement at Chittagong port channel and cargo handling in the ships anchored at the jetties were suspended due to torrential rain, port sources said.

In Chakoria, incessant rain and onrush of hill water flooded 50 more villages in 13 unions where more than one lakh people remained marooned.

The river also devoured 18 houses in Maniknagar, Kahariaghona area in last 24 hours. Most of the roads have gone under water.

The deluge forced to suspend classes of more than 50 educational institutions in the upazila.

Quality of education

He said the rate of literacy in the country is 60 per cent now. "It was confirmed through various surveys," he added.

SAMS Kibria said it difficult for the government to increase allocation for education sector at the moment.

"We have to cut allocations from other sectors if we want to increase the allocation for the education sector. There will be protests if I do so," he added. He however observed that the quality of expenditure was very important.

About tax waiver for private donation to educational institutions, the finance minister said there could be scope for tax evasion if such facilities are given. "But should I open the loopholes?"

Former BUET Vice-chancellor Dr Iqbal Mahmud said human resources are so lacking that there might be problem in setting up the proposed science and technology universities.

Nurul Islam Nahid said the allocation for education sector is not inadequate. But it should be utilised properly. There are many subjects in universities which are just useful for the society, he added.

Referring to the moral degradation everywhere, he said teachers should take the lead in reversing the situation.

Ziaur Rahman said it is unbelievable that literacy rate is 60 per cent now.

Criticising the finance minister for opposing tax waiver for private donation to educational institutions, Rahman, a BN lawmaker said, "The minister gives the opportunity to white black money paying only 10 per cent tax."

Kazi Rabbuddin Ahmed said the government is going to initiate a project with the help ADB to monitor secondary education.

ANM Yusuf said allocation for primary education is decreasing gradually, which it is not desirable. He however said there should be a built-in mechanism so that there can not be any wastage.

PM's cheque

From page 12

money this year and 5000 next year, MOEF sources said.

The project stipulates setting up of the nurseries each raising at least 2,000 saplings of different species of trees and plants.

Such nurseries would not only generate income but also help make up the rapid loss of forest cover in the country," an official noted.

Already social forestry has become a profitable business. There are hundreds of small nurseries in the rural areas catering to a rising demand for saplings of timber and fruit trees, he pointed out.

Local govt

From page 1

the UPs.

The government should establish a permanent local government commission as per recommendations made by the LG Reform Commission.

She also underscored the need for establishment of a LG finance commission to mobilise resources for LGs