People won't

dismantling

Says Gen Ibrahim

country's liberation war.

to wreck the warship.

fighters," he said.

on any national issue.

50 sacks of

UNB, Benapole

upazila on Friday.

evening.

warship 'Akram'

Bangladesh Kalyan Party Chairman Maj Gen (retd) Syed Muhammad

Ibrahim yesterday said the people wouldn't tolerate dismantling the

warship 'Akram', an artifact of the

Calling for making the historic

warship into a floating museum, he

said those who could not accept

the nation's great liberation war are

now hatching a "new conspiracy"

Gen Ibrahim, himself a freedom

fighter, made the remarks at a

meeting with leaders of party's

Kafrul thana committee at the

He said the nation wants to

know who gave the instruction for

scrapping the Akram. "The nation

will not tolerate any conspiracy to

erase or destroy any remnants of

the liberation war or freedom

ment to seek public opinion before

taking any controversial decision

fertiliser seized

Some 50 sacks of Indian banned

fertiliser were seized in Sharsha

Acting on a tip-off, BDR person-

nel seized an engine-driven van

along with 50 sacks of Indian MOP

fertiliser from in front of Navaran

Buruzbagan Madrasha in the

Bring folklore

department

under social

science faculty

Demand RU students

Students of Folklore Department of

Rajshahi University (RU) vesterday

submitted a memorandum to RU

acting vice chancellor Prof

Mamnunul Keramat demanding

immediate inclusion of their

department in the social science

RU CORRESPONDENT

He urged the caretaker govern-

party's new DOHS secretariat.

tolerate

UNB, Dhaka

# METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Politics should

avoid military

Says Prof Emajuddin

The political culture should be

more healthy and the politics

should be strong enough to avoid

the country, said eminent political

scientist and vice-chancellor of

University of Development

Alternative Prof Emajuddin Ahmed

be loyal to the civil government and

they must believe that the fire-

power is not a substitute for peo-

He said military forces should

Dr Emajuddin was delivering a

lecture on 'Democratic use of

military power' at the Shaheed

Colonel Jamil Ahmed Memorial

Lecture 2008 organised by the

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh at its

intervention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

in the city yesterday.

ple's mandate.

auditorium.

be strong

enough to

## Set up land commission to protect rights of indigenous people

## Demand speakers at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday demanded the government constitute a permanent land commission to protect the land rights of the indigenous people in Chittagong hill tracts and plainland areas.

They urged the political parties, willing to contest the next general polls, to make a public announcement for protecting the land and human rights of the indigenous people as well as to extend full support for them in the election manifestos.

The speakers made the call at the seminar on "Jhum cultivation and state policy: Context of land involved in or dependent on jhum rights of the hill indigenous" organised by Association for Land Reform and Development

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Crg

social activities.

in society, they said.

missing

The speakers at an inter-divisional

dialogue here yesterday called on

the religious leaders to raise aware-

ness about HIV/AIDS and anti-

thy and respected persons, reli-

gious leaders and teachers have

easy access to all classes of people

Slain teenage

her daughter

girl named,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The teenage girl whose body was

found at Sat Tala slum in the city's

fied as Sharmin Akhter, wife of a

garments accessories trader Sohel

Sharmin along with her one-

and-a-half-year-old daughter

Srabantee went out of their house

at Banasree in Rampura on

October 10 but did not return

home, Officer-in-Charge of

Khilgaon Police Station Syed

Nazrul Islam said quoting local

Friday while her daughter still

Sharmin was found dead on

Meanwhile, Sharmin's brother

The OC, however, said her hus-

Mobarak Hossain suspect that her

husband might have a hand behind

Three killed in

road accidents

Three people were killed in sepa-

rate road accidents in Jhenidah

reports: A man was killed in a road

accident at Halidhani Baradi vil-

Our correspondent in Jhenidah

The victim was identified as

The accident occurred at

1:00pm when a speeding truck

knocked him down while he was

returning home from Nagarbathan

Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The body was sent to Jhenidah

UNB adds: Two motorcyclists

people.

remains missing.

METRO DESK

and Comilla yesterday.

lage in Jhenidah.

Rabiul Islam, 30.

Comilla.

on the spot.

Zihanuddin, 55.

the murder of Sharmin.

band denied the allegation.

Ahmed, the police said yesterday.

Gulshan area on Friday was identi-

Regarded as the most trustwor-

(ALRD) at YWCA auditorium in

Presenting a written statement at the seminar, researcher Santosh Bikash Tripura said the question of indigenous people's land rights is related to their jhum cultivation and the issue of controlling the farming and the state's economic and political rights are directly

"Assurance of the indigenous people's rights to land and livelihoods are very urgent for solving the problems regarding the jhum cultivation," he said.

He informed that only 35 percent of the indigenous people are

The speakers said the misuse of the land law and state policies has

The religious leaders can

explain the sexual behaviour in the

light of their respective religions

and make the people aware of safe

physical relationships to help

prevent the spread of sexually

transmitted diseases (STDs), the

titled 'The role of religions in pre-

venting HIV/AIDS and other dis-

eases' was organised at the local

Joint Secretary of the religious

affairs ministry AHM Afzal Hossain

presided over the dialogue

attended by religious leaders,

intellectuals, academicians and

Chittagong Hossain Jamil was

present as the chief guest while

Deputy Commissioner Ashraf

Shamim was the special guest at

the dialogue organised in associa-

tion with Islamic Foundation

The divisional commissioner

Addressing the dialogue, Afzal

He hoped that leaders of differ-

Bangladesh, Chittagong division.

said. "We have to have a scientific

outlook and religious approach to

Hossain said it was the first inter-

religious dialogue the government

had organised focusing on

ent religions and organisations

would help the government reach

out to the general public and build

held in six divisional cities was also

organised simultaneously in Sylhet

and Barisal yesterday and it would

be finally organised in Dhaka on

Hospitals in the city yesterday by cutting a ribbon.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the

country having chances of light rain or thundershowers at one or

two places over Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions and the regions

of Tangail, Mymensingh and Sylhet in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the coun-

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.7 degree Celsius was

The sun sets in the capital at 5:29pm today and rises at 5:58am

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in

Min

25.5

24.7

23.0

23.5

22.7

22.9

26.4

Humidityin

percentage

Morning

75

76

69

61

71

Evening

68

72

69

64

recorded at Sandwip and the lowest of 20.6 degrees at Srimongal.

some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in

Celsius

34.3

32.0

33.4

33.4

34.5

34.0

35.1

The dialogue scheduled to be

HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

a healthy nation.

prevent STDs and other disease."

Divisional Commissioner of

The inter-divisional dialogue

awareness about HIV/AIDS

speakers added.

circuit house.

women leaders.

made them landless and marginal and its negative impacts have affected the livelihoods of jhum cultivators.

By rehabilitating the Bangalee landless people in the hill tracts, the indigenous landless people have been made marginal and, moreover, the jhum farming has been restricted, they added.

Economist Dr Abul Barkat called on the government to stop the eviction of the indigenous people of Chittagong hill tracts.

Presided over by woman leader Khushi Kabir, the seminar was addressed by Dr Ainun Nahar, Dr Ahsan Ali, Barendralal Tripura, Goutam Chakma, Utpal Khisa and ALRD Executive Director Shamsul

November 1, he informed.

Dr AFM Khalid Hossain of MES

University College in Chittagong,

Child Specialist Dr Dilip Dey,

Bangladesh Buddha Samity Vice

President Prof Jitendra Lal Barua

and Dr Sanai Pru Tripura of Leprosy

Mission at Khulshi presented key-

note papers focusing on the preven-

tion of STDs and other diseases in

the light of their respective religions.

people were identified HIV-

positives across the globe till the

died of AIDS so far, adding that

three-forth of these tragic deaths

Some 25 lakh people were

infected with HIV only in 2007.

Mostly the adolescents and youths

aged 15 to 24 years fell victim to

AIDS. Socio-economic discrimina-

tion and ignorance of religious

rules made the young people most

Chittagong Abul Hyat Md Tareque

gave the address of welcome at the

dialogue which was also attended

by Principal Syed Abu Noman, Prof

Anowara Alam, Dr Jin Byodhi

Bhixmu, Moulana Ahmudur

Rahman, poet and journalist

Bishwajit Chowdhury, journalists

Helal Humayun and Hasan Akber,

Prof Monirul Islam Rafiq and Prof

BM Mafizur Rahman.

Director of Islamic Foundation

vulnerable to these diseases.

financial growth of the region.

world a day, they added.

end of 2007. Some 2.01 crore peo-

They said a total of 3.32 crore

Presided over by Dean of social science faculty of Dhaka University Prof Harun-or-Rashid, the lecture was attended by a number of eminent scholars. Religious leaders urged to raise

"Military professionalism in a society is enhanced if and when the civilian government is deeply involved in democratic ethos," said ProfEmajuddin.

He said two conditions should be fulfilled for the democratic use of military power- one is the civilian control of the military and the other is the strong commitment of civilian rulers to democracy.

Dr Emajuddin said military interventions in the country took place after independence due to some lacking of the politicians and high ambition of few generals.

Dr Harun said democratic use of military power should be ensured and the best instance of it is the preparation of the voter list with photographs by the members of the armed forces.

#### ple, including 3.30 lakh children Direct hajj took place in the Sub-Saharan flights from countries in Africa, causing huge losses of human resources and Sylhet still As per the latest UNAIDS statisuncertain tics of 2007, around 6800 people are being infected with HIV in the

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

Direct hajj flights from Sylhet is still uncertain as Bangladesh Biman yet to finalise its flight schedules for 1500 intending pilgrims from this

The travel agents are in great trouble due to this uncertainty as they could not hire houses in Makka and Modina for the pil-

In a petition to religious affairs ministry yesterday, the hajj agents demanded its immediate intervention to end the crisis.

Sylhet unit President of Hajj Association of Bangladesh Abdul Mukit Chowdhury said, "We are unable to hire houses in Makka and Modina as the authorities concerned have failed to finalise the flight schedules."

An official of Biman Sylhet office requesting anonymity said, "We have already informed the head office of our position, but we are yet to get any schedule from them."

He said the authorities have decided to operate the hajj flights by 747 aircrafts only. "If it happens, then there is no

possibility of operating direct hajj flights from Sylhet this year as Osmany International Airport is yet to be made ready to operate such crafts," he said. On the other hand, it has been

made mandatory for the pilgrims to take training at Dhaka hajj camp this year, sources added.

#### Eid reunion of A child patient inaugurates the Apollo Children's Centre at the Apollo BUETAA held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Eid reunion of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Alumni Association (BUETAA) was held at Buet auditorium on Friday.

On the occasion, BUETAA honoured the senior Buet alumni who graduated in 1958 or earlier, says a press release.

Vice Chancellor Dr AMM Safiullah, former vice chancellors Dr Musharraf Husain Khan, Dr Abdul Matin Patwari and Dr Iqbal Mahmud and Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury, vice chancellor of Brac University and the president of BUETAA, were present at the programme attended by about 200 alumni of Buet.

Dr AMM Safiullah said that Buet should upgrade its laboratory and research facilities to cope with the modern world.

And Buet alumni could play a significant role to this end, he said. Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury said that the Buet alumni should come forward to support the various programmes of the university so that the university could gain global recognition as the home for world-class education and

research.



Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable on 'Our responsibilities to prevent eve teasing' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Shishu Academy, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum and the Shaptahik 2000 jointly organised the programme.

### 6TH SAF SCOUT FRIENDSHIP CAMP ENDS

## Call to establish peace in Saarc region

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The week-long 6th SAF Scout Friendship Camp concluded yesterday with a call for Rover Scouts to help strengthen relationship among the Saarc nations through deepening friendship and establishing peace in the

leaders from the Saarc countries --India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives and Bangladesh -- took part in the camp held at the National Scout Training Centre at Mouchak in Gazipur.

The theme of this camp was 'Scouting for peace and friend-

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury was present at the concluding session as the chief guest.

The Scouts are the future leaders of this region, the adviser said and called on them to use A total of 390 Rover Scouts and Scouting activities as the springboard for developing their leader-

> "Scouting helps young people become good citizens," said National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts Md Mozammel Haque Khan, who chaired the

closing session.

"SAF Scout Friendship Camp are being organised by the national Scout organisations of the Saarc countries since 2002 under the auspices of the South Asian Foundation and in coordination with the World Scout Bureau of Asia Pacific Region," he added.

Executive Secretary of Bangladesh Scouts Md Nazrul Islam gave the vote of thanks. The Scouts also presented a

cultural show at the closing cere-

The Daily Star, Channel i and Radio Today were the media partners of the friendship camp.

## CJA confce ends with call for focus on climate change

UNB, Kuching, Malaysia

The Commonwealth Journalists | sent. Association (CJA) ended its conference in Malaysia yesterday with a call for focus on the impacts of climate change in its member coun-

In a communiqué issued at the end of the six-day conference in Kuching, the association urged the delegates to encourage more and more coverage of climate change issues in news media throughout the Commonwealth.

The issue of climate change and natural calamities due to global warming have been widely deliberated in the conference. It was viewed that a wide focus of the adverse effects resulting in miseries to people was needed to draw attention of the international community and find out quick assistance and also to seek remedial measures.

"We feel that climate change, and its potentiality of devastating impacts on all aspects of human life across the planet needs intense and ongoing journalistic attention using the checks and balances that the best practices of our profession demanded," said the communiqué. The conference, attended by

more than 100 delegates from 17 commonwealth countries, declared, "We'll use our capacity to share information on the impact and science of climate change in our home countries and foster diligent

reporting on climate change through the media houses we repre-

special focus on Bangladesh. "By 2010, it is estimated that fully 17.5 percent of the present-day Bangladesh will have been inundated as a result of rising sea level. Bangladesh is an extreme case but many Commonwealth countries are similarly at risk," it said.

It urged all heads of the Association.

Commonwealth governments to renew their commitment to the media development fund at once The communiqué attached and ask the secretary general to persuade the governments which have never contributed, and those

which have reduced or stopped their participation to think again. Earlier on Friday, Hassan Shahriar was re-elected unopposed president of the Commonwealth Journalists

faculty. They argued that as students of a department under the arts faculty they get few opportunities in the job market.

They threatened to go on a hunger strike if their demand is not met within seven days.

Earlier, the agitating students demonstrated on the department premises to press home their

demand. When contacted, Department Chair M Shahidur Rahman said, "We have already informed univer-

sity authorities to take necessary steps to this end." Dean of Social Science Faculty Prof Sadekul Islam said that if the curricula are same, there should not be any problem to include it

under the social science faculty. After the approval of the academic council, RU Syndicate will take the final decision after a discussion, he added.

Earlier, the agitating students boycotted their scheduled classes and examinations demanding the

The navy chief also visited South Korea where he attended the West Pacific Naval Symposium 2008 and Maritime Air Defence Exhibition 2008. He

## No shift from Dec 18 election fixture

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam calls on Defence

Minister of China General Liang Guanglie during his recent visit to China.

FROM PAGE 16 Some speakers said they found

people of all walks of life including government officials murmuring their doubts about holding of the election on schedule. They said corruption suspects

have already been released and the government and EC have conceded too much to some political parties including Jamaat-e-Islami on different issues -- a development which erodes public confidence.

would cancel candidacies of the candidates convicted in criminal cases, had the appellate court not stayed their convictions following appeals. The EC already completed all

preparatory work related to holding of the election including preparing the voter list, amending the electoral rules and the electoral code of conduct, appointments of electoral staff, and establishment of offices at upazila levels, Shamsul Huda added. "The electronic data base of

voters is a great achievement for the nation, and there is no problem with its security," he said.

He also said two consignments of transparent ballot boxes already reached the country, and the rest will arrive soon.

elections will be needed. The

Election Commission has already

"Three and a half lakh manpower for holding the national election and another five and a half lakh manpower for the upazill

changed the Representation of the People Order 2008 enough times on request of the political parties, and it will not be changed anymore," he said adding that the EC will give registration certificates to Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Jatiya Party (Manju), as they met the prerequisites for political parties' mandatory registration

returned home yesterday.

He hoped that all other political parties including BNP and Jamaate-Islami will also get registered The CEC said his commission with the commission soon.

with the commission.

He said the EC has already taken steps to ensure law and order during the election.

"We've a plan to hold the election keeping the striking forces in reserve, so no panic is created among voters," he said adding that candidacies will be cancelled if candidates violate the electoral code of conduct. He said being inspired by differ-

ent sections of the people, the commission had planned to hold the national and upazila elections simultaneously, but the political parties opposed holding of upazila elections right on the heels of the parliamentary poll. "The government is now dealing

with the political parties. The decision regarding holding of the government," he noted.

upazila elections is now up to the The CEC said magistrates will be assigned to monitor whether candidates are providing the required

eight-point information to the EC

during submission of nomination

papers, or applications for candidacies in cases of independent candidates.

Acting General Secretary of Awami League Syed Ashraful Islam hoped that the national election will be held on December 18, and the emergency will be lifted during the poll period. He, however, apprehended that

candidates free of the stigma of corruption will be difficult to find in the upcoming elections as 'the world champions of corruption' have been released from jails.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said the election is a mean to restoring democracy, but the political parties have been treating it as an end.

"We expect the political parties to nominate competent and honest candidates to form an effective parliament, otherwise the rule of law will be violated in many differentways," he said.

He suggested formation of a review committee for scrapping of false cases against indicted political leaders, in order to maintain adherence to the rule of law.

Prof Muzaffer added that the government is duty-bound to

ensure public security during elections. President of Bangladesh

Workers Party Rashed Khan Menon said the parliamentary election must be held on December 18, and any alternative will be very dangerous for the nation.

"If the election date is deferred,

that would mean the election will

not be held in 2009," he said. He also said elections amid the state of emergency will not be acceptable. "Corrupt people have been

getting treatment abroad after being released from jails while over eight crore voters are languishing under the state of emergency. This is not desired. I can't launch a political campaign due to the emergency. I don't know when the government will lift the emergency and when we can campaign," he

Candidates with criminal convictions should not be allowed to contest in elections until the courts overturn the convictions, he added.

Menon said his party wants increased participation of women in elections.

Former adviser to a caretaker government SM Shahjahan said

the confusions over holding of the election must be removed. "If the election is not held on

December 18, anarchy will engulf the country," he warned. Moderated by Editor of the

Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman, the roundtable was also addressed by Jatiya Party Presidium Member Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, FBCCI President Annisul Huq, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekheruzzaman, Prof Dilara Zaman, and legal expert Dr Shahdeen Malik. among others.

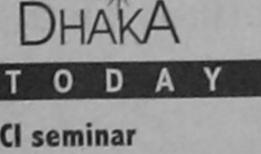
Time: 5:00pm.

#### TODAY FBCCI seminar

Imam Hossain, 55, and

Saarc Chamber of Commerce and Industries and FBCCI jointly organise a seminar on trade facilitation in South Asia. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time:

#### Discussion



Farrukh Gobesona Foundation organises a discussion followed by poetry recitation to observe the 34th death anniversary of poet Farrukh Ahmed. Venue: National Press Club.



try, Met Office said.

tomorrow.

City/Town

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

Dhaka