

Boycott corrupt people, war criminals in nat'l polls

CPB president urges people

DU CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Manjurul Ahsan Khan yesterday said a section is hatching conspiracy to foil the upcoming general election. "Although the polls schedule has been announced, people are still confused whether it will be held or not," Manjurul said, adding that the country would face a great crisis if the election is not held on the scheduled date. He was speaking at a rally organised by CPB at Mukhtangan in the city.

Manjurul urged all to be united to resist the conspiracy and boycott corrupt people, terrorists and war criminals in the election to establish democracy. He also demanded that corrupt people and religion-based and anti-liberation war political parties be declared ineligible to contest the election. Manjurul said the anti-corruption drive of the government has completely failed. "When the drive started people arrested on charges of corruption didn't get bail, but the convicted are getting bails now," he said

adding that people's expectations after the 1/11 changeover have not been fulfilled. He stressed the need for nominating candidates who believe in the spirit of the liberation war and speak against anti-liberation forces and fundamentalists, World Bank and IMF for establishing the rights of the people. Abdul Kader, president of CPB city unit, presided over the rally that was also addressed by central party leaders Lakkhi Chakrabarti, Sajjad Jahir Chandan, Ruhin Hossain Prince and Abdul Malek.

'Coordinated govt-pvt sector actions needed to benefit from ties with Myanmar'

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday stressed the importance of coordinated government and private sector actions so that Bangladesh can derive maximum benefits from the relations with Myanmar. The foreign adviser laid the emphasis at a high-level inter-ministerial meeting at the foreign ministry on follow-up actions in the aftermath of the visit of General Maung Aye, senior vice general of Myanmar, and his delegation of seven cabinet ministers. The meeting reviewed progress in areas such as border trade, rice purchase, contract farming, road building and boundary delimitation issues. The participants agreed on a number of measures to be undertaken in each case, said a foreign ministry press release. Later, talking to the media on the reported presence of Myanmar vessels on Bangladesh territorial waters, the foreign adviser said all steps would be taken to protect the sovereignty and territory of Bangladesh. "A strong protest has been lodged with the Myanmar government about this issue and, if necessary, a high-level delegation would be sent there to address it," he said.

'Release Pankaj Debnath'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A human chain was formed at the footsteps of Aparajeo Bangla on Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding release of Pankaj Debnath, general secretary of Awami Sheerhashhebak League and also a former student of the university, says a press release. Immediate withdrawal of all the cases against Awami League President Sheikh Hasina was also demanded from the human chain formed around 12:00noon. Prof Dr Ajoy Kumar Das, Prof Dr Wahiduzzaman Chan, Prof Dr Jeenat Huda Wahid, Prof Dr SM Mizanur Rahman, Prof Dr AKM Jamal Uddin, Prof KM Saiful Islam Khan, Dr Azhar Ali Mollah, Prof Dr Kajal Krishna Banarjee, Advocate Mollah Md Abu Kawser, Matiur Rahman Mati, Mahmud Hasan Ripon, Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Rotan and Sheikh Sohel Rana Tipu among hundreds of former and current students, teachers were present at the programme.

Helper crushed under wheels of bus

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A bus helper was crushed under wheels of his bus on Kishoreganj-Chamtara road near Chamta Bandar in Kishoreganj yesterday. The victim was identified as Liton, 25, of Sholakia in Kishoreganj. Police quoting witnesses said Liton was engaged in repairing work under his bus, but the driver unknowingly started and ran the bus. Police seized the bus, but the driver fled the scene immediately.



Winners of the 'Battle of Minds 2008' pose with the guests at the grand finale of the competition at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the city yesterday.

SHIFTING OF HAZARIBAGH TANNERY 'Detailed Area Plan should have long-term vision'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) needs to be prepared immediately, it should be made after detailed assessment and should have a long-term vision, Director General of Department of Environment (DoE) Khandaker Rashedul Haque said yesterday. Addressing a view exchanging meeting on 'Shifting of Hazaribagh tannery and proposal of DAP' at Rajuk Bhaban in the city, he also said that in order to make a planned city it is not only necessary to expand the existing roads but also new roads will have to be constructed.

going on. It started on October 4 and will continue till November 5, said Project Director of DAP Tapan Kumar Nath. Rajuk took the initiative under a 20-year (1995-2015) Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP). The DAP is a major component of the DMDP. Member (development) of Rajuk GM Joyal Abedin Bhuiyan said the city won't be livable if it is not

brought under strict regulations and control. Underscoring the need for proper utilisation of the place of the tannery, Chief Engineer of Rajuk Shah Alam said it would be better for Dhaka city if the authorities preserve the land for open space and park. Prof Golam Rahman and Chief Town Planner of Rajuk Jahurul Haque also addressed the meeting.

2 arrested with arms

UNB, Dhaka

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two criminals with a revolver and ammunitions at Chandona crossing in Gazipur yesterday afternoon while running away after shooting a young man. On information, a team of Rab-1

raided Chandona area and with the help of local people arrested Sohag, 24, and Al Amin, 26, when they were running away after shooting a young man at about 3:00pm. The elite force also recovered a revolver and two bullets from their possession. The injured was rushed to Seba Medical Clinic in Gazipur.



Communist Party of Bangladesh stages a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday with a call to resist conspiracy to foil December 18 elections.

'Commercial history of Dhaka' published

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) has published a research-based book titled 'Commercial history of Dhaka' marking the 400 years of the city. Former adviser to the caretaker government Giti Ara Safia Chowdhury and chief editor of Bangladesh Encyclopedia Prof Sirajul Islam unveiled the cover of the book at a city hotel Saturday on the occasion of its golden jubilee, a DCCI press release said yesterday. Scholars of various fields have contributed to the book, while history researcher Delwar Hossain edited it. Other contributors are Prof Sirajul Islam, Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly, Prof Sharif Uddin Ahmed, Prof Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury, Prof Shaifque Uz Zaman, Prof Selim Raihan and Prof Abu Eusuf. The 700-page book mainly contains business history of Dhaka from Mughal period to modern times.

27TH BCS EXAMS Hunger strike continues, eight fall ill

DU CORRESPONDENT

Candidates of the 27th BCS examinations who passed it at first but were dropped from the list of successful candidates as per fresh results continued their fast-unto-death programme for the third consecutive day yesterday demanding that the earlier results be declared valid. Meanwhile, eight hunger strikers fell ill and four of them received treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Over 100 candidates along with their parents and guardians began the hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city on Saturday. At a press conference at the same venue yesterday, the candidates reiterated their vow that they would continue their programme until their demand is met. Mahfuzur Rahman, a candidate, said they do not have something against those who passed as per the fresh results. "Rather, we want a fair decision which will be acceptable to all and no-one will be deprived," he added. Awami League leader Dr Dipu

Moni visited the hunger strikers at around 5:30pm and expressed her solidarity with them.

West Bengal works minister meets foreign adviser

BSS, Dhaka

Visiting minister for works of India's West Bengal State Kshiti Goswami yesterday made a courtesy call on Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at his office. The West Bengal minister praised the government for taking all out efforts to strengthen democracy in the country. He said there is heart-to-heart relation between Bangladeshis and the people of the West Bengal of India. Kshiti Goswami thanked the foreign adviser for condemning the attack on the West Bengal chief minister recently. He said the people of West Bengal are being benefited with the education, language and literary research in Bangladesh.



National Garment Workers' Federation stages a token sit-in in front of its office at Tophkana Road in the city yesterday.

BATTLE OF MINDS Brac University wins first prize

METRO DESK

Brac University won the first prize in the 'Battle of Minds 2008' competition while East West University became the runner-up. The grand finale of the competition was held at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the city yesterday, with Feroze Sobhan, president of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, as the chief guest. Dhaka University Marketing Department became the second runner-up. A total of 16 universities took part in the competition which involves students presenting business plans based on case study, says a press release. The panel of judges was comprised of Iftekharul Islam, managing partner, Asian Tiger Capital Partners, Akhtar Sanjida Kasem, Partner A Qasem & Co., and Syed Imtiaz Faruque, head of HR, British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB). BATB Chairman Golam Moinuddin was also present at the programme. The team members of Brac University are Anandi Kabir, Asaf-ud-Daula, Sadia Hossain and Sabrina Ali and East West University's team members are Tasmin Zahid Anwar, Raisa Chowdhury, Zahidul Naim Zakaria and Naveen Ambreen. Nishat Jahan Ara Islam, Samin Salekin, Farhana Haque and Ehsanul Haque Jitu are the team members of Dhaka University Marketing Department.

RMG workers demand release of union leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Garment Workers' Federation staged a token sit-in programme in front of its office at Tophkana Road in the city yesterday demanding release of garment worker Hafizur Rahman Sabuj of Hamim Group and withdrawal of all cases against him. They also demanded reinstatement of 21 workers who were sacked from Hamim Group and steps to protect the rights of workers. Sabuj is the president of garment workers' union. Federation President Shahida Sarker, General Secretary Amirul Haque Amin, and Shahnaz Akhter spoke during the demonstration. Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) leader Abdul Kader Hawladar also spoke to express solidarity.

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20 students injured as BCL, Shibir clash at Sirajganj varsity College

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 20 students were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on Sirajganj University College campus yesterday. Police said the clash erupted at around 10:00am over establishing supremacy on the campus. The feuding groups used bamboo sticks and hurled bricks at each other and ransacked classrooms of the college during the clash that continued for one and a half hours. On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Additional police have been deployed on the campus to avert further untoward incident. Of the injured, 18 were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital and different clinics in the town while the rest given first aid. Seriously injured Chhatra Shibir activists--Mamun and Shahadat--were later shifted to Dhaka as their condition deteriorated.

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