# Preparation for Biswa Ijtema going on

UNB. Gazipiir

Hundreds of volunteers are working round-the-clock for preparing the huge pandal of Biswa Ijtema on the bank of river Turag.

The three-day Ijtema, known as the second biggest Muslim congregation after Hajj, will begin on January 19.

The work began in November. followed by a 10-day "joor" programme on the ljtema premises. attended by over 10,000 devotees. Bamboo poles for the onekilometer long pandal have already been put up.

In addition setting up of a tin-

shed pandal for the foreign devotees at the northwestern corner. titled "Bideshi Nibash", is nearing day night after attending a re-

An organiser told UNB that al- lative Oversight for Transparency though a huge quantity of bamboo sticks, electricity equipment and mats are in their store, most of these are unusable.

wave but they do not have funds The organisers have been demanding eviction of illegal slums

running of the programme.

protect devotees from the cold

Chief Whip Khondakar Delward Hossain returned Dhaka Wednesgional forum on "Effective Legis-

UNB, Dhaka

| Chief Whip

returns home

The Chief Whip led a fourmember parliamentary delegation He said a fence is needed to in the three-day conference from December 9 to 11, said a Parliamentary release.

and Accountability Conference" in

Other members of the delegation were MPs Abu Hena. Chief in the ijtema premises, for smooth | Whip of the Opposition MA Shahid and Hamida Banu Sova.

Slum-dwellers and destitute women wait outside the Motijheel police station as the IG of Police distributed Zakat clothes at the thana yesterday morning. Some of them waited throughout the day even after the distribution of clothes was over.

the members of parliament to take

steps to bring back normalcy in

their constituencies and to reha-

tend parliament session at least

once to project the recent attacks

mand trial of those involved in

from Dec 16 to 18

The consular and immigration

section of the British High Com-

mission in Dhaka will be closed to

the public from December 16 to 18

on the occasion of Victory Day and

provide emergency services for

British citizens during the period,

said a British High Commission

press release yesterday.

However, the section will still

such incidents.

British HC to

remain closed

In another letter to the Leader

bilitate the displaced people.

# Govt programmes to celebrate Eid

UNB, Dhaka

The government has drawn up elaborate programmes to cele brate holy Eid-ul-Fitr with due religious fervour.

President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will give separate messages on the eve of Eid, one of the biggest religious festivals of Muslims.

The main Eid congregation will be held at National Eidgah Maidan at 8.30 am, depending on fair weather. In case of inclement weather, the main Eid jamaat will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at the same time.

National flag will be hoisted atop all government and nongovernment buildings on the Eid The city roads from Banani

Dhaka Gate to Bangabhaban will be decorated with banners where 'Eid Mubarak' will be inscribed both in Bengali and Arabic.

A number of government

buildings will be illuminated. Bangladesh Betar and BTV will put up special programmes while newspapers publish supplements highlighting the significance of the

Special seminars and discussions will be arranged on the occa-

Improved diets will be served in hospitals, jails, orphanages and childcare and vagrant centers, and

destitute homes.

All government and private children parks will remain open on the Eid day for orphans and destitute children without tickets.

The government directed all divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners, UNOs and local government organisations to take up programmes in line with the

national programmes. Muslim diplomats living in the country will be invited to Eid jamaat. Bangladesh missions abroad will also celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with due respect and religious fervour.

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### Attacks on minorities

### Speaker urged to form probe body Nanpakkha convenor urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Naripakkha, a women's organisation, appealed to the Speaker of the lativa Sangsad to form a parliamentary inquiry committee to of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, investigate the recent incidents of the Naripakkah urged her to atattacks on religious minorities and violence against women across the country.

It also urged the Speaker to on religion minorities and de hold a general discussion on minority repression in parliament.

The organisation made the appeal to the Speaker in a letter, signed by its convenor Rina Roy, on December 9.

Expressing concern over the attacks on minorities and women, it noted that such incidents have UNB, Dhaka increased alarmingly after the October 1 general election. "Even the home minister told

the parliament that 266 people were killed and 213 rape incidents took place across the country in 25 days since October 1," the letter said, "But there was no step to stop the attacks and to ensure the security of the people."

Members of the Naripakkha have visited four areas where such Incidents took place and organised two meetings to restore communal harmony in those ar-

FEMA urges EC Expose those who vet to submit statement on polls expenses

BSS, Dhaka

Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) yesterday urged the Election Commission (EC) to publish names of those candidates who participated in the October I general elections, but are yet to submit their election expense state-

In a statement, FEMA said "the law stipulates that the election expenditure statement must be submitted to the Returning Officer within 15 days of the gazette notification. But most of the candidates have not yet submitted their statements." It said many people believe

that statements submitted by the candidates do not reflect their actual election expenses.

The statement added that it is very unfortunate that lawmakers themselves do not follow the rules, although The Representation of People's Order, 1972, stipulates that it a candidate fails to submit his or her expense return in time, he or she will he subjected to a maximum of seven years rigorous imprisonment with a fine, or a minimum of two years of both RI and fine.

#### Obituary

Ustad Govinda Rabidas, a music teacher and vocalist of repute, died of a cardiac arrest on Monday. He was 55, says a press re-

He was buried at Postagola Rabides community graveyard on Tuesday after a condolence meet and memorial service at Wari Guru Rabidas Dahm compound. He was a popular Radio and

TV artiste of classical songs. He left behind his wife, three sons and a daughter and a host of relations and admirers to mourn his death.

Alhaj Nazma Saleha Rashid, wife of former Joint Commissioner of Customs Alhaj Abdur Rashid Mollah, died of heart attack on Wednesday at her residence. She was 53. Alhaj Saleha left behind her

husband, four sons, a grand

daughter and many relatives and admirers to mourn her death. She was buried at Shahjahanpur graveyard after Namaj-e-Janaza at Goran Bazar Bhuiyan

Her qulkhwani will be held today after Asr prayers at her residonce at 131 North Goran.

Jame Masjid on that day.



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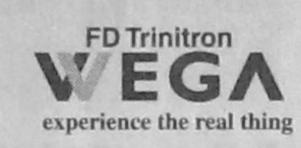
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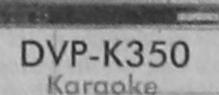


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