METROPOLITAN/NEWS

The Daily Star

Ensure internal democracy, expel criminals

Speakers urge political parties at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called on the political parties to ensure internal democracy and expel the criminals from the parties for a free and fair election.

Only reforms in the caretaker government and the Election Commission (EC) are not enough to ensure fair elections, they said.

Academics, leaders of professional bodies and non-government organisations and senior journalists took part in the discussion on 'Minimum national programme: Guideline and commitment for changes', organised by the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) in the city.

Lack of accountability in every sector is a major problem of governance in the country, said Prof MuzafferAhmad, a noted economist.

"Teachers are not accountable in the classrooms and doctors in hospitals." he said, adding that "What we are witnessing everywhere is just power game.

Prof Ahmad called for restoration of the 1972 constitution to ensure

48 lawyers

made AAG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

to the government

sources added.

ment benefits.

their hearing.

space at the court

107.

Forty-eight lawyers were appointed

assistant attorney general (AAG) to

the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday

and most of them are allegedly loyal

With the latest appointment, the

Sources said although the exist-

number of AAGs at the SC rose to

ing AAGs mostly remain inactive, the

appointment was made to please the

pro-government lawyers. The pro-

government lawyers have long been

lobbying for the appointment, the

An AAG draws a salary of over Tk

The AAGs however claim they

The sources said the number of

pending cases at the SC has

reached to over 7 lakh as the govern-

ment lawyers often do not attend

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

27,000 per month with free tele-

phone service and other govern-

cannot work due to a lack of office

development of the country. "We will have to find out ways to reactivate

the 1972 constitution. parties Echoing the views of Prof Ahmad, writer Shahriar Kabir and Prof Ajay Roy said the national programme for development should be drafted on added. the basis of the 1972 constitution,

which upheld the spirit of the Liberation War. Shahriar Kabir regretted that the religion-based politics gave the birth of fanaticism in different countries across the world, including Bangladesh

Dr Badiul Alam Majumder of the Shujan (citizens for good governance) said criminality in politics and misrule are the key problems facing the country. Apart from the electoral system.

reforms in the political parties are also a must for a free and fair election. he observed. About the reform agenda of the mainstream opposition parties. Dr

Maiumder said. "It is not a complete one. It cannot be complete without the reforms in political parties. Dr Sadeka Halim of Dhaka

University said called for transparency in the activities of political In most cases, people remain in dark about the decision-making

process of political parties, she Shaktiprod Tripura, organising secretary of the Parbatya

Chattagram Jono Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), demanded that parliamentary seats be reserved for indigenous women.

JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu, who moderated the discussion, stressed the need for formation of a national government with the participation of all sections of the society. Major General (Retd) KM

Shafiullah, Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman, Prof Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, Prof Harun-ur-Rashid. Prof Mohammad Hossain Mansur, Editor of The Bangladesh Observer lobal Sobhan Chowdhury, Dr Rashed-e-Mahbub and Dr Quamrul Hasan Khan also spoke

ASSAULT OF BIDHAN **Police to seek court** permission to probe Rab allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police will seek court permission today to probe Rab allegation against a garment factory owner of assault of a Rab official in Uttara Friday night.

The accused, Abu Bakar Sultan Bidhan, who suffered multiple fractures in Rab beating for protest-

PETITION AGAINST CJ Former judge applies for revision

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A former unconfirmed High Court judge yesterday filed an application to the chief justice for reviving the writ petition he had filed earlier challenging the validity of Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain's holding the post.

In the application, Advocate Abdus Salam Mamun also sought to the Chief Justice to constitute a High Court bench comprising Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Mainul Islam Chowdhury for hearing his writ petition.

The High Court bench of Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Mainul Islam Chowdhury, on April 17, had rejected the writ petition observing that the petitioner can approach the president for constituting the Supreme Judicial Council for investigating the allegations against judges, including the chief justice.

sident.

Mamun in his petition alleged that the chief justice had not recommended his confirmation 'out of sheer wrath against him', which is contrary to the constitution.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged rapist is threatening the mother of the victim for withdrawal of the case filed with Kafrul Police

A three and a half years old girl was raped by a 16-year-old neighbour Imran Hossain Ijjat on June 17 at West Rhashantek in t

ing Rab torture on an elderly man Friday night on Jasimuddin Road in Uttara, is now being treated at Central Hospital in Dhanmondi. Bidhan, owner of Harness Level

Industries Ltd in Uttara, was pushed by a Rab official who introduced himself as SP (superintendent of police) Ashraf. This prompted him to shove Ashraf in return, said Bidhan. Ashraf's colleagues from Rab-1 rushed there, picked up Bidhan to

their office and beat him up, fracturing his leg bones. The Rab earlier filed a general diary (GD) against Bidhan with

Uttara Police Station, claiming that he (Bidhan) had assaulted a Rab officer. Investigation officer Sub-

Inspector Abu Saveed told The Daily Star that he would seek court permission today to begin investigation. "We need court permission to launch probe into any allegation made through GD," he said.

Doctors are yet to begin treat ment of Bidhan's fractured bones "We've kept him in traction. We'l plaster the bones tonight after examining reports of x-ray and other tests," Doctor Khaled, who was on duty at Central Hospital, told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

Bidhan's wife Tania Sultana Joya said his entire body got swollen and he was groaning with acute pain.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) yesterday condemned the Rab attack on Bidhan, a younger brothe of Satkhira JSD General Secretary Sheikh Obaidus Sultan Bablu, over a trivial matter.

The JSD demanded exemplary punishment to the Rab mer



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Hadiuzzaman Shimul. 20. has been

suffering from throat cancer. and garlic 7.77 percent in the last Doctors in January this year had one month. Powdered milk saw a attempted to perform a surgery to remove the unusual growth in his

price hike up to 77 percent.

conference in the city.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He also criticised the remarks of



Guests offer munajat at the inaugural ceremony of the construction work of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) at Uttara in the city yesterday.

Prices of essentials beyond purchasing capacity

PM, commerce minister's observation not right, Consumers' Society President Kazi Akram says

> against the unscrupulous businessmen.

A famine-like situation has been The association leaders placed a seven-point demand, including prevailing in the country as prices of all essential commodities have duty-free import of essential comgone beyond the purchasing modities during the month of capacity of common people, said Ramadan Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, presi-Association Executive

President Muhammed Anisul Haque and General Secretary Faruq Ahmed were also present.

BURGLARY AT IMPORT FIRM hospital

Valuables worth Tk 7 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

looted

percent, lentil 7.77 percent, potato A daring burglary took place at the 11.76 percent, onion 25 percent head office of a leading import firm at the traditional business centre of Khatunganj here on Saturday night. The burglars ransacked different rooms including those of the chairman and the managing director and the initiative to construct the 500took away valuables including cash bed hospital, which will be the first and gold ornaments worth around full-fledged specialised hospital at Tk 7 lakh the private sector in the country The miscreants broke into the having all modern equipment and office of Masud and Brothers on the facilities for cancer treatment and first floor of a four-storey building at detection. Chandmia lane and took away Tk 3 lakh in cash, 32 tolas of gold ornaoperating a 42-bed hospital in ments and five mobile sets from Mirpur since 2000, which has a there, sources said. cancer detection centre. It also

Construction of Ahsania Mission **Cancer Hospital** begins STAFF CORRESPONDENT

> The first phase of construction work of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) was formally launched in the city yesterday.

Md Sahabuddin Ahmed founder-chairman of the Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, inaugurated the construction work of the proposed ten-storey building as the chief guest at Sector-10 in Uttara in the morning.

The hospital will provide modern reatment facilities for the cancer patients. The poor can avail themselves of the opportunity free of cost.

Speaking on the occasion Sahabuddin said, "We are happy to be a part of this project and our organisation will extend more cooperation, if needed.'

Dutch-Bangla Bank donated Tk 4 crore for the construction of the

. Kazi Rafigul Alam, chairman and chief executive of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, said, "The hospital is being built with the donations and it wil operate on a 'no-loss, no-profit basis. We hope to offer free treatment to the poor patients who will receive quality treatment as any other patient."

Yeasin Ali, managing director of the Dutch-Bangla Bank, said the bank will continue to extend all possible assistance to the hospital management as part of its social commitment

The Dhaka Ahsania Mission took

The Mission has also been



Sacheton Mobile Phone Grahak Samaj stages a demonstration at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding T&T connectivity with other cellphone lines and reduction in call charges.

'Over 45pc school students have no knowledge about HIV/Aids'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

memorandum containing a sevenpoint demand to the prime minister. The demands included compen-

TENGRATILA BLOWOUT Memo to PM

Sylhet Division Development Action Council yesterday submitted

Over 45 percent school students, teachers and guardians in the

Station. medium schools, two English medium schools and four cyber cafes in the city in last 11 months.

Abdus Salam Mamun then applied to the president for directing the chief justice to constitute the Supreme Judicial Council in this reaard. Abdus Salam Mamun Sunday told BDNEWS that he did not get any reply to his application from the

Rapist threatens victim's mother

sation from Niko, judicial investigation into Tengratila gas blowout, punishment to those responsible for the blaze and cancellation of all unequal agreements.

The council led by Advocate Abed Raza, president of the central committee of the council, submitted the memorandum to the prime minister's office after a rally at Muktangon in the city.

Earlier addressing the rally, he said Sylhet has been playing a significant role in the national economy since the independence, but it is still burning as the government remains indifferent to gas blowout.

He said, "If the government does not meet our demand we will stage demonstration in front of all the embassies of our country.

Zakaria Khan Chowdhury, former advisor of late president Ziaur Rahman, said despite knowing that Niko is an inexperienced oil drilling company, the government gave the contract to serve the interests of the vested quarters.

He urged the government to stop all the activities of the foreign oil companies

Council Organising Secretary Syed Khalilur Rahman, JSD leader Prof Md Shafiq, Student leader Fazlur Rahman Khan, and President of Jalalabad Samity Allama Mustafa also addressed the rally.

CHEATING CASE Bidisha's bail extended

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court vesterday extended the ad-interim bail of Bidisha, estranged wife of former military ruler HM Ershad, in a case filed for cheating him after marriage

Judge Mohammad Rafiqul Islam of the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court extended the bail until August 18 following a petition filed by the defence lawyers.

Bidisha was present in the court yesterday during the hearing.

Earlier on June 16, the same court granted Bidisha ad-interim bail until sterday following a criminal appeal filed against the rejection order of the lower court.

Bidisha was arrested on June 4 after her former husband filed the case She was freed from prison after 23 days on June 27.

capital have no knowledge of HIV/ Aids, reveals a survey report at a workshop in the city yesterday. The workshop on 'Baseline

survey report on HIV/Aids among the school going and out of school students and their teachers and guardians in Dhaka City' was held the National Press Club.

Life, a UN associated NGO. in collaboration with NASP, MOHFW, Unicef and the government, organised the workshop.

The report said 48 percent students, 45 percent teachers and 54 percent guardians in the capital have no knowledge of HIV and Aids.

Quoting a government statistics, the report said an estimated 7500 people are HIV infected, 465 are HIV positive, and 87 are Aids patients while 44 people died of Aids in the country.

It said 8.2 percent school students are sexually harassed in any form and five of them by known persons, the report mentioned. The survey was conducted on

UNB, Dhaka

division till 6:00pm today.

5:22am tomorrow.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Baza

Raishahi

Khulna

Barisa

Svlhet

Dhaka

during the period, Met Office said.

major cities and towns yesterday were

fessor of department of Geography 863 students, 118 teachers and & Environment were also present. 128 guardians in 13 Bangla

"About 42 million people in the world are infected by Aids and 70 million men, women and children

presenting the report.

from Aids.

of Life.

WEATHER TODAY

Light to moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary

gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet and

Chittagong division and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal

Day temperature may rise 1 to 2 degree Celsius over the country

Highest temperature 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 6:48pm today and rises at

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

Min

26.0

26.4

26.2 27.0

25.8

24.8

26.0

at Jessore and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

Temperature

in Celsius

Max

33.3

34.0

32.0

34.0

33.2

32.7

32.5

with a view to safeguarding them

one body to another through blood.

semen, vaginal fluid and breast

milk. The transmission can also

take place through unprotected

sex (anal, vaginal and oral), blood

transfusion, needle and syringe

sharing, and from parent to child

during pregnancy," said Kamrul

Islam Sony, founder and chairman

of Unic, Dr Rokhsana Reza, project

officer of Unicef, and Dr Rezoan

Hossain Bhuiyan, associate pro-

Humidity in

nercentage

78

76

80

77

86

93

92

Morning Evening

69

78

80

72 85

77

73

Kazi Ali Reza, officer-in-charge

"HIV can be transmitted from

"She is still suffering from infection," said Bilkis Begum, a gynaecologist of may die of HIV/ Aids in the next 20 the One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) at years," said Amirul Islam, Dhaka Medical College Hospital programme officer of Life, while (DMCH). She said the girl will have to stay in the hospital for few more days Dr Fatima Parveen Chowdhury and needs several tests.

Guardian of Ijjat said it will take a line director of national Aids and little money to free him from the allegadirector of CME, called upon all to tion, as they are influential, victim's avoid abnormal sexual behaviours. mother said. and follow the religious teachings

She demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the culprit.

ljjat is still on the run. The investigation officer said they are trying their best to arrest the culprit and is not informed about the threat to the family of the victim.

throat, but it went unsuccessful as the suspected growth in the throat later turned out to be carcinogenic or cancerous.

He was then shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital where the doctors advised for advanced treatment in India.

ment at a private hospital in Kolkata. lakh for his treatment, and requires

treatment. Any generous help can be sent to C/O Abul Hossain, Savings Account No 5642, Rupali Bank, Maghbazar Branch Dhaka

Unity of Islamic forces stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different Islamic fronts at a roundtable vesterday called for forging a greater unity among them-

Islamic Unity' was organised by the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) at a city hotel.

Presiding over the discussion, former chief election commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf stressed the need for unity among the Islamic fronts.

FOY'S LAKE

Signing of agreement postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The signing ceremony for a tripartite agreement on Foy's Lake management was postponed yesterday as the state minister for civil aviation and tourism could not turn up due to unavoidable reasons.

The signing ceremony for the agreement among the Concord Entertainment Company Limited, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation and Bangladesh Railway was scheduled to take place at a city hotel at 12:00 noon. Fresh date of the ceremony will be announced soon, the authorities said.

report said.

Shimul is now undergoing treat-His family has already spent Tk 2

another Tk 4 lakh to complete the

He spoke for national unity through

an Islamic unity calling upon the Jamaat to take the lead in the process. "We have to work for the desired unity removing conflict and disunity among ourselves," said Industries The roundtable on 'Importance of

Minister and Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Motiur Rahman Nizami as chief quest. He said those who will not be able

to assume power under a democratic election against the four-party coalition, will naturally try to break the alliance of nationalist and Islamic forces at any cost.

Nizami said there has been a planned anti-Islamic media campaign both at international and national levels to portray Bangladesh in the light of Islamic militancy.

He called upon all pro-Islamic fronts to build confidence and rapport among themselves sensing the gravity of the situation.

National University Vicechancellor Dr Aftab Ahmad said there has been an ill effort to create disunity among the nationalist and Islamic forces keeping the forthcoming

general election in view. Editor of the Sangram Abul Asad, Mufti Izharul Islam Chowdhury of Islami Oikya Jote, Dr Hasan Moinuddin of Darul Ihsan University Maulana Abdus Sobhan MP Journalist Ruhul Amin Gazi, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr Abdur Rob of Dhaka University, Abdul Kader Molla and Maulana Ataur Rahman Khan also spoke.

Besides, prices of Rui fish increased 8.33 percent and hilsa 15.15 percent during the period. Sugar, meat and salt are also selling at a higher price, the TCB

According to the report of TCB

the price of rice has increased 5.26

Kazi Akram also blamed the government for the devaluation of taka against US dollar.

He urged the government to take necessary steps to check the selling of adulterated and chemical-laced foods and date-expired medicines, calling for action

Urs Mubarak

The annual Urs Mubarak of Fakhrul Muhaddesin Hazrat Moulana Abdul Ghafoor (R.A) will be held tomorrow (Tuesday) July 19 at 78 Shantinagar in the city, says a press release.

On this occasion, the Quran Telawat will start 10:00am and Doa at 12:30pm followed by distribution of tabarak.



Workshop

A policy workshop on 'Social protection in poverty reduction strategy: Towards a comprehensive approach on safety net will be held. Venue: LGED Auditorium. Agargaon. Time: 9.00am

Seminar

Dhaka City College organises a seminar on 'Entrepreneurship Development.' Venue: Conference room of the college Dhanmondi. Time: 9.30am

JP meeting

An extended meeting of the Jatiya Party will be held with party Chairman Hussain Muhammad Ershad in the chair. Venue: Diploma Engineers' Institute Auditorium, Kakrail. Time: 10.00am.

Study circle

hold a study circle titled 'Life and struggle of Adibasi.' Venue: 14/2 Topkhana Road. Time: 6.00pm.

Meeting

Venue: BETS Centre, House-55, Road-Bangladesh Nagorik Samaj organises a 4/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am

They also took away advanced cheques for money amounting to Tk 5 crore. However, payment against the cheques was immediately stopped.

Firm Manager Abdul Mohiymen Molla lodged a general diary with Kotwali Police Station in this connection.

Khatungani Traders and Industries Association has strongly protested the burglary and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits

and citizen's responsibility.' Venue: 35B/2

Memorial meeting

Dohar Nababganj Press Club organises

a meeting in memory of its founding

president Wahidur Rashid Murad.

Venue: Unique Trade Centre

Auditorium, Panthapath. Time: 4.00pm.

Indira Road. Time: 5.30pm

expects to establish cancer detection centres in five other divisional headquarters in phases National Professor Dr MR Khan. Chairman of ABC Group Engineer Saifuddin Ahmed Chowdhury Secretary General of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Md Ziauddin. Director of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Prof MA Hai and Quamrul Islam Siddique were also present at

the ceremony. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone of the hospital on July 7 last year.

Death anniversary

Today is the eighth death anniversary of Prof Dr Abdullah Faruk, former teacher of Marketing Department of Dhaka University, says

a press release

Colleagues, relatives, students and admirers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Qulkhwani



held at Shuva Sadan at 23 Purana Paltan, at 3:30pm today, says a press release.

He passed away due to brain haemorrhage at a city clinic on July

COAB members have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi will



Sarani. Time: 10.00am.

Dialogue HASAB organises a dialogue on its project to promote and restore the rights of socially excluded population in terms of human rights, gender, HIV and Aids.