# AL to take part in polls even under emergency

Says Mohiuddin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday said Awami League (AL) is an election-oriented party and it will take part in the election even if the polls are held

under the state of emergency. "But we hope good sense will activists," he added. prevail and the government will

withdraw the emergency," he said. The CCC mayor was talking to journalists at his city residence at Chashma Hill of Sholoshahar on his arrival here in the evening.

in prison.

Ex-AL lawmaker

released on bail

Jubo League general secretary and

former Awami League lawmaker

Mirza Azam was released on bail

from the Dhaka Central Jail at

about 7:00pm," Deputy Inspector

General of Prisons Maj Shamsul

Haider Siddique told The Daily

of violating the Emergency Power

Rules (EPR) on September 18 soon

after his release from jail on bail in a

The vacation bench of the HC

case involving ill-gotten wealth.

Azam was rearrested on charges

"The former MP was released

Mirza Azam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

vesterday evening.

EPR section 16(2).

months.

Commission.

DU Mourning

Dhaka University observes DU

Mourning Day today commemo-

rating the tragic deaths of students,

employees and guests in a building

collapse at the university's

students and 13 guests, died as the

roof of a one-story building at the

dormitory collapsed on them on

have drawn up various

programmes, including a mourn-

ing procession, placing wreaths at

the memorial on Jagannath Hall

premises, hoisting black flags at all

buildings and offering special

of the university will take part in the

procession that would be taken out

from the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla

edy at Jagannath Hall will remain

open to all from 9:00am to 6:30pm.

ways to avoid recurrence of such

incident will be held at Teacher-

Student Centre (TSC) auditorium

Annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Abdur

Rahim (RH) of Paribagh will be held

on Friday at Paribagh Mazar pre-

Munajat will be held at 11:00am.

mises, says a press release.

The museum of October trag-

Besides, a discussion to find out

Teachers, students and officials

To mark the day, DU authorities

A total of 39 people, including 26

Day today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath Hallin 1985.

this day in 1985.

prayers.

at 7:00am.

on October 25.

METRO DESK

Urs

The mayor alleged that he was every development. tortured during the detention and his wife for his conditional release him and the people of Chittagong'. which he rejected instantly.

ing everything about detention, oppression and torture often unleashed on political leaders or mentagainst me," he added.

still going on both at home and him abroad to hand over the Chittagong Port to foreigners.

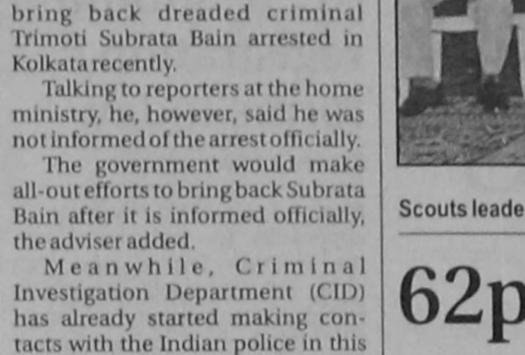
Asked about the reforms in the port he said he would support its the cases.

Mohiuddin termed his arrest the government had proposed to and cases a conspiracy 'against

"A vested quarter that did not "I was involved in politics know- want development of the port city hatched the conspiracy to detach me from people and set the govern-

He said none could prove any The mayor said a conspiracy is misappropriation of fund against

> Mohiuddin, charged with 22 cases, was released from prison on October 8 after he secured bail in all



METROPOLITAN/NEWS

A top CID official said, "We have already contacted the Indian police and told them that we want to bring back Subrata Bain who is now on a two-week police remand."

Steps to be

taken to bring

back Subrata

Bain: Adviser

Home Adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin yesterday said the govern-

ment would take initiatives to

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata recently.

the adviser added.

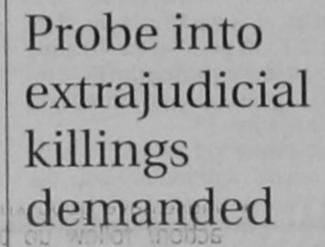
regard, sources said.

Earlier, the CID chief and Additional Inspector General of Police Md Javed Patwary told The Daily Star, "Even though there is no extradition treaty between Bangladesh and India, we have brought back several criminals who went into hiding in India and that we will try to bring him back following the procedures maintained earlier."

The CID so far brought back eight criminals, including two top criminals -- Khandaker Tanveerul Islam Joy and Hares Ahmed -- who were hiding in India.

Sources said Indian Special Force arrested Bain in a midnight drive on Saturday at a flat on Park Avenue in Kolkata, adding that he had been hiding in India after the home ministry on December 27 2001, published a list of 23 top criminals of Dhaka and declared bounties for their capture. Bain was in the top five on the list.

Police said Bain is accused in 17 cases, including murders cases filed against him in Ramna Police



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday called for impartial probe into extrajudicial killings by the members of law enforcement

They also demanded with

drawal of all repressive cases against media people and human rights activists and the withdrawal of the state of emergency. The press conference on 'Hu-

man Rights Report on Bangladesh' was organised by Christian Development Alternative (CDA) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the capital.

The speakers said a total of 216 people were killed in the name of encounter or crossfire during the period between January 2007 and July 2008.

Of them, 186 people were killed in 2007, they said, adding that Rab had killed 94 and the police 64 people.

The speakers said everybody has the constitutional right to seek justice in court.

They said the constitution of the country does not support killing of any accused or suspect by the law

enforcement agencies. They also alleged that the government is depriving the people of human rights by continuing the state of emergency which imposes

invisible restriction on the media. CDA Executive Director William Nicholas Gomez, President of Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minority

Rabindranath Tribedi and journalist Jahangir Alam Akash addressed the press conference.

## 97th anniversary of birth of Zohra Kazi today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 97th birth anniversary of Dr Zohra Begum Kazi, who was the first female Muslim doctor in undivided

Bengal, says a press release. Zohra Begum Kazi Udjapan Parishad has chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The veteran doctor served as the head of the department of Gynaecology of Dhaka Medical College for long and also worked for different government and nongovernment organisations.

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to medical services and language movement, she was awarded Tamgha-e-Pakistan, Begum Rokeya Padak, Ekushey Padak and BMA Gold Medal.



Scouts leaders from the Saarc countries pose with President lajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

S Asia has great

development

Iajuddin tells Scouts

President lajuddin Ahmed yester-

day said South Asia has a great

development potential in terms of

its diverse cultural heritage and

human resources as one-fourth of

the world population live in this

"We have a great scope to raise the

living standards of people in this

region and there are enormous

opportunities to boost our socio-

economic activities further to

mutual benefit," he told a delega-

tion of Scout leaders from Saarc

The delegation, led by President of

potential

leaders

UNB, Dhaka

## 62pc women can't buy healthy food due to price hike

Survey reveals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Price hike of essentials has shown its adverse impacts on women and children's health, nutrition and education, a survey conducted by Steps Towards Development revealed recently.

At a press conference at its auditorium yesterday, the speakers said price hike of essentials has already started to take its toll on the people, especially women as they are in charge of home management in our socio-economic perspec-

The NGO conducted the survey on 833 women of 10 districts in the country in August this year that shows 62 percent women cannot buy nutritious food for their families while 30 percent have to cut

মিবাচন ও নাগরিক প্রত্যাশ

गरियः ३८ आसोवत २००४, मसः मनल ३० ०० हे

Morshed and ASM Shajahan. (Story on Page 16)

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ciaries of the cervices.

A five-year eye care project titled

'Dhaka Urban Comprehensive Eye

Care' was launched yesterday for

providing eye care to over 2.7 lakh

visually impaired people in the city.

in the city will be the main benefi-

association with the Standard

tives with an aim to developing six

Charted Bank has taken the initia-

primary healthcare centres as sub-

centre for eye services and three

low vision centres to train 2,000

staff on primary eye care and case

include reducing the prevalence of

cataract, increasing the use of

The objectives of the project

The marginalised people living

Sightsavers International in

সুজ্ব - সুশাসনের জন্য নাগরিক

ওবেৰ সাহট: www.shijan.org ও www.votobd.org

their treatment expenses. women were from urban areas and 71 ones from rural areas.

A total of 14 percent respondents answered that no longer they are able to save money now that increases their mental pressure.

The report also revealed that 55 percent women are forced to buy little amount of food than that of previous time. Some 32 percent women have been taking loans further to bear the expenses of the

Steps Towards Development Executive Director Ranjan increased much, women have to cut their budgets in buying nutritious food that lead to increase malnutrition among the children. ence.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable on upcoming elections and expectations of citizens at Cirdap audito-

rium in the city yesterday. On his right is Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar and on his left are Syed Abul Maksud, Sharmin

encouraging preventative eye care

The whole operation will be

directed with the support of four

partner hospitals, Islamia Eye

Hospital (IEH), National Society for

the Blind Eye Hospital, Ad-din

Hospital and Salauddin

invest \$20 million to fund the

development of sustainable eye

care services in less advantaged

areas of 20 cities across the world,

Iqbal inaugurated the programme

at Islamia Eye Hospital in the city.

LGRD Adviser Md Anwarul

He said that due to poverty and

Standard Chartered Bank will

Specialised Hospital Ltd.

including Dhaka.

measures and increasing the

capacity of the partners to provide

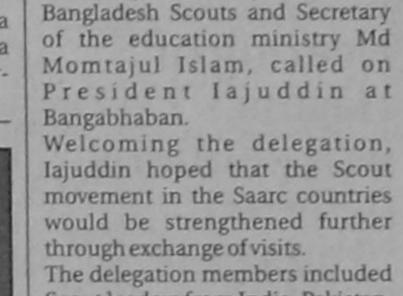
counseling services.

Of the respondents, 53 percent ment cost to bring balance in fam ily expenses increases the risk of maternal and child mortality."

Presenting the study result, he said girls' education would also be hampered due to the reason while the micro-investments would slow down with a declining pace of

Target to reduce poverty and hunger at Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and Millennium Development Goal might not be achieved for such socio economic shakiness, he added.

Steps Director Moinul Huda, Karmakar said, "As prices have Rekha Saha and study team members Bibhuranjan Sarkar, Shaheda Ferdous Munni and Hasina Shipra also took part in the press confer-



The delegation members included Scout leaders from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Secretary of the home ministry Md Abdul Karim, also the International Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts, and Chief National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts Md Abul Kalm Azad were among the delegation members, and

### Govt appoints 19 asstt attorney generals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

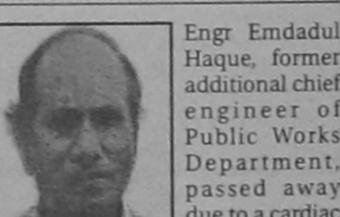
The government has appointed 19 new assistant attorney generals 5-yr eye care project launched (AAGs) for moving the cases on behalf of the state in the higher judiciary.

The president on Monday gave the appointments to the new law officers who are the practising lawyers at the Supreme Court.

The law officers are Nahareen Amin, Nusrat Zahan, Marzina Raihan (Madina), AZM Morshed Al Mamun, Md Shahidul Islam Khan, Md Moniruzzaman, AKM Moniruzzaman, Syed Md Zabed Parvez, Hosne Ara Begum, Mostafa Zaman Islam, Nurunnabi Bulbul, Md Nusrat Alam Chishti, Dewan Abdul Naser, Ahsanullah Chowdhury, Md Afzal Hossain, Md Abdullah, AMM Azizul Huq, ATM Obaidul Hye and Md Zafar Ali Khan.

## Obituary

METRO DESK



Haque, former additional chief engineer of Public Works Department, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at a city

hospital yesterday at the age of 62, says a press release.

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

He will be buried at the Banani graveyard after namaz-e-janaza tomorrow (Thursday).

Comrade Abul Bashar

DU CORRESPONDENT

Comrade Abul Bashar Khan alias Badsha Mia, Munshiganj district secretary of Workers Party of Bangladesh, passed away yesterday at the age of 70, says a press

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimol Biswas in a joint statement expressed shock at the death of Badsha Mia.

Amirul Islam

BSS, PARBOTIPUR, Dinajpur

Amirul Islam, a freedom fighter of Chalk Krishnapur village in Dinajpur, passed away due to prolonged illnesses on Sunday at the age of 55.

He was buried with state honour at his family graveyard.

#### occasion. He also witnessed a cultural show organised by the students. Earlier, the army chief formally unveiled the plaque of the newly constructed "Binapani Bhaban" of the school and released some fish dard education across the country is fries in the school pond.

a must for steering the nation towards progress and prosperity. General Moeen was addressing as

the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a newly-constructed classroom building named 'Binapani Bhaban' of Krishna Gobinda High School on the school premises at Bangla village about five kilometres east from Netrakona town.

granted bail to Azam on October 5 in the EPR violation case. According to the prosecution, police had arrested Azam near GPO intersection as he along with his party men was trying to break the and terrorism. The HC had earlier granted him

bail on September 16 for three On July 16, Azam was first sent to jail after Metropolitan Sessions Court denied him bail on his surrender in the ill-gotten wealth case filed by the Anti-Corruption Kumer Singha.

them as worthy citizens.

Liberation War to the school library and asked the students to read those books to acquire knowledge on the history of the war of liberation and the contributions of the valiant

General Moeen formally handed over crests among the eight meritori-



Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday said a nation could not develop without quality

Family members greet Chittagong Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury as he returns home yesterday after 17 months

He said the flourishing of stan-

The army chief called upon all to work together to spread the light of education to every nock and corner of the country for building Bangladesh as an educated nation and freeing the nation from poverty

Netrakona Deputy Commissioner Mufazzel Hussain presided over the ceremony while GOC of 19th Army Infantry Division Major General AKM Mujaheed Uddin, former member of National Board of Revenue Ashim Kumar Roy and headmaster of the school Ajit

General Moeen advised the students of the school to attend their classes regularly keeping their mindset ready for learning to make

He presented some books on the freedom fighters.

ous students of the school on the

He also planted a sapling of a krishnachura on the school premises.

Mobile court fines six sweetmeat shops Tk 5.5 lakh STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court fined several stores Tk 5.5 lakh during its drive against adulterated food products, especially milk products in the city's Mirpur area yesterday.

The court led by Executive Magistrate AHM Anwar Pasha accompanied by Deputy Commander of Rab-4 Maj Mahmud Hossain, Capt Md Mashiul Alam and representatives of Dhaka City Corporation and BSTI started the drive at around 11:00am.

The court fined Banaful at Mirpur-2Tk one lakh for producing food in an unhygienic environment and giving false information of products on their packets.

It also fined Banalata Sweets Chaklader Varieties Store and Antaranga Store at Shah Ali Market Tk one lakh each for producing sweet items and selling milk powders that had no BSTI seals.

Muslims Sweets and Bakery and Rajdhani Mistanno Bhandar were finedTk50,000 andTk55,000.



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the coun-

try, Met Office said. Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakundu and the lowest of 22.4 degrees at Jessore. The sun sets in the capital at 5:32pm today and rises at 5:57am

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

Celsius		percentage	
Max	Min	Morning	Evening
33.8	24.2	70	67
33.0	24.5	76	80
32.8	23.0	88	80
34.2	24.5	75	72
33.6	24.0	76	91
33.6	22.9	72	62
34.0	25.0	71	73
	Max 33.8 33.0 32.8 34.2 33.6 33.6	33.8 24.2 33.0 24.5 32.8 23.0 34.2 24.5 33.6 24.0 33.6 22.9	Max Min Morning   33.8 24.2 70   33.0 24.5 76   32.8 23.0 88   34.2 24.5 75   33.6 24.0 76   33.6 22.9 72

## DHAKA ODAY

Seminar

identification.

Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco in cooperation with Unesco Dhaka Office will organise a seminar on the occasion of the World Teachers' Day. Venue: NAEM conference room. Time

Workshop

Bangladesh University organises a workshop on 'International trade and finance in the 21st century'. Venue: Bangladesh University auditorium. Time: 6:30pm.

Child Rights Week will be held. Venue: Ramna Restaurant Complex. Time: 10:30am. View exchange meeting

The inaugural ceremony of the National

Child rights week

Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) organises a view exchange meeting on draft policy on sexual harassment in educational institutions. Venue: UGC auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

BCAB talk

Diplomatic Correspondents Association Bangladesh (BCAB) organises a talk with EC Head of Delegation Dr Stefan Frowein on Bangladesh-EC relationship. Venue: Lakeshore Hotel. Time: 10:30am.

### White Cane Safety Day today sions, a discussion and distribution

refraction and low vision services, lack of awareness, a lot of people

for eye care.

goals, he added.

the programme.

are suffering from visual impair-

He urged the countrymen to

He said this project would help

reduce avoidable blindness in

Dhaka city. It will also help the

government achieve Vision 2020

chairman of Islamia Eye Hospital,

chaired the programme while Dr

Md Showkat Ali, chief health officer

of DCC, Dr Wahidul Islam, country

director, Sightsavers International,

Ahmed Ali Shah, acting CEO and

managing director of Standard

Chartered Bank, were present at

of white canes among the people

Sight Savers International will

Mirza Ali Behrouze Ispahani,

come forward to raise awareness

and increase treatment facilities

DU CORRESPONDENT

World White Cane Safety Day will be observed today in a bid to raise social awareness among general public to make a smooth movement for the visually handicapped people and to make them more conscious of the white cane as a mobility aid.

To mark the day, National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD), Ministry of Social Welfare, Directorate of Social as the chiefguest. Welfare and National Foundation for the Development of the Disabled have jointly chalked out a series of

provide necessary assistance to arrange the programmes on the The discussion will be held at the social welfare auditorium at 10:00am

with disabilities.

today highlighting the significance of the day. Chief Adviser's Special Assistant Brig Gen (retd) MA Malek is expected to attend the programme

NFOWD Director Dr Nafeesur Rahman said this at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity programmes, including proces- auditorium in the city yesterday.

### 38 rebels killed in Lanka Having wrestled the east from

AP, AFP, Colombo

Scattered fighting in northern Sri Lanka killed 38 rebels and three soldiers as the government pressed ahead with its offensive against the Tamil Tigers, the military said battles took place in the yesterday. The defence ministry said its

troops fought pitched battles and beat back rebel assaults along several fronts in the north on Monday. It said three government soldiers died in the fighting.

There was no comment from rebels, he said. the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who are battling a government push to dismantle their northern mini-state.

the Tigers in July 2007, Sri Lanka now says it is just two kilometres (1.2 miles) from Kilinochchi, the LTTE's administrative hub. The fiercest of Monday's

Kilinochchi region, where 11 rebel fighters and two soldiers were killed in a wave of confrontations, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said. Fighting in Jaffna, Vavuniya and Mullaittivu killed nine other

With nearly all communications to the north severed, rebel spokesmen could not be contacted for comment.