METROPOLITAN

AL for policy on high-rise bldg Wuch of Dhaka to be devastated if quake hits capital' Protect rights of

'Much of Dhaka to be devastated if quake hits capital'

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League leaders at a roundtable in the city yesterday said excess lifting of groundwater and construction of high-rise buildings should be discouraged and tree plantation drive be geared up to prevent natural disasters like earthquake and tsunami.

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MARCH 23, 2005

The sub-committee of Awami League's Environmental Committee arranged the roundtable titled "Our duties in preventing natural calamities like earthquake and tsunami" at the National Press Club.

MA Mannan, president of the sub-committee, presided.

AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu in his speech underlined the importance of making people aware about how the miseries caused by natural calamities could be minimised. "Much of the Dhaka city -- over 65 per cent -- will be devastated if a powerful earthquake hit the capital," Amu said.

"We can save our groundwater by setting up more water treatment plants in the city," he said. Presidium member Abdur

Razzag said. "The main weak point the roundtable of our country is the absence of adequate research, equipment and geo-physical planning. We'll have to take necessary measures to save tion of high-rise buildings. the countrymen from various natural disasters.

He also stressed the need for proper running of Rajuk in this aive permission to construct highregard.

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Ahmed Pintu.

A Dhaka court yesterday granted

the petition for withdrawing the

extortion charges against the

ruling BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin

of extortion charge

against Pintu granted

ল চোৰল আলোচনা 🖷 ভূমিকম্প ও সুনামীজনিত গ্রাকৃতিক বিপর্যায় মোকাবেলায় আমাদের কুরুণীয়। জ ক্রেংলাদেশ জ্যোস্ট ব

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil speaks at a roundtable titled 'Our role in tackling natural disasters like earthquake and tsunami' organised by the AL at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Presidium member Tofail Ahmed rise buildings after proper soil test," suggested formulation of a policy he added

construction of high-rise buildings. "AL will formulate a policy and present it before the people," he told

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil also echoed Tofail and called for formulating a policy for the construc-"As the soil of Dhaka is not solid enough, the government should

government organisations (NGO) and development partners should change their policy and approach towards the poorest people on the basis of increased knowledge and understanding, speakers at a conference said yesterday. They also underscored the need for ensuring democratic process and good governance through PHOTO: STAR protection of the rights of the

extreme poor people. The Network for Alternative Development of Extreme Poor (NADEP) and Cordaid-Netherlands

Organizing Secretary Abdul regarding filling up the low lands and

Mannan said plantation of adequate trees can help save the country from various natural calamities. AL leader Col Faruk Khan,

former Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Subid Ali Bhuiyan, Dr Mustafa Jalal Mohiuddian, Shahin Monwara Huq, Shegupta Yasmin Emily. Meher Afroz Chumki were also present at the roundtable.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 14,494 memorabilia have been collected by the Liberation War Museum, but only 1.305 can be

and shift the museum there," Sarwar Ali said, adding that the trust has the ability to bear only part of the expense. He therefor urged well wishers to help out with donations.

activities of the Liberation War Museum during the nine years since its opening, as well as its outreach programme and mobile museum

a trustee of the museum, said in his welcome speech that no government has evaluated the freedom fighters of the liberation war, who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Representatives from Asia, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf said, Africa. Latin America and Europe "Addressing the basic human rights ioined the conference with a view to issues of extreme poor people is a sharing experiences on extreme top priority for the government." poor people. They also presented a

"The government, NGOs and number of recommendations for the development partners have been making best efforts for the benefits The participants recommended of the poorest people, but it is a very revisiting the government policies tough job in our country as the total and procedures to accommodate population has already hit 140 nillion," he said.

He also urged the organisations to ensure the benefits of development activities reach the poor directly without any interference from middlemen.

NADEP Chairman Murshed Alam Sarker and Head of the Asia Department of Cordaid-Netherlands Monique Lagro also spoke.

Sultana Kamal of Ain O Shalish

condition deteriorated.

But Mintu died within a few

Sabuibagh police recovered

"This is the final voter list pre-

minutes after the doctor pushed

him an injection. Ashraf alleged.

Liberation War Museum suffers for space

displayed because the museum

lacks space at its rented house. Dr.

Sarwar Ali, a trustee of the museum

the extreme poor'

betterment of the poorest.

Strategy Paper (PRSP).

budget, they said

people.

the needs of the extreme poor

They also called for incorporat-

ing different strategies on the poor-

est into the Poverty Reduction

should pressure the local and

national government for a pro-poor

and Disaster Management Minister

The civil society and donors

Speaking as chief quest, Food

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government and non-

jointly organised the national con-

ference on 'Mainstreaming the

Extreme Poor: A Challenge for the

New Millennium" in the city.

The Liberation War Museum organised a graceful function at its office at Shegun bagicha to mark World Weather its 9th founding anniversary.

said vesterday.

"It is urgent that we purchase a piece of land beside a broad street

Sarwar Ali also spoke about the

Khanam of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad were also present at the 9th founding anniversary of the

"The next generation should not Liberation War Museum

Teenager dies after wrong treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan inaugurates an Independence Day programme organised by the Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal and Jatiyatabadi Muktijuddher Projonmo at the Ramna Park in the city yesterday.

Hawkers get ID cards

added

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Hawkers' Federation formally launched a hawkers' identity (ID) card distribution programme yesterday. "Though the liberation war

The initiative, first of its kind, is being implemented in line with a government directive, which will help formulate a national hawker policy.

There are at least 10 lakh hawkers in the country and the federation will distribute seven lakh ID cards by May, said Federation President Nurul Hossain Moral at a press conference at Muktangan in the city vesterday.

Last year, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda asked the hawkers hawkers' federation to make a list of all hawkers across the country in a

Federation leaders Sarder Shahadat Hossain. Shah Abdul Mannan, Sarawr Khan, Golam Mostafa Md Kalu Miah Nurul Amin Md Yasin and Md Jewel were present at the press conference.

The inaugural session of a two-day

workshop titled 'Essential skills of a

Unesco Club organiser and activist', organised by the National Association of

Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh, will be

held. Venue: BNCU Conference Hall,

The Institute of Chartered Accountants

of Bangladesh organises a seminar

titled 'Corporate governance: An

industry perspective.' Venue: ICAB

Auditorium, Karwan Bazar. Time:

Five Left Party will hold a discussion on

fundamentalism and communalism

<u>DhâkA</u>

TOMORROW

Theatre festival

BANBEIS, Palashy. Time: 9.30am.

ICAB seminar

different districts. said Moral Only those hawkers who are

bid to rehabilitate them by providing

micro-credit and housing facilities

and building markets for them at

Moral He said some NGOs agreed to provide micro-credit assistance to the hawkers starting in May of this He also demanded punishment to the extortionists who are still fleecing the hawkers Later, the federation president distributed ID cards among several

enlisted with the federation will be

entitled to enjoy such facilities, he

On June 29 last year, the com-

munications ministry sent recom-

mendations on the national hawk-

ers' policy to the local government

and rural development ministry. The

policy is now under process, said

1976 Abid Azad published 14 collec-

the District Magistrate of Dhaka tions of poetry, six fictions and a that it had decided to withdraw the collection of juvenile rhymes. He charges filed against Pintu since also edited a literary journal they were politically motivated. Abid Azad received a number of

The ministry asked the magistrate to send the matter to the Public Prosecutor (PP), who would take necessary steps to withdraw the charges against the lawmaker with the permission of the proper court.

After receipt of the letter, the PP submitted a petition along with a photo copy of the ministry's letter to the CMM for withdrawal of the extortion charges brought

anonymity, yesterday said that he

The Daily Star that the govern-

ment decided to withdraw the

charges after scrutinising the

documents of the case and finding

them to be false. Moreover, sec-

tion 494 of the Criminal Procedure

Code (CrPC) empowers the gov-

ernment to withdraw any case

filed against any person, he

The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested Pintu but he was released on January 24, 2002 on a bond of Tk 10,000 with two quarantors. He was later given one month's detention under the

grab the bidding documents.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Special Powers Act. (CMM) Jalal Ahmed passed the On March 18 of last year, the order following the issuance of a letter by the home ministry for home ministry said in a letter to withdrawal of the case. Pintu was arrested on

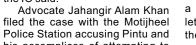
tion.

added.

added.

December 26, 2001 on charges of attempting to steal documents pertaining to the auction of a bankrupt company's property. In the forwarding report, the

investigation officer (IO) described that at about 4:30pm on December 23 Pintu entered the office of the complainant, Zahangir Alam, and stole the documents at gunpoint. He also threatened to kill the complainant, the IO said.





UNB, Dhaka at the age of The World Weather Day will be 53, says a observed today in Bangladesh in a press befitting manner with a slogan release. 'Weather. climate and water for Born on 16

sustainable development.' November in 1952 in Kishoreganj, he is The day's programmes in Dhaka include discussion meetings and acclaimed as one of the outstanding mass awareness programme at poets in the seventies. His first Meteorological Department office in collection of poems appeared in

Agargoan, official sources said. President lajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia issued separate messages highlighting the significance of the day.

In his message the President stressed the urgent need to properly He is survived by his mother, wife conserve the endangered nature and environment through extensive He was buried at the Mirpur research and close observation of Intellectuals' Graveyard after a the global atmosphere and marine namaz-e-janaza at the Bangla His qulkhwani will be held after

It has become a duty of the government to develop the national meteorological service and coordi nate its activities in international level for proper implementation of the Sustainable Development best," he said. Academician and cultural activist Dr. Sanjida Khatoon presented the memorial speech entitled 'Cultural Practice of the Bengalis and the Liberation War' at the anniversary, highlighting the hindrances faced by cultural activists during the East Pakistan regime.

lasted only nine months, the fight for freedom of the cultural activists

started from August, 1947 and went on till March 24, 1971. The Bengalis should remember this long term cultural practice of the Aly Zaker, a cultural activist and liberation war," she said. Kendra (ASK) and Ayesha





his accomplices of attempting to against the accused

BSS enquires into report on Joy-Mukherjee meet

BSS, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) is enquiring into its report on the meeting between Pranab Mukherjee, the Indian defence minister, and Sajib Wazed Joy, son of Sheikh Hasina, president of Awami League and leader of the opposition in parliament.

The news agency said it has taken note of a release issued by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of India on Monday on the BSS report. The report was received from the

New Delhi bureau office of BSS.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Comilla and Noakhali till 6.00pm today.

Weather may remain nearly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said, predicting the day temperature will remain nearly unchanged.

Highest temperature 35.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 18.5 degree Celsius at Srimongol

The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 5:59am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns vesterday were

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.8	25.4	72	61
Chittagong	31.6	24.0	77	77
Rajshahi	35.0	23.7	86	55
Khulna	34.4	25.3	90	90
Barisal	33.0	24.5	87	73
Sylhet	28.7	19.2	90	71
Cox's Bazar	32.7	24.4	68	82

Shahbagh at 5.00pm today After scrutinising documents

literary awards.

and three sons.

Academy.

President, PM submitted on behalf of the petitioner, the court granted the petigreet Pak A senior lawyer, speaking with The Daily Star on condition of

counterparts

Asr prayers on Friday at his resi-

dence at 15/22 Tajmahal Road,

held at the Public Library at

A condolence meeting will be

Block # C. Mohammadpur.

wonders how the charges filed UNB, Dhaka against Pintu could be describe

as politically motivated. "It is President lajuddin Ahmed and nothing but an effort to save the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia felicilawmaker from the trial," he tated their Pakistani counterparts on the occasion of the National Day of Masud Ahmed Talukder, a their country. lawyer representing Pintu, told

In a message to President Pervez Musharraf, lajuddin said, "Bangladesh and Pakistan are characterised by active cooperation and mutual understanding".

Khaleda, in separate message to Shaukat Aziz, said, "We must continue to work in unison to realise our shared vision of peace and prosperity in the region for the mutual benefit of our peoples."

Death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of Ln Aminul Islam Miah. former chairman of Bangladesh Lions Foundation. District Governor of Lions Clubs International District-315 B2 and AIG of police, says a

press release. On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at 25/17, Khiljee Road at Mohammadpur in the city after Asr prayers today and another at Lions Bhaban, Agargaon at 7.00pm

Qazi Nurul Islam

Today is the 8th death anniversary of Qazi Nurul Islam, a former joint secretary of the government, says a press release.

Nurul Islam died at Akron City Hospital in Ohio, USA on this day in 1997 On the occasion, Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held to pray

for the eternal peace of the departed soul

Programme in national and international levels. he said.

In separate message, the Prime Minister said the major challenges facing the world and its sustainable development are changing climate, global warming, natural disasters and shortage of drinking water.

A teenager died after an alleged wrong treatment by a doctor in the city yesterday.

fever

The victim Mohammad the body and sent it to Dhaka Mintu,16, was suffering from Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Mohammad Ashraf, father of

Police also arrested the doctor Mintu, called in a local physician and produced him before the Dr Afsaruddin Bhuiyan when his court

CCC Polls Distribution of nomination forms begins

STAFF **CORRESPONDENT**, Chittagong

The distribution of nomination forms for Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls began yesterday.

Seven aspiring candidates for the post of ward commissioners, including one for the reserved post, collected the forms to contest the polls scheduled for May 9.

Although three candidates are in the race for mayoral post, they did not collect the forms on the first day. The candidates are incumbent mayor and Awami League leader ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, former mayor and BNP leader Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader Solaiman Alam Sheth.

The deputy election commissioner's office here yesterday finalised the voter list for the election. According to the final list, the total number of voter is 11,38,318, including 4,52,874 women.

The candidates for ward -1 (South Pahartali), ward-15 (Bagmoniram), ward-20 (Dewan Bazar), ward-26 (North Halishahar), ward-32 (Anderkilla) and ward-1, 2 and 3 (reserved seat) collected the forms.

Awami League leader Mohammad Hossain, incumbent commissioner of ward-26. came alone to the office of the district election officer to collect the nomination form.

"I want to contest for the post of ward commissioner, but the final decision lies with my party," he told this correspondent at the election office.

Sources said ward-8 (Sholok Bohar) has the highest number of voters with 54,035, followed by ward-24 (Agrabad) with 52,059 voters and ward-7 (West Sholoshahar) with 48,085 voters. The number of voters in other

in Pathantuli (ward-28), 20,916 in wards are as follows: 19,126 in South Pahartali (ward-1), 34,672 in West Madarbari (ward-29), 27,777 Jalalabad (ward-2), 26,667 in in East Madarbari (ward-30), 19,788 Panchlaish (ward-3), 40,705 in in Alkaran (ward-31), 20,393 in Anderkilla (ward-32), 16,098 in Chandgaon (ward-4), 35,884 in Feringi Bazar (ward-33), 19,181 in Mohra (ward-5), 24,099 in East Sholoshahar (ward-6), 32,447 in Patharghata (ward-34), 20,851 in Boxirhat (ward-35), 24,853 in North Pahartali (ward-9), 20,311 in North Kattali (ward-10), 27,925 in Gosaildanga (ward-36), 20,991 in South Kattali (ward-11), 27,554 in North-Middle Halishahar (ward-37), 35,894 in South-Middle Halishahar Saraipara (ward-12), 27,401 in Pahartali (ward-13), 28,219 in (ward-38), 44,850 in South Lalkhan Bazar (ward-14), 27,834 in Halishahar (ward-39), 27,250 in Bagmoniram (ward-15), 28,619 in North Patenga (ward-40) and Chawk Bazar (ward-16), 32,581 in 21,154 in South Patenga (ward-41). West Bakalia (ward-17), 22,706 in East Bakalia (ward-18), 27,988 in pared by the election office here South Bakalia (ward-19), 22,535 in taking into account various dis-Dewan Bazar (ward-20), 25,162 in putes, objections and other com-Jamal Khan (ward-21), 19,748 in plaints lodged in time. No more Enayet Bazar (ward-22), 16,067 in complaints or objections will be North Pathantuli (ward-23), 19,738 entertained," said district election in Rampur (ward-25), 19,497 in officer-1 Mahbub Kabir. North Halishahar (ward-26), 28,644 in South Agrabad (ward-27), 28,014



PHOTO: STAR A candidate for the post of ward commissioner in the Chittagong City Corporation polls receives nomination paper from the district election officer in the port city yesterday.

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DHĂKA

Time: 3.15pm.

Workshop

The Liberation War Museum organises a discussion and musical programme to mark the Independence Day. Venue: 5, Segun Bagicha. Time: 5.00pm

Musical function

Musical

programme

Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilon Parishad organises a musical function to welcome the Spring. Venue: Rabindra Sorobor Mancha, Dhanmondi, Time: 6.00pm

Theatre festival

As part of the National Children's Theatre Festival organised by the People's Theatre Association, five plays will be staged. Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial Hall, Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 4.30pm.

Film show

Goethe-Institut in cooperation with Jahangirnagar Film Society will screen two German documentary films titled 'Adam- a Test- Tube Baby as a Life-Saver' (2003), and 'August Sander' (2002). Venue: Goethe-Institut Auditorium, House-10, Road-9, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.30pm and 5.30pm.

Rhyme recital

Shishu Sahitya Parishad organises a rhyme recital session. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolon will hold a discussion titled 'Adivasi in the liberation war: Neglected history. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium, Topkhana Road, Time: 3.00pm.

Annual conference

The annual conference of the Association of Physicians of Bangladesh will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9.00am

JUAAB programme

The Japanese University Alumni Association in Bangladesh organises a cultural programme to celebrate the Independence Day. Venue: TSC Auditorium of Dhaka University.

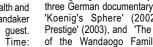
Goethe-Institut in cooperation with Jahangirnagar Film Society will screen of the Wandaogo Family' (2003). Venue: Goethe-Institut Auditorium, House-10, Road-9, Dhanmondi. Time:

Poetry recital Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, organises a poetry recital

Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

session. Venue: House-15, Road-7,

three German documentary films titled 'Koenig's Sphere' (2002), 'The Prestige' (2003), and 'The Crocodiles



4.30pm and 5.30pm.

Film show

The concluding function of the National Children's Theatre Festival, organised by the People's Theatre Association, will be held. It will be followed by the staging of three plays. Venue: Shawkat Osman

Memorial Hall, Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm.

Venue: Moni Singha-Forhad Trust Building, Purana Paltan. Time: 4.00pm. Leo Club meeting Leo Club of Dhaka Rajanigandha

Left party

discussion

4.30pm.

Raidhani will hold an organisational meeting. Venue: Eastern University, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.