METROPOLITAN

Ensure free, fair election with participation of all

European Commission urges govt

UNB, Dhaka

The European Commission (EC) has termed the state of emergency and urged the government to Waldner. improve certain things to guarantee freedom of the voters and free and fair election with participation of all.

conveyed by EC Head of the Delegation Ambassador Stefan and freedom that is necessary for Frowein to Foreign Adviser Iftekhar free and fair elections." Ahmed Chowdhury at the foreign ministry yesterday.

points of the EU exploratory mission's report on election observa- October, he added.

tion in the country.

(Story on Page 16)

River policeman

A special court yesterday sen-

tenced Golam Azam, a river police

constable under Goalando Police

Station in Rajbari district, to seven

years' rigorous imprisonment (RI)

for trying to bribe a former deputy

Pronouncing the verdict, Judge

M Sirajul Islam of Special Court-7 at

Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex, also

fined Azam Tk 50000, in default, to

Azam went to former DIG of Dhaka

Range Nazmul Haque's office on

November 18 of last year, and tried

to bribe him Tk 1 lakh to get some

job-related facilities.

According to the case details,

serve jail term for one more year.

inspector general (DIG) of police.

gets 7 yrs RI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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र्वेद्वेर्वेश्वर देशनायम्, ग्राम

range of discussions with major in Bangladesh a problematic point Commissioner Benita Ferrero- relaxed."

The EC envoy said, "It's an internal report but I should say still there are few things where gency. We normally don't do that." The EC's latest position was improvement should be done to guarantee the freedom of voters

improvement has to be done and details. After nearly an hour-long meet- the decision on sending EU elecing. Frowein told reporters that he tion observation mission to conveyed to the adviser some Bangladesh would be taken at the

Asked whether the EC would

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon speaks at an opinion exchange meeting at WVA auditorium in the city

yesterday. On his right is Oli Ahmed and on his left are Shaheen Anam, GM Quader, Dr Asif Nazrul and Abdul Mannan.

Canada monitoring

Says Canadian FM in a letter

preparations for Bangladesh's Chowdhury.

preparations for polls

Canada continues to monitor Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed

parliamentary elections and has In the letter, received here yes-

shown interest in supporting the terday, the Canadian minister

"Canada continues to monitor would work to further advance

security.

new Canadian Foreign Minister

David L Emerson said in a letter to

assured the foreign adviser that he

Canada-Bangladesh relations in

the areas of mutual interest,

including trade and investment,

democratic development, and

THE SELECTION OF STREET

UNB, Dhaka

electoral process.

closely preparations for the

December 2008 parliamentary

elections in Bangladesh and is

proud to support efforts towards a

free, fair and peaceful election,"

come to Dhaka in June, held wide emergency, Frowein said, "The state of emergency is a problematic stakeholders and submitted its point. Some people say it has to be report to EC External Relations lifted and some say it has to be

> The envoy said, "I can say clearly that we do not normally observe ment". elections under the state of emer-

He further said the foreign adviser will have a meeting with EC Commissioner Benita Ferrero on fair elections. September 22 in New York when There are rooms where they will discuss the matter in

meeting following which the EC will decide the question of fielding end of September or beginning of an observer mission for the elections". Forwein said.

The exploratory mission had like to see lifting of the state of although EU does not normally December.

send its election observation mission to a country under the emergency but the Bangladesh situation is unique. "Our main challenge is to ensure each voter to cast his/her vote freely without any impedi-

Mentioning recent remarks of the chief adviser, he said the emergency rules would be relaxed as much as possible to ensure free and

The adviser said completion of voter list with photos and ID cards has earned acclamation from all "This will be an important and Bangladesh "could be put in the Guinness Book of World Records for this".

He hoped that friendly countries would come to Bangladesh to Iftekhar told reporters that observe the general elections in

Construct underpass at Shahbagh crossing'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) unit o Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) yesterday staged a demonstration on the campus demanding construction of an underpass at Shahbagh intersection in the

In support of the demand they brought out a procession that marched different streets on the campus and held a rally in front of the vice-chancellor's office at

DU unit President Maloy Sarker, Organising Secretary Ali Azam, Office Secretary Rajshekhar Devnath, and School Affairs Secretary Saidul Islam spoke at the

The leaders and activists of the front have been demonstrating on the campus from the early weeks of August demanding implementation of their seven-point demands that include keeping the university library open round the clock and resolving crisis in transport pool of the university.

showed that women candidates the political parties to eliminate had increased in number in general seats which were 17 while their numbers had reduced in reserved seats which

Sharmin Mursheed and Farid Hossain. (Story on Page 1)

Says study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 70 women candidates or

19 percent female candidates

have reduced their participation

in city corporation and municipal

elections on August 4 this year, a

study of an NGO revealed yester-

candidates both in general and

reserved seats in four city corpo-

tion was 297 in 2002-'03 while the

number was 227 this year, it

gender equality, human rights

and good governance, pre-

sented the study at an experi-

ence sharing meeting on

year's local government elec-

legal directives of the rights and

responsibilities for the women

proper using of the government

new projects among the people.

in the city.

CITY CORPORATION, MUNICIPAL POLLS

monetary, muscle and political The total number of women power to lose in the general seats and male candidates working in unity against female candidates rations and one municipal elec- are the reasons behind such

Twelve successful candidates in the four city corporations and Steps Towards Development, one municipal elections, political an NGO working to promote leaders, civil society members and media personalities shared their experience in the Awami League leader Dr Dipu

'Women candidates in this elected and failed for the reserved seats - called for proportionate tion' at the Cirdap auditorium distribution of rights and responsibilities of the councillors of Against this backdrop, the both seats; otherwise number of study pointed out lack of specific women candidates will fall continuously for reserved seats.

Awami League presidium councillors and lack of power for member Suranjit Sengupta said, "The act relating to the local grant, allowance, relief and in government election has got weakness and women will have to Another trend of the elections be united to create pressure on

these weaknesses."

Former adviser to a caretaker government Sultana Kamal said, "We will have to look at ourselves first and we have the responsibili-Findings of the report men- ties to make the politicians tioned that women falling prey to accountable to us for their any activities."

"The female candidates will have to ask themselves if their alliances and they themselves are responsible enough to play their role," she added.

Jatiya Party leader Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, Workers' Party leader Bimal Biswas, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Jafar Sajjad, BNP leader Abdus Salam, Moni, Elected reserved seat mem-Women candidates - both ber in Khulna City Corporation Sufia Rahman Shunu and journalist Arun Karmakar took part in the programme.

থামীণফোন ও একটেল গ্রাহকদের জন্য

নামাজ এলার্ট প্রতিনিন নামাজের সময় সূচী জানতে আপনার মোবাইল থেকে টাইল করুন

Namaz (space) On ►> 5353 गरिए निन

Make no politics with Tarique's illness Appeal counsels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counsels of BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman yesterday urged the politicians not to make politics with his illness.

"Tarique has obtained bail in a series of cases from the High Court (HC) on health and humanitarian grounds. Even the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) has granted him bail in a case considering his health conditions following the reports and recommendations of the medical boards. But the court orders were criticised in the newspapers and some politicians had made comments criticising the bail orders," said Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon, one of the counsels of Tarique.

He was speaking at a press Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda speaks at a discussion on "Amendment of RPO and Elections" at conference at his Supreme Court the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is Amir Hossain Amu and on his right are Nazrul Islam Khan, Bar Association (SCBA) chamber in the afternoon.

> Advocate Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas, Advocate Sanaullah Miah and Advocate AHM Mizanur Rahman were present on the occasion.

Women's participation reduces Barrister Khokon said Tarique has not yet been convicted in any of the cases against him and at this stage any court can grant him bail.

"The government has released Awami League (AL) President and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil on parole under the administrative orders after considering their health conditions. The HC has also granted bail to AL leader Mohammad Nasim on health ground and the government has released him from the jail. The government's moves releasing the ailing leaders is very commend-

able," he added. Replying to a question, Barrister Khokon said the release of Tarique from jail was under process and the criticisms against the bail orders to Tarique would not obstruct his release, since the apex body has granted him the bail in a case.

He said they have not yet received any instructions from the detained BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia to move petitions in the HC for her bail in the Niko and Gatco corruption cases.

টাইপ করুন ধ্বম ও অছব (বাজগাই) পাতিয়ে দিন

TERMI Namaz (space) Raj >> 5353

টাইণ করুন প্রথম ৩ অব্দর (হাজপর্হা) পার্টিরে দিন

সেহরী ও ইফতারের সময় সূচীঃ



PHOTO: STAR

Advocate Sultana Kamal addresses a programme at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On her right is Khushi Kabir and on her left is Ayesha Khanam. (Story on Page 16)



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Ordns banning teachers from local govt polls challenged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed yesterday with the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of three ordinances issued by the government prohibiting the teachers from contesting the local government elections.

Abdus Samad, a lecturer of Putia Ideal Degree College in Rajshahi, filed the writ with the HC bench comprising Justice Mirza Hossain Haider and Justice Mamoon Rahman. The petition prayed to the court to

stay operation of the ordinances and issue a rule asking the state to explain why these should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional. The petitioner stated that

Section 9(2) of the City Corporation Election Ordinances 2008, Section 19(2) of the Pourasabha Election Ordinance 2008 and Section 16(2) of the Upazila Parishad Ordinance 2008 have restricted the teachers of the institutions financially assisted by the government to contest the polls.

Samad also stated that he was earlier elected as ward commissioner in Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC), but he could not contest the RCC elections this year due to the ordinances.

"The government and the Election Commission (EC) have been urging the honest and qualified candidates to contest the elections. The teachers are believed to be honest people in the society. If these

provisions of the ordinances are implemented, the teachers, a main source of honest and qualified people, cannot contest the elections. the petition said.

The chief adviser, chief election commissioner, President's secretary, law secretary and cabinet secretary have been made respondents in the petition.

The court is likely to hear the petition today.

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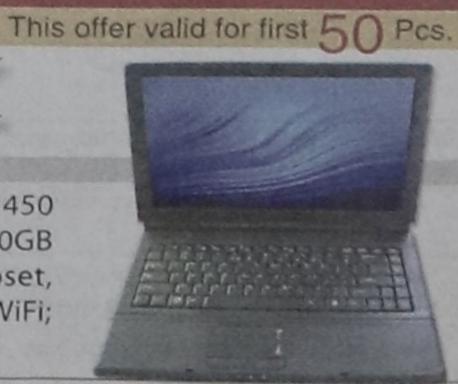
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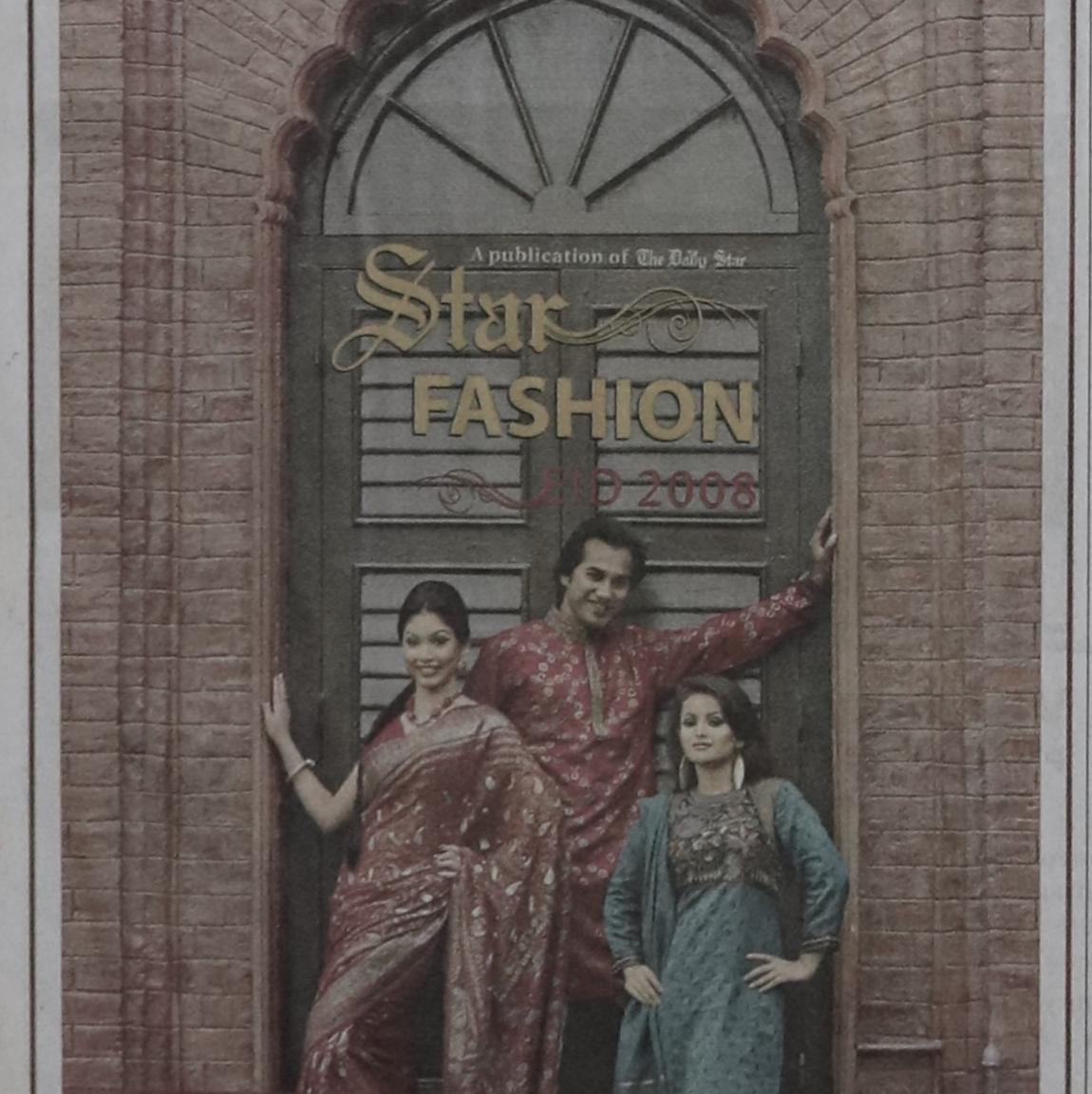
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