METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Ensure 33 pc women's representation in parties

Speakers urge EC at BBC Sanglap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights activists yesterday welcomed the Election Commission's (EC) proposal for ensuring 33 percent women's representation on all committees of the political parties, saying that the country and the politics would benefit if the proposal is imple-

A male-dominated political culture is responsible for not achieving the empowerment of women in the country, they said and called on the EC to implement the proposals in order to establish women's rights.

"To bring changes to the narrow political culture, 33 percent women's representation must be ensured by any means," Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh

yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Doctors and experts at a roundtable

They said since all the required

facilities are available at home there

is no need to go to India, Pakistan,

Singapore and other countries for

The roundtable titled 'Preven-

tion of kidney disease: Role of media

in creating awareness' was organ-

ised jointly by the Amar Desh and

Kidney Awareness, Monitoring and

Prevention Society (Kamps) at the

Birth anniversary

Toady is the 173rd birth anniver-

sary of Sri Ramakrishna, one of the

most revered figures in the Hindu

Dhaka will celebrate his birth

anniversary with six-day long

include special puja, homa, devo-

tional songs, study from the scrip-

tion of Ramakrishna Mission

Vidyalaya will start with Swami

Aksharananda in the chair and

eminent drama personality

Mamunur Rashid as the chief guest.

Ramakrishna: Love University' will

be held at 5:00pm on March 11,

with Justice Gour Gopal Saha in the

chair. Mayor Sadeque Hossain

Khoka will be present as the chief

guest. A pantomime will be staged

on March 12 and 13 respectively.

function will be held in the evening.

A discussion on 'Sri

programmes beginning today.

tures and Kavi songs.

after the discussion.

The Ramakrishna Mission in

The first day's programmes

On March 10, the annual func-

religion, says a press release.

of Ramakrishna

today

ment of kidney diseases.

kidney treatment.

BSS, Dhaka

Experts tell roundtable

here yesterday said Bangladesh has training to health reporters for

all necessary facilities for the treat- increasing their knowledge about

Mahila Parishad, said at the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap as a panellist.

The Sanglap on 'Women's rights and development' was held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital. Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, moderated the programme organised by BBC Bangla Service in conjunction with the BBC World Service Trust.

Executive committee member of Naripaksha and Professor of English at Brac University Dr Firdous Azim, cultural personality Shamim Ara Nipa and Barrister Fatema Anwar also took part in the Sanglap as panellists.

In the male-dominated political culture, the politicians used the two women leaders, Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia, only to save the

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed unveils the cover of a booklet on 'National Women Development Policy' at a func-

tion organised on the occasion of the International Women's Day at the Osmani Memorial auditorium in the city

National Press Club in the city.

report in a tangible way.

people," he added.

information.

the common people.

ment is very expensive."

prevention of the disease.

Noted Journalist ABM Musa

stressed the need for providing

health issues so that they can make

of Kamps and other similar organi-

sations for the benefit of common

Mohiuddin urged the government

to withdraw health-related Vat to

experts should conduct more

research to device sophisticated

ways and means for the diagnosis

in health reporting, Chief Editor of

Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha

Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury urged

both the print and electronic media

to develop expertise for an accurate

dissemination of the health-related

experts should also cooperate with

the media so that reporters could

prepare their stories in easy lan-

guage for better understanding of

should give priority to the preven-

tion of kidney disease as its treat-

awareness among people about the

Prof AK Azad Khan said, "We

He urged all concerned to build

He said doctors and health

Referring to lack of specialisation

and treatment of kidney ailment.

reduce the treatment cost.

"We should spread the activities

Naya Diganta Editor Alamgir

He said doctors and health

major two parties, Awami League and BNP, from internal conflicts, the panellists said.

The EC's proposal would help competent women to come forward and contribute to the policymaking process of the political parties, Barrister Fatema said, adding that but it would not produce any positive results if the male-dominated mindset is not changed at all levels, including the grassroots level.

As women participate in the processions of political parties in a large number, they should also be incorporated into all levels of the party, said Nipa.

The panellists also urged the government to strictly enforce the laws to curb all forms of violence against women.

Prof Firoz Khan said all treat-

Describing the kidney disease a

ment facilities, including dialysis

and kidney transplantation, are

curable one, he urged the print and

electronic media to inform people

about the reliable facilities that are

available in the country for the

is the principal and diabetes is the

diabetics, we can prevent kidney

ney transplantation in the country.

second cause of kidney diseases.

Prof Jahangir Kabir said nephritis

"If we could check nephritis and

treatment of kidney ailment.

diseases easily," he added.

chronic kidney disease.

Moderated by Amar Desh Editor

Amanullah Kabir, the roundtable

was also addressed by President of

Journalists Association Hasan

Shahariar, Bureau Chief of

Associated Press Farid Hossain,

Director of Radio Today Sakil

Manjur, Dr Jafrullah Chowdhury, Dr

Dabir Ahmed and Dr Arup Ratan

the world.

Chowdhury.

available in the country.

He also demanded immediate unconditional release of party President Sheikh Hasina.

Announce

for election

Demands Zillur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acting Awami League President Zillur Rahman yesterday said

doubts have been created in the

public mind as to whether the

parliamentary elections will be

held in time since the Election

Commission and the caretaker

government are making contradic-

government announce specific

dates for the election to remove all

The AL leader said this while

exchanging views with the Mahila

Awami League activists at his

Gulshan residence on the occasion

Zillur said the present govern-

ment does not have the authority to

hold any other elections before the

parliamentary polls. "The general

elections must be held first," he

of International Women's Day.

He also demanded that the

tory statements about the polls.

confusions.

specific dates

Responding to a query, Zillur said there is currently a move to send Hasina to the USA for her treatment.

He also pledged that if the AL comes to power in the future, it would arrange direct election to one-third of parliamentary seats after reserving them for women.

AL leaders Shahara Khatun, Nazma Rahman, Dr Dipu Moni, Ashrafunnesa Mosharraf and Fazilatunnesa Indira also spoke

'Politicians should study literature to attain human quality'

Speakers at a conference in the city said the politicians of our country should study literature to attain human qualities and render their services to the people in a better way, says a press release.

They said this at a discourse jointly organised by the 2cr suffer from kidney diseases Department of English of Daffodil International University (DIU), and Star Campus, the Daily Star, at the DIU auditorium yesterday.

Prof Dr G M Shahidul Alam, head of the Department of Media and Communication, IUB, delivered keynote speech in the conference.

Prof Dr Aminul Islam, vice chancellor of Daffodil International University, chaired the discourse while Prof Shaheen Kabir, Dept of English of Jahangirnagar University, Prof Dr Rezaur Rahman, DIU, Prof Dr Sarker Ali Akkas, head of Department of Law of DIU, Saikat Habib, from the daily Samakal, and Shakhawat Tipu, from the daily Amader Samoy, spoke.

Dr Binoy Barman, head of Department of English of DIU moderated the programme.

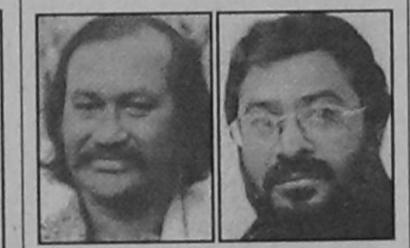
Prof Jahangir laid emphasis on collecting kidneys from dead per-NUS marks Int'l sons to develop the process of kid-Women's Day Presenting a keynote paper,

Kamps Chairman Prof MA Samad Nari Unnayan Shakti, an NGO worksaid about two crore people are ing for underprivileged women and affected by different kidney diseases children, observed the International in Bangladesh while 50 crore people Women's Day with various have chronic kidney disease across programmes across the country yesterday, says a press release. He said 15 to 18 percent adult people in the country are affected by

A discussion on 'Combating sexual abuse and trafficking in women and children' and a cultural programme were held at Khilgaon in Dhaka city as part of the programme. International Commonwealth

Similar programmes were also held in Chittagong, Barisal and Feni districts.

The objective of the programmes was to raise awareness among the slum dwellers about violence against women and children.



World Poetry Centre executives

Poet Rafiq Azad and poet Sarder Azad have been made president and general secretary of the executive committee of World Poetry

Centre, Bangladesh for 2008-09, says a press release. The 11-member committee of

the Poetry Centre was formed at a general meeting at its office in the city recently.

Other office-bearers are: Shihab Sarker -- senior vice-president: AN Salamat Ullah -- vice-president; Shahidul Islam Bappi -- joint secretary; Yeasir Aziz -- organising secretary; KM Masum -- finance secretary; Parvez Babul -- literary and social welfare secretary; Ahsan Alam Tapash -- publicity, publication and office secretary; and Dr Dilara Hafiz and Prof Rafiqul Haque Bangali -- members.





Criminals loot

Tk 80,000 from

ticket counter

A gang of criminals looted Tk

80,000 from a bus ticket counter at

Mohakhali in the city yesterday

evening after stabbing the ticket

the ticket counter of Vhaul

Paribahan at around 6:00pm and

stabbed Aslam, 35, in his neck and

abdomen and took away the

money, said Swapan, another ticket

Aslam is now undergoing treat-

ment at Dhaka Medical College

AIUB convocation

The 8th convocation of American

seller, at the same counter.

Hospital.

The gang of five youths entered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Singer Azam Khan, right, performs and a section of the audience, left, at an anti-corruption concert at Gulshan Youth Club ground in the city yesterday. Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) organised the event on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

Youths say no to corruption, violence against women

Bangladesh (TIB) and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) jointly organised the concert at day with an aim to link the antimovement for women's rights.

through all our activities -- through our words, songs, concerts and stories," said ACC Chairman Hasan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

sending foreign currency.

Speakers at a discussion yesterday

urged the government to ensure

safe migration for female workers

who are playing a significant role in

the economy of the country by

respected citizens of the country,

they also called upon the govern-

Terming female migrant workers

Hoping that the young generaand TIB's continuing fight against corruption, he asked them to engage their all-out efforts to stop all sorts of corruption.

Pointing out that discrimination against women is a common phenomenon in the country, Prof. Muzaffer Ahmad, chairman of TIB Board of Trustees, said corruption causes sufferings mostly to

"We'll say no to corruption today, tomorrow and day after tomorrow," he said urging the youths to establish a just society, free of corruption and based on Kicking off at around 2:30pm

"We will say no to corruption with a song titled 'No more showing of temper to working women' by baul singer Kangalini Sufia, the concert saw renditions of popular Mashhud Chowdhury amid a huge numbers by Azam Khan,

'Ensure safe migration for

Renaissance, Fahmida Nabi, Dalchhut, Mehrin, Krishna Koli,

Comparatively new performers Kafil, Shahed, Pancham Sur, a band of Acid Survivors Foundation, and Awaz, a group of garment workers, also performed at the concert that continued till 9:00pm.

In his welcome address, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman urged all to come forward to realise women's rights saying the movements against corruption and for women's rights must go hand in hand.

TI Chairperson Huguette Labelle and Mili Rahman, wife of Birshrestha Motiur Rahman, gave messages expressing similar views on this occasion.

for man, and not for woman.

not looking into it.

She said there is huge demand

Parvin Huda, a human resource

for fémale workers at present in

Malaysia, but the government is

expert, Salman Haider, brand man-

ager of IFIC Bank, Saiful Haque,

chairman of the Welfare Association

for the Rights of Bangladeshi

Emigrants (Warbe), and Shomi

Artiste Dilara Zaman, and lead ers of women's rights movements Rokeya Kabir and Sonia Nishat Amin also spoke in between the

International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre tomorrow, says a press release.

tomorrow

President Iajuddin Ahmed will attend the convocation and will confer degrees among the graduates.

University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam will attend the convocation as the special convocation guest while Masayuki Inoue, Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh, will attend as the convocation speaker.

The founding Chairman of AIUB Dr Anwarul Abedin and Vice Chancellor Dr Carmen Z Lamagna will also speak at the convocation.

Obituary



Salma Bhuiyan, founder of Shahjahan Memorial School and Salma Bhuiyan Trust, and mother of

Mintoo, president of Women Entrepreneur Association of Bangladesh (WEAB), passed away at Apollo Hospitals in the city

She left behind four daughters and one son to mourn her death.

Mintoo, former president of

She was the cousin of Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and mother-in-law of Abdul Awal

Alamgir Hossain BSS, Dhaka

FBCCI.

Mohammad Alamgir Hossain, an employee of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) and son of late Abdur Rashid, passed away due to a massive heart attack at Holy Family Hospital in the city on Friday night at the age of 28.

All his colleagues at BSS expressed deep shock at his death. They also prayed for eternal peace of his departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

He will be buried after namaz-ejanaza after Zohr prayers at Birhati village under Bhuapur Upazila in Tangail.

Sufia Sultana

Sufia Sultana,

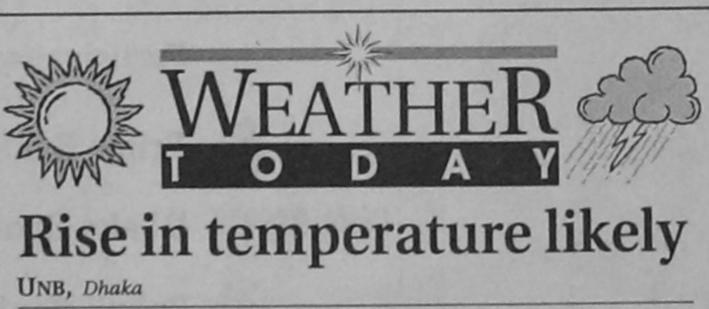
wife of late Dr AA Mainul Hussain, passed away at her residence in the city on Friday at the age of 63, says a

A doa mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers at her residence (5

Orphanage Road, Kaniz Plaza, Bakshi Bazar) in the city tomorrow.

Shah Syed Shahjahan Ullah, a businessman, passed away due to a massive heart attack at Heart Foundation in the city yesterday at the age of 67.

sons, one daughter, four brothers, three sisters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. He will be buried at Kashimpur



Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over

the country, said Met Office in a forecast. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the river basins of the country during early morning. Day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 32.9 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 17.3 degrees Celsius at Sayedpur. The sun sets in the capital at 6:05pm today and rises at 6:12am

tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Discussions on 'Sarada Devi **Humidity** in and Awakening of Women' and Temperature in City/Town percentage Celsius 'Swami Vivekananda and Human Evening Min Morning Conscience' will be held at 5:00pm Max 20.0 30.8 Dhaka 21.0 29.0 On March 14, prasad will be dis-Chittagong 64 17.4 31.2 tributed at 12:00 noon and a cultural Rajshahi 22.2 32.0 Khulna 67 22.4 31.7 Barisal Besides, Ramayana songs, 18.7 30.5 Sylhet Padavali kirtan, Baul songs and 79 21.0 30.5 other cultural functions will be Cox's Bazar held daily during the celebrations.



violence against women to establish a society based on parity when they thronged a concert in the city to mark the International Women's Day yesterday.

The crowd rocked with drumbeats during the concert with the slogan "Wake Up People, Wake Up for Women's Rights." Transparency International

Gulshan Youth Club to mark the corruption movement with the parity

female workers' female migrant workers' was

they can get better jobs abroad.

In her keynote paper, Dr

ment explores labour market only organised by Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), in association with Manusher Jonno and IFIC Bank at the National Press Club in the city. Taleya Rehman, executive director of Democracywatch, urged government as well as other organi-

sations to train up the unskilled and semi-skilled female workers so that



tension between Nato and Russia

over US plans to install anti-missile

defenses in central Europe,

Russia's suspension of a key Cold

War-era arms pact and the mem-

bership bids of two ex-Soviet coun-

the International Security

led in Afghanistan since 2003, with

the aim of spreading the rule of the

weak central government and

Azerbaijan's increased coopera-

tion with Nato, welcomed the ex-

Soviet country's decision last year

to double its contribution to Nato-

led forces in Afghanistan from 22 to

A predominantly Muslim coun-

try wedged between Russia and

Iran, Azerbaijan has contributed

small numbers of forces to Nato-

Simmons, in Baku to discuss

Assistance Force (ISAF) that it has

Nato has some 43,000 troops in

tries, Ukraine and Georgia.

fostering reconstruction.

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal stages a demonstration in front of the Aparajeyo Bangla on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. 'Real progress' in Nato-Russia

Water filtration plant reactivated in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A water filtration plant was reactivated with the technical and financial assistance from British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) at Gorpara under Sadar Upazila in Manikganj yesterday. Manikganj Deputy

Commissioner (DC) Ataur Rahman inaugurated the plant.

DHAKA TODAY

BEI talk Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organises a talk on Trend of terrorism in South Asia'. Venue: BEI conference

room. Time: 10:00am. Workshop Directorate of Health organises a national workshop on infectious and

non-infectious diseases and nutrition.

Venue: Hotel Abakash, Time: 12:30pm.

Memorial meeting A memorial meeting on the daily Sangbad editor Bazlur Rahman will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

talks on Afghan transit narcotics officials in Central Asia AFP, Baku aimed at stemming the flow of heroin out of Afghanistan, he said. Nato and Russia are making "real The talks come amid growing

progress" in talks on allowing supplies for the Nato-led mission in Afghanistan to transit Russian territory, a senior Nato official said here yesterday. "I think we're making real prog-

ress on coming to an agreement,

Robert Simmons, Nato's special

envoy for the Caucasus and Central Asia, told journalists in the Azerbaijani capital Baku. Simmons, who held talks on the issue in Moscow this week, said Russian officials would soon be

Brussels for more negotiations. He said both sides hoped a deal could be reached before the April 2-4 Nato summit in the Romanian capital Bucharest. He said the deal would allow

travelling to Nato headquarters in

"non-lethal equipment for the Nato efforts in Afghanistan" to travel by land routes through Russia and Central Asia -- a far cheaper option than shipping by Simmons said talks are also underway for Russia to supply

Afghan military. Russia could also participate in training programmes for counter-

led missions as President Ilham Aliyev seeks closer ties with the Simmons said Nato was contintraining, new equipment and spare parts for existing equipment to the

uing "to take forward the possibility of developing airfields" in Azerbaijan for the mission in Afghanistan.

press release. She left behind a son, three daughters and son-in-laws and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Shah Shahjahan Ullah BSS; Dhaka

He left behind his wife, two

village in Habiganj.