

Reopen RU, withdraw cases

Students, teachers urge authorities

RU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of Rajshahi University (RU) and local businessmen called on the authorities to reopen the university immediately for greater interests of students.

Earlier, RU closed the university indefinitely on Wednesday following Tuesday night's violent clashes between students and local transport workers that left 60 people, including teachers, students and policemen, injured.

The RU authorities asked the resident students to vacate all 16 dormitories by 12:00pm on the same day.

Meanwhile, three cases were filed against 1,450 people, including students and locals, on Thursday in connection with the

violence.

Leaders and activists of RU units of Bangladesh Chhatra League, Pragatisheel Chhatra Jote and Bangladesh Chhatra Union met RU Student Adviser Faridul Islam Pintu and Proctor Enamul Haque separately and urged the authorities to reopen the university and its halls immediately.

Criticising the authorities for its closure sine die, BCL leaders said unacceptable closure is going to create another session jam and demanded reopening of the university as early as possible.

Chhatra Jote also demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the attack on general students and compensation for them.

They called on the authorities to

take proper steps to withdraw the cases filed against the students immediately.

Chhatra Union yesterday met the student adviser at his office and demanded reopening of the university within seven days, otherwise they would launch a tougher movement against the authorities.

Teacher of Law and Justice department Hasibul Alam Prodhan, also steering committee member of Progressive Teachers' Society, condemned the attack on general students.

He said the university authorities can tackle the situation easily, adding that the unscheduled closure will lead to a long-term session jam.

Freedom fighters of Rajshahi city yesterday urged the authorities

to reopen the university and dormitories within seven days.

In a statement, they expressed deep concern over the incident and said anti-liberation forces have made a blueprint and are working unitedly to hamper the normal educational activities of the university.

Local businessmen at a meeting at Binodpur Bazar yesterday urged the authorities to provide the injured with compensation and take stern actions against those responsible for the incident.

When contacted, RU Vice Chancellor Prof Mamnunul Keramat said the authorities will take necessary steps to reopen the university soon.



Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) pumps out water from Begunbari-Badda lake into a canal connecting to river Balu in order to remove the city's waterlogging problem. The picture was taken at the Wasa pump house at Rampura yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

Guests hold copies of an autobiographical book 'Jiboner Jalchhabhi' by Prof MR Khan at its publication ceremony at the Milon Hall of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the city yesterday marking the 81st birth anniversary of Prof Khan. From left are NBR Chairman Mohammad Abdul Mazid, Dewan Zakir Hossain, Prof MR Khan and Barrister Rafiqul Huq.

Trader stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A businessman was stabbed to death near the Deputy Election Commissioner's office at Sher-e-Bangla Road in the city on Thursday night.

The victim was identified as Gobinda Saha, 30, son of Nikhil Saha, proprietor of Beauty Bread Factory at Amtala.

An unidentified man stabbed Govinda in his chest and back when he was returning home by a motorcycle along with his friend. Doctors declared him dead when he was taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested four people in connection with the murder.

Four criminals arrested in Pabna

RU CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four criminals from two foreign revolvers in Pabna yesterday.

The arrested were identified as Saidul Islam, 25, son of Ejibar Sheikh of Palpara village, Ismail Hossain, 20, son of Fazar Ali, Mohammed Musa, 30, son of late Omar Ali and Yunus Ali, 40, son of Abdus Samad of Masimpur village under Sadar Police Station in Pabna.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab personnel of Rajshahi Railway Colony Camp raided a hotel at Laskarpur in Pabna yesterday noon and arrested them with two foreign revolvers.

MANJURUL IMAM MURDER Tribunal to deliver verdict on Sept 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Judge Abdus Salam Shikder of Khulna Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal will deliver judgement in Awami League (AL) leader Advocate Manjurul Imam murder case on September 1.

Advocate Imam, president of Khulna city AL, was bombed to death near his residence at Shamsur Rahman Road under Sadar upazila on August 25, 2003.

Advocate Bijon Behari Mandal, who was accompanying the AL leader, and driver Saidul Islam of the rickshaw that was taking them to a court, also succumbed to injuries in the hospital.

Abdullah Harun Jami, youngest son of Advocate Imam, lodged an FIR with Khulna Sadar Police Station on August 28 of the same year naming none as accused.

Shahjahan Howlader, DB inspector of KMP, pressed the charge sheet on March 11, 2004 naming four extremists as accused.

Photo workshop in Manikganj from Aug 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-week-long residential photo-cine-video aesthetics workshop for mid to upper level photo cine enthusiasts begins at Proshika HRDC Trust at Koitta in Manikganj on August 25.

It has been organised jointly by DSCC Trust and Anwar Hossain, prominent and award-winning still photographer and cinematographer.

Anwar Hossain will conduct the course, said a press release. There will be two sessions daily and the workshop will mainly concentrate on the visual, artistic and philosophical aesthetics of photography, videography and cinematography.

On completion of the course, each participant will get a certificate. The closing session will culminate in an exhibition of the selected works of the participants in the city.

Five units of Ashuganj Power Station go out of order

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Five units of Ashuganj Power Station went out of order after a 132 KV transformer of the station was burnt out last night.

The incident took place at around 7:45pm.

When contacted, Md Nurul Alam, director (technical) of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited, said engineers and technicians have already repaired two units by 9:30pm.

He also said that the two other units would be fixed within one hour and the other by today.

Rajbari BNP president, secy relieved of posts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajbari district BNP president Nasirul Haque Sabu and general secretary Ali Newaz Mahmud Khaiyam have been relieved of their posts and responsibilities for their anti-organisational activities and their roles as reformists.

Office Secretary of BNP Ruhul Kabir Rizvi has issued a letter to this effect on August 21 on receiving approval from party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, says a press release of Rajbari BNP.

Besides, ATM Abdur Razzak and advocate Rabiul Alam have been made acting president and acting general secretary of Rajbari BNP.

The party took action against Nasir and Khaiyam in line with the decision taken at a meeting of the executive committee of Rajbari BNP on August 2.

FA condemns bombing in Pakistan

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury has condemned Thursday's bombing at Wah in Pakistan.

In a condolence message to Pakistani Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi yesterday, the foreign adviser said: "I condemn this cowardly act of terrorism in the strongest terms. All Bangladeshis join me in prayer for the salvation of the departed souls who got killed in the incident and for the early recovery of the injured."

Two suicide bombers blew themselves up at the gates of Pakistan's main weapons complex on Thursday, killing 63 people.

Prices of essentials up 45pc: CAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) leaders yesterday said the prices of rice, wheat, flour, edible oil and milk increased over 45.50 percent in the fiscal year 2007-08, causing immense suffering to the countrymen.

At a meeting held at its office, CAB leaders said besides the essential commodities, the cost for living

has also increased and therefore, the ability to purchase nutritious food has decreased.

They said unscrupulous businessmen are trying to hike the prices of all kinds of foods and essential commodities on the eve of the holy Eid-ul-Fitr ignoring the government directives.

The meeting was presided over by its CAB President Borhan Ahmed while Kazi Fazlul Huq and Emdad Hossain also spoke.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee organises a seminar on 'Bangabandhu, spirit of the Liberation War and trial of war criminals'. Venue: Bilia auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

View exchange meeting
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organises a view exchange meeting on policies to prevent sexual harassment in universities. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Photo exhibition
The inaugural ceremony of a three-day photographs exhibition on the theme of climate change will be held. Venue: Drik Gallery. Time: 4:00pm. Youth Action in Climate Change will organise the event. The exhibition will remain open from 3:00pm to 8:00pm everyday.

Seminar
Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industries in cooperation with United Hospital

Limited organises a seminar on 'Health checkup: As a part of healthy life style'. Venue: United Hospital conference room. Time: 3:30pm.

Art competition
The inaugural ceremony of an art competition for children will be held. Venue: Shilpakala Academy. Time: 9:30am. Singapore Tourism Board will organise the event.

Mahila Samity
Bangladesh Mahila Samity organises a milad mahfil for the eternal peace of Ivy Rahman. Venue: Mahila Samity auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

FEMA meeting
The annual general meeting of FEMA will be held. Venue: YWCA auditorium, Mohammadpur. Time: 10:00am.

Rotary Dhaka Central
The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Temperature in Celsius

City/Town	Max	Min
Dhaka	31.0	26.5
Chittagong	31.0	25.2
Rajshahi	34.0	25.5
Khulna	33.0	26.1
Barisal	32.8	26.0
Sylhet	32.0	25.0
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.4

Humidity in percentage

	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	76	85
Chittagong	76	85
Rajshahi	83	74
Khulna	73	69
Barisal	80	73
Sylhet	91	81
Cox's Bazar	64	79

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Bogra and the lowest of 23.5 degrees at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:25pm today and rises at 5:37am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

10 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Ten people were killed and 15 others injured in separate road accidents in Bandarban, Pabna and Barisal yesterday.

Our correspondent in Bandarban reports: Two businessmen were killed and four others injured in a road accident at Bandarban yesterday morning.

The victims were identified as Mojibul Islam, 48, and Mohammad Salim, 47, while injured Khondakar Habibur Rahman, 40, Golam Mostafa, 43, jeep driver Bachchu Mia, 25, and his helper Delwar, 23, were admitted to Bandarban General Hospital.

The accident occurred when the driver of the jeep they were travelling in lost control near Laimi Para on Bandarban-Thanchi road and fell into a roadside ditch.

Injured Habibur Rahman said that all of them are printing press businessmen who came from

Hatirpul in Dhaka yesterday morning.

They were going to Chimbuk Peak, a tourist spot of Bandarban, by the hired jeep.

Chairman of Bandarban Hill District Council Professor Than Jama Lusai, Deputy Commissioner Abdul Majid Shah Akand, and Superintendent of Police Rezaul Karim visited the spot and the hospital.

Our correspondent in Pabna adds: Four people were killed in two separate road accidents in Pabna yesterday.

Mojahar Pramanik, 60, and a six-year-old child were killed on the spot at about 10:00am when a speeding bus knocked them down while they were crossing the road.

In another accident, Md Yunus Ali Bishwas and his son, Palash Bishwas, were killed when a speeding bus hit the motorcycle they were riding on at Tetultola village at Iswardi at about 1:00pm.

Our Barisal correspondent adds: Four people were killed and 11 others injured in three separate accidents in Barisal on Thursday night.

The victims were identified as Halim Chowdhury, 70, Ripon Sardar, 26, Rashid Majhi and Hossain Ali Bepari, 75.

Halim Chowdhury and Ripon were killed on Thursday night when a passenger bus hit a roadside shop and pedestrians. At least 11 others were also injured in the accident.

In another accident, Rashid Majhi was severely injured when a human hauler knocked him down on Barisal-Lakutia highway. He succumbed to his injuries in a local hospital at night.

Hossain Ali Bepari was injured when a motorcycle hit him at Seherhat 'under' Ujirpur Police Station. Later, he succumbed to his injuries in a local hospital.

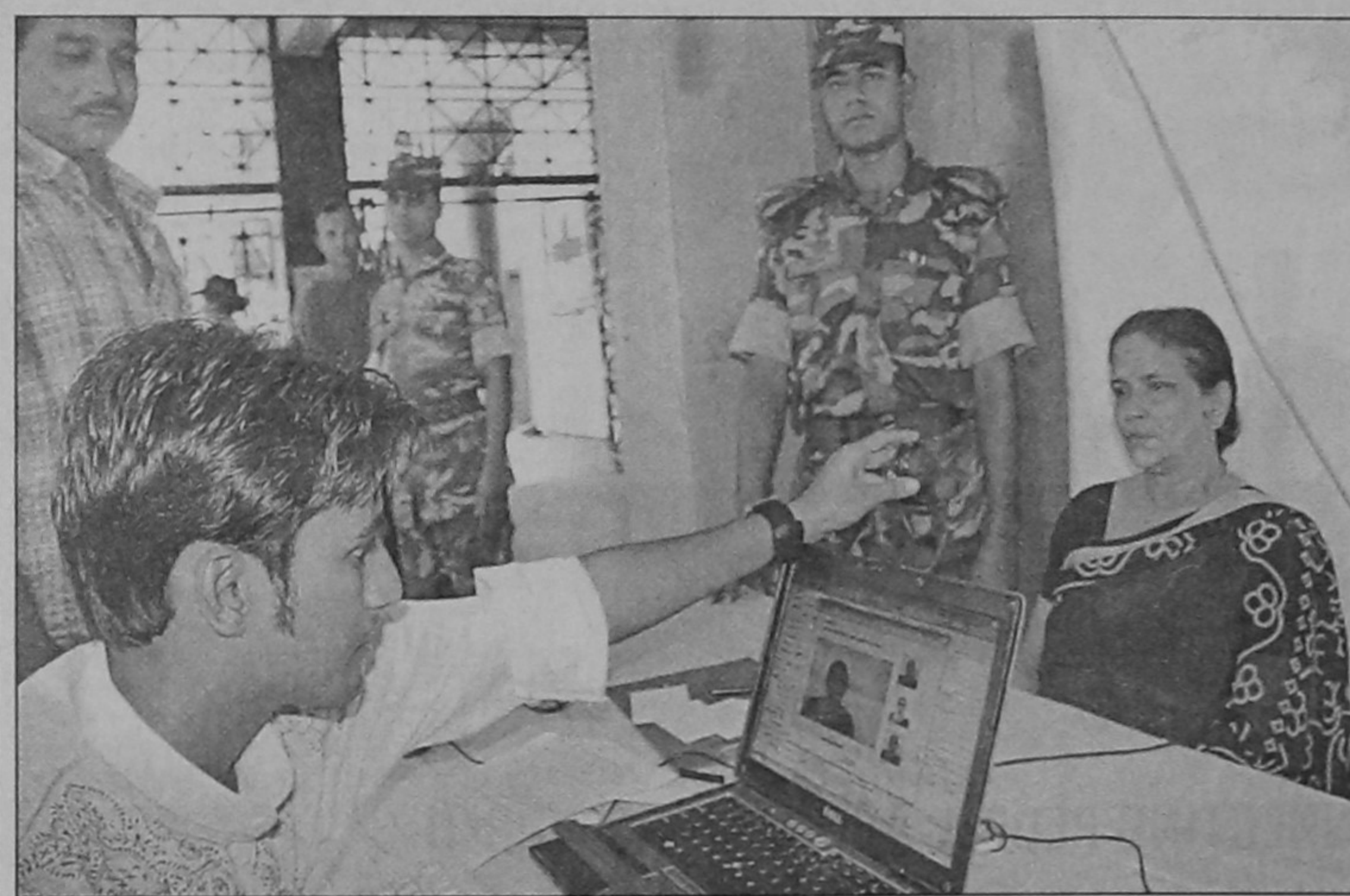


PHOTO: STAR

An Election Commission staff takes photo of a voter for registration at Wari Community Centre in the old part of the city. The registration process resumed yesterday for the voters who failed to register during the first phase of registration.

AL: Hold parliament polls

FROM PAGE 1

If the final voter list can be published on September 4, then it's quite possible to hold the parliamentary polls by October.

The AL leader was speaking at a discussion marking the fourth anniversary of death of Ivy Rahman who along with 23 others was killed in the August 21 grenade blasts at an AL rally.

Bangladesh Mohila AL organised the programme at the party headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue to mourn Ivy, its slain chief and wife of acting party president Zillur Rahman.

Presidium member Tofail Ahmed said the Election Commission (EC) has only four months to hold the parliamentary election as per the electoral roadmap.

Holding upazila polls first would add to uncertainty over the fate of all-important national election planned for the third week of December, he observed.

Motia Chowdhury, another member of the presidium, said they are resolved to bringing the August 21 masterminds to book after forming a government under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

Among others, AL Law Secretary Sahara Khatun and Women Affairs Secretary Dipu Moni spoke at the discussion chaired by Mohila AL President Ashrafunnesa Mosharrar.

The same day, AL leaders at another discussion said the caretaker administration should announce the schedule for parliamentary polls without delay.

"Incorporation of unnecessary provisions into the Representation of the People Order, measures to hold upazila election in October, and delaying withdrawal of the state of emergency—all are raising doubt in the public mind about the general election," said AL Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta.

Abdur Razzak, another presidium member, spoke as the chief guest at the discussion.

He said the country's very existence would be at stake if the government fails to hand over power to an elected government by December.

"Why should the caretaker administration hold upazila polls before the parliamentary election? It's never their duty," he added.

Sammita Tarun Peshajibi Parishad organised the programme at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium to mark the 33rd anniversary of death of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Discussants urged all to unite in pursuing the ideals of secularism and democracy. Journalist-columnist Shahriar Kabir said those who were born in post-independence Bangladesh do

not know much about the struggle for liberation and Bangabandhu. He called for measures to educate the younger generation about what Bangabandhu did for the nation.

Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shymol Dutta said no organisation, not even AL, has bothered to carry out an in-depth research on Bangabandhu's contribution to the liberation movement.

Referring to the August 21 grenade attacks, Suranjit alleged that some intelligence officials had cooked up the "Joi Miah story" to keep under wraps the involvement of Khaleda Zia and Lutfozzaman Babar.

He demanded immediate arrest of the officials who had attempted the 'cover-up'.

He also called on the government to commission an official of deputy inspector general's rank to prepare a supplementary charge sheet in the case filed for August 21 carnage.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu said the next general election is crucially important for the country.

Peshajibi Parishad President Barrister Zakir Ahmed presided over the discussion addressed among others by AL Organising Secretary Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Sahara Khatun, Dipu Moni and Jatiya Sramik League General Secretary Roy Ramesh Chandra.

New Bangla learning method to remove illiteracy

DU CORRESPONDENT

Nongar, a social organisation, was launched yesterday with an aim to remove illiteracy through introducing an innovative learning process called 'Bangla Reading Method'.

Prof Ahsanul Haque, former chairman of English department at Dhaka University (DU), developed the process through which an illiterate person will be able to read Bangla book within three weeks to three months.

Noted economist Prof Anisur Rahman was present at the launching ceremony as the chief guest at the conference room at Business Studies Faculty at DU.

Prof. KAM Saad Uddin, former prof of Sociology at DU, Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, prof of History department, Prof Fakhrul Alam, prof of English department, and Prof Ahsanul Haque spoke at the programme.

Termining it an effective learning process, the speakers called on the government to take necessary steps to introduce the process at the grassroots levels across the country.

Prof Ahsanul has already written four books under the process which would help illiterate people to become literate. In the process, different letters are taught using pictures and after learning two letters, a learner starts forming words.

Learners hardly need a teacher to read the books and they will have to follow the instructions of using the books only, Prof Ahsanul said, adding, "Children and illiterate elderly people would be more benefited from the process."

Chehlum

METRO DESK

Chehlum of Najah Zayaan, daughter of Zillur Rahman, host of the popular TV Talk Show 'Tritiyo Matra', will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held. Food will also be distributed among orphans and destitute people.

Relatives and admirers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Shafiqul Islam, a trade union leader and social worker, passed away at his residence in Savar on Wednesday, says a press release.

He was the cultural and sports secretary of Pubali Bank Employees Union.

Employees Union President Md Abdul Huq and Secretary General Manjur Kader Sarker expressed deep shock at the death of Md Shafiqul Islam.

Md Abdul Matin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alhaj Md Abdul Matin, former deputy finance controller (army), passed away at his village home at Baradail in Kulaura, Moulvibazar, early yesterday at the age of 65, says a press release.

He was also the treasurer of Moulvibazar Zila Samity, Dhaka and former president of Kulaura Upazila Samity.

He left behind his wife, four sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He will be buried at his family graveyard today after his son Abu Sayeed Ahmed, general secretary of US unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, returns home.