# METROPOLITAN/NEWS

role in the upcoming election, he

said, urging the attending journal-

ists to work with dedication so that

honest and competent candidates

Mahfuz Anam suggested pub-

Referring to eight personal

lishing a list of potential women

candidates in newspapers ahead of

they are obliged to declare under

the new electoral laws, he said the

journalists will have a chance to

scrutinise the information given by

A qualitative change in the

parliamentary debates will come if

a large number of women come to

parliament, he said, urging the

journalists to put pressure on the

political parties through their writings so that they nominate

He called on all professionals to

Presiding over the workshop,

carry forward the women's rights

BMP Chairperson Ayesha Khanam said, "We failed to give democracy

an institutional shape and none

only for the empowerment of

women but also for strengthening

the democratic institutions," she

said, adding, journalists can play a

Ayesha Khanam said the jour-

nalists will have to be vocal so that

criminals, godfathers, black

money holders, loan defaulters

and fundamentalists cannot come

so that Razakars and fundamental-

ists are not nominated in the

Banu, Media Sub-committee

Secretary Quazi Sufia Akhter, mem-

ber Sultana Rahman and Ahsan

Habib of Channel i also spoke.

She urged the voters to be alert

BMP General Secretary Maleka

"We have to work unitedly not

can avoid the responsibility."

vital role in this regard.

upcoming elections.

are elected in the polls.

steps to publish it.

more women.

movement

to power.

# Help elect competent candidates Speakers urge journalists at workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called on the journalists to work with devotion, wisdom and honesty saying that they can play a major role in electing honest and competent candidates.

The workshop titled 'Upcoming national parliament elections, democracy and the role of journalists' was organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) at its central office in the city.

Around 77 journalists from ornot. different media working in different districts attended the work-

Speaking on the occasion as special guest, Shamokal Editor Abed Khan said the country perhaps did not witness such election

BNP-Jamaat

to foil polls

conspiracy on

Says JSD president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different political par

ties at a discussion yesterday said

BNP-Jamaat alliance is hatching a

conspiracy to foil the next general

election joining hands with a sec-

tion of the administration and the

government knowing their defeat

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

President Hasanul Haq Inu said,

"They (BNP-Jamaat alliance) are

engaged in conspiracy so that the

upcoming parliamentary election

cannot be held as they know that

they will be defeated in the elec-

to mark the 36th founding anniver-

The discussion was organised at

"We don't think that all the

problems will be solved once the

election is held, but the remaining

problems will deepen if the present

government remains in power for

conventional family dynasty-

based politics and politics of mus-

cle power, they want a change," he

said, adding, "Politicians will have

to pay if they failed to understand

ber Amir Hossain Amu, Workers'

Party of Bangladesh General

Secretary Bimal Biswas, JSD

General Secretary Syed Zafar Sajjad

and Executive President

Moinuddin Khan Badal took part in

president, gen

Hossain Zakir of the Daily Jugantar

and Gani Adam of Banglavision

have been elected president and

general secretary of Reporters'

Forum for Election and Democracy

elected a 13-member committee

President Belayet Hossain

(Dinkal), Joint General Secretary

Khadimul Islam Ridoy (New Age),

Organising Secretary Moinul

Haque Chowdhury

(bdnews24.com), Finance

Secretary Hasan Shafiyee

(Manabjamin), Office Secretary

Soma Islam (Channel i) and

Members Sheikh Nazrul Islam

(ATN Bangla), Shakhawat Liton

(The Daily Star), Naznin Akhter

(Janakantha), Sajjad Hossain

(BSS), Mohammad Jasimuddin

of the organisation, handed over

the charges to the newly elected

president yesterday.

Ashis Saikat, outgoing president

(Ittefaq) and Shahed Alam (NTV).

RFED yesterday in a meeting

Other office bearers are Vice

(RFED), says a press release.

for the period of 2008-09.

secy of RFED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the meeting, among others.

Zakir, Gani

Awami League presidium mem-

"People do not want to see the

in the polls.

sary of JSD.

long," Inu added.

people's desire."

earlier in its history as it is going to be held in an unusual atmosphere. He said this election is very

important as the fate of the nation added. depends on it. There will be a rebirth of fundamentalism and the country will

turn into Afghanistan if the election is not held, he added. Abed Khan said this election will determine whether the spirit of the

liberation war and the democratic forces will remain or not, whether the rights of women will be ensured

He said the freethinking and progressive people are becoming minority day by day, and religious feeling is being used as political

"The force whom we ignored is added. becoming powerful day by day.

Time has come to tell people ahead of the election that religion and politics are not the same thing, he

Abed Khan urged all progressive forces to be united for the greater interest of democracy.

He said journalists have an immense role to play ahead of the the election.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz information of the candidates that Anam said the main responsibility of the journalists is to maintain the ethics of journalism and professional values devotedly while discharging their professional the candidates and take necessary

Knowledge, wisdom, morality and honesty are very important while working as a journalist, he

Journalists can perform a new



Save the Environment Movement organises a swimming competition in the river Buriganga yesterday as a part of its campaign to save the river from illegal encroachment and pollution.

# University teachers demand halt to leasing of oil, gas resources

**DU CORRESPONDENT** 

Teachers of different public universities have demanded a halt to leasing out oil and gas resources in the sea and postponement of the final approval of the coal policy during the tenure of the caretaker government.

Expressing grave concern over the process of leasing out gas blocks in the deep sea to the multinational companies and attempts to finalise the proposed coal policy by Chief Adviser's Special Assistant Dr M Tamim, they said the government has no constitutional right to take such policy-making decision.

In support of their demand, some 25 teachers formed a human chain at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla on the Dhaka University campus in the morning yesterday.

Teachers participated with placards that read -- 'We demand proper compensation for the losses occurred in explosions in Tengratila gas field, punishment to strength and would take to the took part in the programme, to

dishonest officials of the energy ministry and local brokers of Asia

They urged the chief adviser to keep the responsibilities and duties of the government within daily works until an elected government comes into power after the next general election slated for December 18.

The people of the country are the owners of all natural resources. So, their participation is a must for approval of any kind of policy or signing contact regarding natural resources, including gas and oil. Otherwise, the country and whole nation will fall in deep trouble in future, they added.

The teachers said it would not be accepted if the government finalises the draft coal policy, ignoring the people's interest and leasing out oil and gas in the sea to the foreign companies.

They vowed to resist the antipeople coal policy with full and M Shamsul Alam from CUST

street if necessary.

They further said only the government elected by the countrymen has the right to take any sort of policy-making decision regarding the natural resources.

Prof Ajoy Roy said, "People of the country are the owners of all natural resources. The government would preserve the resources and the government with the mandate of people will make a policy on the resources where representation of people would be ensured."

DU professors AKM Saad Uddin, Prof MM Akash, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Anwar Hossain, Prof Hossain Mansur, RU professors Maloy Bhowmic, SM Abu Bakar, Sujit Sarker, Mohammad Naser, Shamsuddin Elias, CU Prof Mainul Islam, JU Prof Anu Muhammad, SUST professors Zafar Iqbal and Iasmin Haq, Shamim Mahbul Haq from KU.

### Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

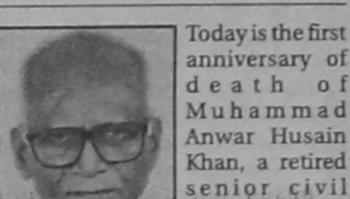
Mohammad Ahsan Mia, an assistant manager of Bangladesh Bank in Sylhet, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Thursday at the

age of 52, says a press release. He was the father of Siddiqur Rahman, executive member of Bangladesh Sportswriters' Association (BSWA) and Sylhet correspondent of The Daily Ittefaq. 5

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

President, general secretary and members of BSWA expressed deep shock at the death of Mohammad Ahsan Mia.

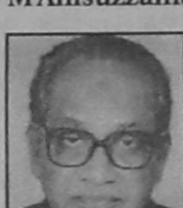
#### Death anniversary METRO DESK



anniversary of death of Muhammad Anwar Husain Khan, a retired senior civil servant, says a

press release. On the occasion, his family, friends and admirers remember him with deepest respect.

#### MAnisuzzaman



noted columnist and former managing director and chief editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha

Today is the 10th

sary of M

Anisuzzaman, a

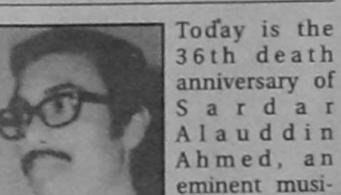
(BSS), says a press release. Family members of Anisuzzaman sought blessing from

all for the eternal peace and salvation of his departed soul. He started his journalism career by joining the Daily Ittehad edited

by late journalist Abul Mansur He joined the Pakistan Observer

in 1954 and later joined the Daily Azad. He was appointed the editor of the Weekly Janata in 1966. He joined BSS on November 1,

#### Sardar Alauddin Ahmed STAFF CORRESPONDENT



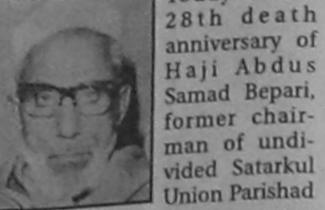
Ahmed, an eminent musician and artist of the Swadhin

Bangla Betar Kendra, says a press

On the occasion, Sardar Alauddin Ahmed Smrity Sangsad will place wreaths at his grave at Azimpur graveyard at 8:00am and a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 4/9, block-F, at Mohammadpur in the city after Maghrib prayers.

Sargam Lalitakala Academy will organise a children's drawing competition at the Mohammadpur branch of Dhaka Preparatory School at 9:00am on November 7.

#### Haji Abdus Samad Bepari Today is the



anniversary of Haji Abdus Samad Bepari, former chairman of undivided Satarkul Union Parishad at Badda in the city, says a press

On this occasion, Beraid

ise a doa mahfil for the salvation of

# 147 killed in violence last month: BSEHR survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

racy and the role of media' at Sufia Kamal auditorium in the city yesterday.

Some 147 people were killed in violence and 15 others committed suicide in October, according to a survey report of the Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR).

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam speaks at a workshop on 'Jatiya Sangsad election, democ-

BSEHR prepared the report on the basis of newspaper reports.

It revealed that four people died mysteriously, two Bangladeshi nationals were killed in BSF firing, seven people died due to negligence of doctors and one died in police custody.

A total of 373 people were killed in road accidents, lightning, fire, capsize of water vessels, building collapse and other similar inci-

dents, the report added. A total of 19 women, including minor girls, were strangled after rape and six others were killed for dowry. Besides, 11 people were killed in mass beating and the police recovered 32 bodies of unidentified people from across

the country. During the period, 11 people were killed in crossfire with law enforcement agency personnel.

### 'Maintain hygienic environment thru' waste management'

Shaheed Colonel Taher auditorium STAFF CORRESPONDENT

> Speakers at a seminar yesterday underscored the need for modern waste management system to maintain a hygienic environment

> The seminar on 'People's participation in waste management' was held at the office of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) in the city. KM Nurul Huda, former chief

executive officer of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), presented a keynote paper at the seminar. He said there are three stages in

city's waste management- waste generation, collection and dumping. The city dwellers must play their due role in all these stages properly to keep the city hygienic by main-

taining good environment. He said in the present day world many useful things like fertiliser, electricity and tiles are being pro-

duced from waste materials. So formulation of proper law and its implementation is necessary for an environment-friendly waste management system, he

Five recommendations were made at the seminar.

These included raising awareness among the DCC, municipalities, local administration and individuals about waste management, proper implementation of the rules of city waste management, joint initiatives by government and private bodies, and a halt to stop dumping of wastes into the

rivers. Presided over by Bapa Vicepresident Syed ANM Wahed, the seminar was also addressed by former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Bapa General Secretary Dr Mohammad Abdul Matin, Joint Secretaries architect Igbal Habib and Mohammad Shahjahan Mridha and Treasurer Mohidul Haque Khan.



UNB, Dhaka

Weather may 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 country, Met Office said in a forecast. Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.0 degree Celsius was

recorded at Sitakundu and the lowest of 18.0 degrees at Jessore and Srimongal. The sun sets in the capital at 5:20pm today and rises at 6:05am

tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Celsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.3	20.3	69	60
Chittagong	30.1	21.5	76	70
Rajshahi	31.4	19.6	81	80
Khulna	30.5	20.7	77	83
Barisal	31.6	19.0	74	86
Sylhet	32.3	21.7	77	81
Cox's Bazar	31.7	23.6	75	70

### Miscreants kill baby girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some unidentified miscreants brutally killed a five-month-old baby girl and left the body in an abandoned rickshaw van on Darussalam Road in the city yester-

Police said there were several injury marks on the head of the

On information, Sub-Inspector (SI) Mostak Ahmed of the newly opened Darussalam Police Station recovered the body, but the corpse could not be identified immedi-

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College (DMC) morgue for autopsy, the SI said.

He further said the local people could not say anything about the body left on the van at an isolated place behind Khaleq Petrol Pump in the area.

DMC morgue sources said the killers slew the baby breaking her

### Tk 60 lakh cloths seized in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized 73 bundles of Bangladeshi cloths worth Tk 60 lakh from Islamia Enterprise at Itagachha Bazar in the town last night, which were being smuggled to India.

The BDR men also arrested six smugglers on the spot, sources

The arrestees were identified as Parvez Hossain, Shahidul Islam, Jamshed Ali, Akhtar Hossain, Pintu Dey and Sarowar Hossain of the

Acing on a tip-off, BDR personnel raided the shop and recovered the cloths.

BDR sources said the smugglers brought the cloths from Dhaka and hoard there on way to India. A case was filed with Sadar Police Station against them.

When contacted, Commanding Officer 41 Rifles Battalion Lt Col Sams confirmed the incident.

### JU admission forms available from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary application form for admission tests for the session 2008-2009 of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will be available at the Farmgate, National Museum, Gabtali and JU branches of Agrani Bank from tomorrow to November

Each admission form costs Tk 300. The forms should be submitted by November 20.

# Teachers of different public universities form a human chain at the foot of the Aparajeyo Bangla on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding a halt to the leasing of oil and gas resources to multinational companies.

BNP plans to keep convicts out

#### FROM PAGE 16 allowed to contest in the upcoming

election if the poll is held under the state of emergency.

But, BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan said if anyone is convicted by a trial court, the person must be given a scope to appeal the higher court against the verdict, and if the higher court upholds the conviction only then the person's disqualification from election can be justified.

Talking to reporters on Wednesday he also said to disqualify a convicted person from contesting in elections or to declare the person unfit for polls without giving a chance to appeal, is unconstitutional.

There is a legal debate that remains unresolved regarding the

matter. The constitution of the country says a person with criminal conviction is barred from contesting in polls if the person is sentenced to prison for two years or more, and the convicted will remain ineligible for contesting in any poll until five years have elapsed since the person's release from prison, or until the conviction

is overturned by a higher court. But in the 1996 election, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad was allowed to contest and he won the poll despite a criminal conviction against him which was being appealed, his membership in the parliament was however revoked in 2000 as the High Court Division of Supreme Court later upheld the

conviction. According to BNP leaders, their of the trial courts.

caretaker government in her cantonment residence on September 22, the day before the party's official dialogue with the government in the Chief Adviser's Office. During the meeting the former premier urged the government to release more than 30 former lawmakers of the party who are either

Chairperson Khaleda Zia also

raised the issue of convicted party

leaders during her meeting with

advisers to the military backed

under EPR. She however assured the gov-

convicted or facing different crimi-

nal charges including corruption

ernment that they will have no problem in accepting the convictions against the party leaders if the highest court upholds the verdicts

# Responsible role of parties vital

petitions against the delimitation are still pending at the highest court, and that she is afraid those could provide the pretext for delaying the election. She said her party thinks the

election should be held as per the previous boundaries (of the constituencies] in the event of the redemarcation issue not being solved health and wished her quick recov-The former prime minister said HASINA, MENON MEET

through into question the accept-

She also said the Election Commission must hand voter rolls

ability of the polls.

with photographs to the polling agents to help identify the ones who would try to cast fake votes. Ambassador Boucher said they too want the state of emergency to

He enquired about Hasina's

be lifted before the election.

elections under a state of emergency cannot be free and fair. The

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon met Hasina at Joy's residence in Washington. Among emergency rules being in force other issues, the latest political during the election time might situation back home, upcoming

nals came up for discussion. Both the leaders stressed the need for building a secular society

election, electoral alliance, price

and resisting the anti-Liberation War forces. Menon told ANA that the AL-led 14-party combine will meet imme-

diately after Hasina's return home. He said she might return on November 9 or 10. Meanwhile, Hasina will address the leaders and workers of the US

for London on November 3.

hike of essentials, and war crimi-

chapter of her party tomorrow in Virginia. She is scheduled to leave

Gonopathagar (BGP) and Centre for Dhaka Studies (CDS) will organthe departed soul.

Samad Bepari was one of the founder members of Kurmitola High School in the city.

