

AL won't get a single seat in Dhaka: Huda

BSS, Dhaka

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday said the Bangladesh Awami League will not be able to secure a single seat in the Dhaka district in the next parliamentary elections.

He said this while addressing as chief guest a rally at Keraniganj organised by Keraniganj thana Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

"The four-party alliance government has achieved tremendous success in last four-year in develop-

ment work across the country, including Dhaka city", Huda said. On the other hand "some opposition political parties, including Awami League, have been isolated from the people by their destructive politics, he added.

Huda said if the people remains united under the banner of nationalist forces, in future the politics of Awami League will be destroyed.

State Minister for Labour and Manpower Aman Ullah Aman, leaders of Keraniganj thana BNP and its front organisations also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

Nagorik Sanghati stages a demonstration at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding steps to make Anti-Corruption Commission effective.

ADB, WB TO ASSESS PAK QUAKE 2m survivors still wait for help

REUTERS, Manila

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank said they would start an assessment in Pakistan on Monday of the needs and reconstruction costs after the devastating earthquake two weeks ago.

With winter closing in, an estimated 2 million survivors are still waiting for help in the rugged Himalayan foothills where 50,000 people are known to have died.

Donor countries have pledged just \$86 million of the \$312 million the United Nations has said is needed for

immediate aid.

The Manila-based ADB said its part of the assessment would focus on education, transport, water, energy and agriculture, while the World Bank would concentrate on livelihood restoration, housing, health, the private sector and the environment.

The joint team is expected to submit its report by mid-November, the ADB said in a statement on Friday.

"Efficient coordination is crucial at this stage to ensure that work is carried out as quickly as possible according to our respective strengths and experience," said Peter Fedon, the ADB's country director in Pakistan.

The World Bank team will also conduct an economic assessment, assess hazard risk management and social safeguard needs, with the ADB assessing the capacity for reconstruction.

"The first thing is to provide all possible assistance to the communities affected by the earthquake," John Wall, the World Bank's country director for Pakistan, said in the statement.

"At the same time it is imperative that the country's poverty reduction programme does not lose steam."

The day after the Oct. 8 earthquake, the ADB reallocated \$10 million from ongoing projects for emergency assistance in the worst affected areas and said it was prepared to significantly increase the amount.

The World Bank has announced \$40 million to be redirected from existing projects and has said the amount would run to hundreds of millions of dollars, as soon as it was useful.