'Politics may

worsen if govt

fails to act

neutrally'

yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The politics of the country may

worsen if the present caretaker

government fails to prove that it is

acting neutrally in conducting the

elections, said Awami League (AL)

Organising Secretary Mahmudur

Rahman Manna at a discussion

government is favouring BNP, while

BNP doubts that the government is

favouring AL, he said, adding, there

may be doubt of such nature, but

of positive politics in overcoming

the ongoing crisis' was organised by

Swadesh Samajik Sangskritik

Forum at the National Press Club in

before the 1/11 will not return if the

caretaker government cannot act

that the two leaders of two major

political parties will have to sit

together before the polls, he said,

adding, it will depend on the win-

ners of the elections how the coun-

called civil society and the intellec-

tuals to be more practical.

Theoretical politics and practical

politics are not the same...the

honest and qualified politicians

will be elected only when the voters

"Politicians contest the polls to

win, but immoral ways of winning

must not be allowed. Therefore, the

media and conscious citizens must

play their role of watchdogs,"

said rampant corruption and the

entry of businessmen into politics

in recent years have criminalised

the politics and this must be

To prevent the malpractices, not

only the two top leaders of two

major political parties but also the

BNP leader Shamsuzzaman

Progressive Democratic Party

"I don't want that the emer-

The speakers at the discussion

will be eager for them," he said.

"I urge the members of the so-

There is nothing mandatory

reutrally," Manna said.

try will be run.

Manna added.

stopped.

"None can predict that the days

The discussion titled 'Necessity

such doubt must not come true.

The AL doubts that the interim

DHAKA SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

Dhaka calls for global food bank to resolve food crisis

Develop improved technologies to control malaria: CA

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed said a global food bank with quotas and special drawing rights on food could offer a long-term solution to

"We must explore this possibility with all seriousness," he told a roundtable on poverty and hunger

Fakhrudidn said, "The present food crisis has posed a serious threat to our food security and poverty reduction efforts. It alone will push around 100 million people into extreme poverty world-

shock is acutely felt in Bangladesh,

The CA said: "The current crisis has caught us all by surprise in its magnitude and suddenness. The task force should seek to establish a

General Assembly, as well as a summit-level meeting in 2010 to monitor the commitments and progress in achieving the MDGs," Dr Fakhrudidn told the roundtable.

President of Malawi Bingu Muthurika and Spanish President Jose Luis co-chaired the roundtable, preceded by opening of a high-level event on MDGs at the UN Headquarters on convened by UN secretary general at the General Assembly Hall.

> Meanwhile, Bangladesh urged the developed countries to ensure access to essential malaria medicines through transfer of technology to deal with deadly and complex disease.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin He said the global food price Ahmed made the call at a high-level gathering organised by a special even though imports account for envoy of the UN secretary general less than one tenth of our cereal at Millennium Plaza Hotel on tary general on his taking initiative

> He said international community must also increase investment in developing new improved technologies for controlling malaria, especially for effective drugs, insecticides and vaccines.

> He noted that malaria is a complex and deadly disease. About 40 percent of the world's population - mostly living in LDCs -- is at risk of

malaria. Almost half a billion people catch the disease each year. More than a million die.

Malaria remains a disease of the poor. Though it is an epidemic in many regions of the world, Sub-Saharan Africa remains the hardest

"Malaria costs us tens of billions of dollars in lost productivity. In countries where the disease is particularly acute, it consumes as much as 40 percent of government health budgets. This has a crippling effect on economic growth, welfare and development. Some countries have achieved great success in eradicating the disease. Most of the affected countries, however, remain off track," the CA told the

He congratulated the UN secreto ensure universal coverage by the end of 2010.

the wrath of malaria. "We have over 60,000 confirmed cases, with about 500 deaths annually. Out of 64 districts in Bangladesh, 13 are highly endemic with 10.9 million people at risk."

Referring to malariaeradication programme in the

1960s in Bangladesh, which witnessed some success in its retreat, he said the disease reappeared in the 1980s in epidemic proportions.

"Our experience has shown that successful efforts by one country would not be enough to eradicate the disease. We must have combined and sustained efforts at subregional, regional and global levels to permanently eliminate this

He said a national programme is being implemented to reduce malaria morbidity and mortality.

Bangladesh endorsed the World Declaration on the Malaria Control and the Revised Malaria Control Strategy (RMCS), derived from the Amsterdam Meeting in 1992.

"Our goal is to provide early diagnosis and prompt treatment with effective drugs to 90 percent of all malaria patients and effective malaria prevention to 100 percent He said Bangladesh too faces of population at risk in highendemic districts.

"We are also taking steps to strengthen malaria epidemiological surveillance system and establish Rapid Response Teams at national and district levels to prevent outbreaks of the disease," he

major problem

Ershad not

for AL-led

Badruddoza

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB)

President AQM Badruddoza

Chowdhury yesterday said there

would be no problem to revive

the Awami League (AL)-led grand

alliance taking HM Ershad and

problem. There are many other

parties who are more corrupt

than Ershad and his party," he

told reporters at an iftar party

when a number of leaders and

Bangladesh Photojournalists'

Association auditorium in the city

with BDB leader Aziz Akand in the

Major (retd) Abdul Mannan was

also present at the function.

Party's Secretary General

The iftar party was arranged at

"Jatiya Party is not a major

his Jatiya Party into the fold.

activists joined his party.

alliance:

UNB, Dhaka



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed holds a meeting with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Muhammad Al-Sabah in New York on Thursday.

Publish list of war criminals by October 15

SCF urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) yesterday gave an ultimatum to the government to publish the list of war criminals by October 15, otherwise they would publish the list after the deadline.

"We will publish the list of war criminals after October 15 which will be based on evidence," said SCF President Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandker at a view exchange meeting with the editors and senior journalists at the Dhaka

Urging the political parties to boycott war criminals, the SCF president said they would carry out a massive campaign against the war criminals during the upcoming general elections if they take part in the polls.

He said they would use two slogans during the elections -- 'We will not cast votes for war criminals' and 'We will not cast votes for anti-liberation forces'. "We will make all-out efforts during the campaign so that they cannot win the polls and cannot come to the

(retd) KM Shafiullah said the forum would make public the heinous yet. role and activities of the war criminals during the liberation war in their constituencies if they take part in the polls.

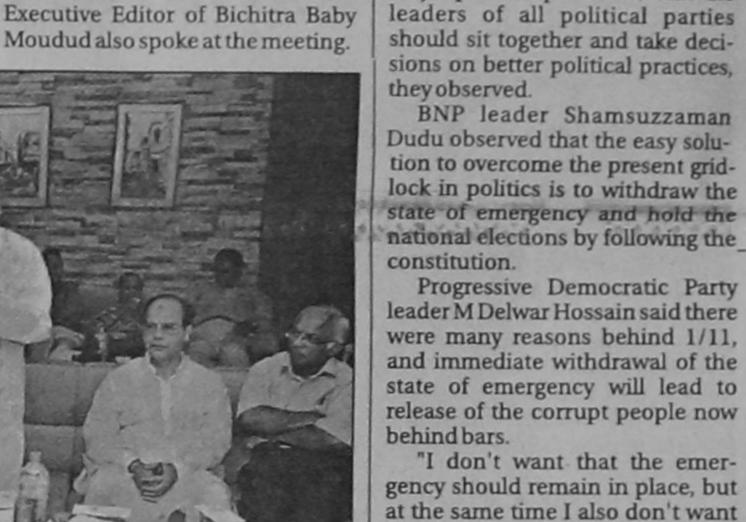
Lt Gen (retd) Harun-ur Rashid said they have already talked with the political parties to persuade them to mention in their election manifestos that they would bring the war criminals to trial if they are voted to power.

"We will also sit with the BNI over this issue. If the party does not agree to sit with us without its key ally Jamaat, we will not sit with them," he added. Underscoring the need for

starting the trial, Harun said that although the Election Commission restricted the war criminals from Sector Commander Maj Gen taking part in elections, the process of identifying them has not started Editor of The Bangladesh

Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury suggested publishing the list through a convention which will have a huge impact on the

Executive Editor of the Sangbad Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul, Bureau Chief of AP Farid Ahmed and Executive Editor of Bichitra Baby



that the corrupt people get released," he added.

Fasihuddin to be buried today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of Fasihuddin Mahtab, former minister and secretary general of Bangladesh Diabetic Association, will be brought back home today from London, says a

press release. He will be buried at Banani graveyard today after his namaz-e-

janaza at Gulshan Azad Mosque. His qulkhwani will be held

Kamruzzaman laid to rest

BSS, Dhaka

Former member of the parliament and Awami League presidium member Principal Kamruzzaman was buried beside the graves of his parents at Jurain Graveyard yester-

School-Muslim Culture and day with state honour. Societies presented a keynote In the morning, the body of Kamruzzaman was taken to his long serving KM Jubilee High School and College. Students, Nazrul Islam, Architect Khadem teachers and local people paid homage to him and attended his Abdul Matin, Mahidul Haq Khan

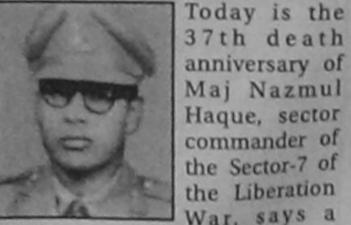
first namaz-e-janaza there. Later, the body was brought to AL office at Bangabandhu Avenue where leaders of different political

parties paid their last respects to him. After Juma prayers, another

namaz-e-janaza was held at Baitul Mokarram National Mosque. A contingent of police pre-

sented a guard of honour to him before burial.

Death anniversary STAFF CORRESPONDENT



37th death anniversary of Maj Nazmul Haque, sector commander of the Sector-7 of the Liberation War, says a

On the occasion, Shaheed Major Nazmul Haque Foundation will organise a discussion styled 'Liberation War: 1971 and the present' at 4.00pm at Liberation

Establish democratic govt to eliminate corruption Says Jamiruddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday said there will be no terrorism and corruption in the country if an elected and democratic government is established.

elected and democratic government is established," he said.

He was speaking as the chief

uest at a discussion titled 'Dutie of the patriotic people in establish-

Sircar said now the main duty of people is to participate in the election for establishing a democratic

pened when General Ershad snatched away the power," he added.

"We have to put the democracy on track and for that the nationalist forces will have to work unitedly," he said, adding, if it is done the country will be free from terrorism and corruption.

"We have eight crore voters to



Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar speaks at a discussion on 'Duties of the patriotic people in establishing a state free from terrorism and corruption' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

elect a democratic government which will uphold people's trust and protect the border. This can be done through a free, fair and neutral election with the participation

of all, he added. Criticising the Awami Leagueled grand alliance, Sircar said those who do not have any principle and do not believe in democracy will not win against the nationalist

forces in the election even if they

rice seized

Police seized vulnerable group

feeding (VGF) rice in Tangail and

of VGF rice was seized from a food

godown compound at Basail

upazila in Tangail and its helper

rice was being smuggled to sell in

Police Station in this connection.

Basail police confirmed that the

A case was filed with Basail

Meanwhile, people intercepted

Thundershowers likely

Sylhet divisions in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in

Celsius

33.7

30.4

31.4

31.6

31.6

27.8

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by tempo-

rary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and

Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and

It also said day temperature may fall slightly over the country.

recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 24.9 degrees at Chittagong.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.1 degree Celsius was

The sun sets in the capital at 5:49pm today and rises at 5:49am

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in

Min

26.8

24.9

25.8

25.8

26.0

26.4

25.6

a vehicle known as 'Nosiman',

A truck loaded with over 10 tons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pabna yesterday.

Sanwar was arrested.

UNB, Dhaka

tomorrow.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Dhaka

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

period, Met Office said.

black market.

Prof MA Matin, the discussion was also addressed by BNP leader Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, Jatiya Gonotantrik Party President Shafiul Alam Pradhan and The New Nation Editor Mostofa Kamal Majumder.

which was carrying 1400 kg of VGF

rice, at Gayespur Union Parisad

and took the Nosiman along with

the rice under their custody.

the VGF cardholders before Eid.

Momtaj, but none was arrested.

Humidity in

percentage

Evening

88

96

76

97

Morning

86

95

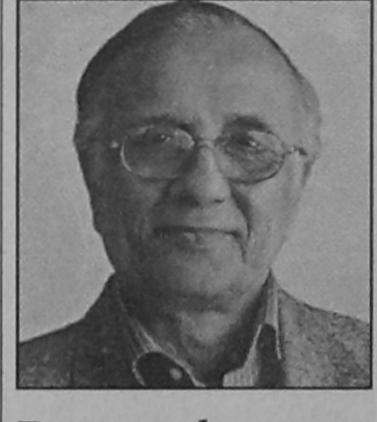
Later, police reached the spot

(UP) office in Pabna.

Badruddoza, former president and one-time influential BNP leader, demanded the government put proper security in place during the election so that voters can go to the polling centres without any intimidation.

He also asked the government to stay on track in the fight against corruption, saying, "As per their commitment, the government should arrest criminals and bring the corrupt politicians to book for holding a fair elec-

several dozens of people with various backgrounds.



Ramendu elected world ITI president

Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), has been elected the worldwide president of this largest theatre network, says a press release.

Madrid on Thursday.

Greece and Ali Mahdi of Sudan were elected vice-presidents. After the election of the 20 new members of the executive council for 2008-2010, they unanimously elected Ramendu Majumdar the next president.

ITI congress, which will end today.

METRO DESK

Ramendu Majumdar, president of

The election took place at the 32nd world congress of ITI in

Christina Babou Pagourelli of

A 12-member delegation from Bangladesh is participating in the

Health clinic for ship breaking

yesterday. Sector Commanders' Forum organised the party.

METRO DESK

workers

press release said.

Bank holiday

Bangladesh Bank (BB) and all

scheduled banks of the country will

remain closed on October 1, 2 and 3

(Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, a BB

BSS, Dhaka

Ship breaking is one of the most vulnerable sectors. Near about 30,000 workers are directly involved in the sector and they are victimised in different kinds of occupational hazards, says a press release.

Against this backdrop, Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) set up a 'OSHE-Ship Breaking Workers' Health Care Centre' at Bhatiary in Chittagong on August I with an aim to promote health services for poor workers.

The health care centre is providing basic health services to the workers on every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in a week.

Health Care Services are: Free treatment, free primary medicine, advice on occupational diseases and counselling for HIV/AIDS and others transmitted disease. The workers suffer from differ-

ent work-related diseases caused by unsafe working conditions Chemical and asbestos exposure i one of the major health challenges Over the year, there was no health service programme for the

ship breaking workers. OSHE expects that the health care centre will play a positive role in promoting occupational health and safety of the ship breaking

workers.

DETAIL AREA PLAN

Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah speaks at an iftar party with the editors and senior journalists at Dhaka Club in the city

Call to earmark enough open space

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists and urban planners yesterday said sufficient open space will have to be earmarked while preparing the 'Detail Area Plan' for Dhaka city for the greater benefit of the city dwellers. At a discussion, they said space

should not be considered only for physical purpose, it is also tremendously needed for mental and social exposition. The discussion was organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon

(Bapa) at WVA auditorium in the The speakers laid emphasis on co-ordination between nature

and urban life to remain alive in a densely populated city like

Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmed said open space in Dhaka city

Iftekhar calls for sufficient funds for vulnerable states

occasion.

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury has called for sufficient allocations for every vulnerable state so that the countries can prevent humanitarian disasters. "It is necessary to make the

vulnerable states stronger to prevent catastrophes like genocide, repression on minority people and ethnic cleansing," he said in his keynote speech at a seminar at the UN Headquarters in New York on Thursday.

The UN Centre for Responsibility to Protect organised the seminar which was also addressed by Foreign Minister of the Netherlands Maxime Verhagen and Foreign Minister of Costa Rica Bruno also a long and fruitful meeting

Foreign ministers of eight coun- Negroponte.

tries and a large number of ambassadors and diplomats and representatives of the academia and the civil society attended the seminar. On Wednesday night, Foreign

is gradually decreasing day by day.

huge vacant spaces in Azimpur

Colony and Motijheel Colony. But

now most of the space of Dhaka city

is being grabbed by the developers

creating social and cultural prob-

addressing as the chief guest.

proposed Detail Area Plan.

paper at the discussion.

lems in our life," he said while

Architect Iqbal Habib said

Dr Elisa T Bertuzzo of Graduate

University Grants Commission

Chairman and urban planner Prof

Ali, and environmentalists Dr M

and JK Baral also spoke on the

physical, mental and social aspect

of life should be integrated in the

"Once upon a time, there was

Secretary of State Richard Boucher on the sidelines of the UNGA Session in New York. They discussed a range of bilateral and regional issues, in particular the latest announcement of

election date by the chief adviser,

Adviser Iftekhar Chowdhury held a

meeting with US Assistant

said a press release. They also discussed the possibility of sending an Election Observer Mission from the United States at that time.

Earlier, Iftekhar Chowdhury had with Deputy Secretary of State John

press release.

War Museum.

UNB, New York

the current food crisis.

Thursday.

more effective early warning sys-

"We believe that the UN is an ideal forum to facilitate these efforts and we strongly support the

idea of an annual review in the

"The country will be free from terrorism and corruption if an

ing a state free from terrorism and corruption' organised by Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) at the National Press Club in the city.

government in the country. "Our democracy faced its first setback when the Baksal was formed and the second one hap-

Quader leaves for Delhi today for treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League joint general secretary Obaidul Quader will leave for New Delhi this morning for a follow-up treatment as per the recommendations of a medical board of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

He has been undergoing treatment at the hospital since his release on September 5. Quader will be admitted to

Medical University Hospital.

Apollo Hospitals in Delhi for his treatment as he still has grenade splinters in his body. He was injured critically in the August 21 grenade attack on an AL rally. Talking to The Daily Star last

night, Quader urged the country-

of all cases against AL President

He also demanded withdrawal

men to pray for him.

Sheikh Hasina.

DHAKA ODAY

Discussion on elections Sammilito Samajik Andolon organises a discussion on 'Parliamentary and upazila elections in December and civil

society'. Venue: Liberation War

Discussion Shaheed Major Nazmul Huq Foundation organises a discussion on 'Liberation War: 1971 and present'. Venue:

Liberation War Museum. Time: 4:00pm.

Museum, Time: 10:00am.

Course inaugural

ceremony The inaugural ceremony of Master's in Public Policy and Governance of North South University will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 4:00pm.

Presided over by BJP Chairman

have 100 parties in their alliance. He said the four-party alliance

remains and will remain.

Over 10 tons of VGF

Former chief engineer of public works and housing ministry Mohammad Yousuf and central president of Sramojibi Sangram Parishad BM Nizam Uddin joined the BDB along with

