

# Include demands of marginal people in electoral manifestos

## Speakers urge political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a dialogue yesterday called upon the political parties to think about the rights and welfare of the people of marginal groups.

They said political leaders should realise that socio-economic development of the country is not possible excluding these groups.

The national dialogue titled 'Demands of marginal people in election manifestos of political parties' was organised by the Alliance of Marginal People (AMP) in association with the ActionAid at the National Press Club in the city.

The speakers said people from marginal groups also cast their votes in national election.

So the political parties should incorporate the issues of marginal people in their electoral manifestos with a commitment to implement them if voted to power, they added.

The speakers urged the political parties to include a 10-point demand of AMP in their election manifestos to protect the interest of marginal and extreme poor people of the country.

These include food security, recasting of traditional farming, uniform education system, removal of gender disparity, and participation in national events

The other demands are formulation and implementation of pro-poor national health policy, establishment of an autonomous and accountable local government, reforms of laws protecting the rights to livelihood and control over natural resources, and ensuring climate justice and humane globalisation.

Chairman of Bangladesh Economic Association Dr Quazi Kholiqzaman Ahmed presided over the dialogue.

Editor of the Bhorer Kagoj Shyamol Dutta moderated the dialogue while General Secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh Mojahidul Islam Selim, Shahin Akhter Doly of Nari Moitree, Helal Uddin of Angkar Bangladesh, Advocate Mosharrar Hossain Mojumder of National Disabled Forum, Dr Dijendranath Sarkar and Nazrul Islam spoke on the occasion.

While talking about food security, globalisation and recent economic recession, Dr Kholiqzaman said many policy makers are yet to understand food security issue and don't pay much heed to it.

"To ensure food security land reform is a must and our pattern of agriculture should be changed

creating employment opportunity for the sharecroppers as their right to production is yet to be secured," he said, adding that in the election manifestos the political parties should specify their strategies.

Dr Kholiqzaman said to observe the impact of economic recession, the government has formed a committee where the representation from civil society is needed.

The political parties in their manifestos should also describe their mechanism to tackle the issue, he added.

Mojahidul Islam Selim said people should be aware of their rights and they should be organised for the betterment of the marginal community.

The speakers also stressed the need for a distinct national policy for the adolescent children and a separate directorate for them, as their needs are different.

They also want the political parties to clearly commit their stand for a land commission for the indigenous people, education for the physically and mentally challenged children including the sex workers' children and ensure the trade union rights of garment workers cancelling the Labour Law 2006.

# Call to lift state of emergency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Teacher, Student and Official-Employee Forum staged a demonstration on the Jahangirnagar University campus yesterday demanding immediate withdrawal of the state of emergency.

They also demanded reinstatement of the government holiday on November 7, release of all political detainees and steps to hold a free, fair and credible election.

The forum brought out a procession from Old Arts Building in the morning and held a rally at the foot of Amar Ekushey.

With Prof Kamrul Ahsan Titu in the chair, the rally was addressed by former JU vice chancellor (VC) Prof Khandker Mustahidur Rahman, ex-VC of PSTU Prof Abdul Latif Masum, JU Proctor Mafrohi Sattar and JCD Joint Convener Ziaur Rahman.

The forum members will place wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman today and also hold a milad mahfil at the JU Central Mosque after Asr prayers.



# Dr Zohra Kazi's death anniversary today

METRO DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Prof Dr Zohra Begum Kazi, the first Muslim woman doctor in the subcontinent, says a press release.

She passed away on this day in 2007 at the age of 95. One of the country's most eminent physicians and teachers, she dedicated her life to helping innumerable individuals, especially her students, mould their lives into careers of academic excellence and professional achievement.

Dr Zohra won the British Viceroy's medal for her outstanding scholastic achievements. She was also honoured with many awards at home and abroad, including Ekushey Padak, Rokeya Padak and Tamgha-e-Pakistan.

Late Raziuddin Bhuiyan, an MLA, industrialist and Zamindar of Hatridia, was her husband.

Relatives, well-wishers and admirers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

# UN peacekeeper's janaza held

UNB, Dhaka

The namaz-e-janaza of UN peacekeeper Lance Corporal M Mahbubur Rahman of Bangladesh Army was held at Chopper's Den of Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

Chief of Army Staff Gen Moeen U Ahmed, senior army officials and the relatives of the deceased attended the janaza, said an ISPR press release.

Lance Corporal M Mahbubur Rahman, 30, who was injured in a road accident, died at level-III Hospital in Abidjan city, Ivory Coast, on October 28.

He will be buried at his village home in Comilla with full military honour.



**Discussion**  
A discussion will be held to mark the first death anniversary of Dr Johra Begum Kazi. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

**Website launch**  
National Tourism Organisation will launch a website on Cox's Bazar to boost its bid to become one of the best seven wonders of nature. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

**Buddhist Congregation**  
Bangladesh Buddhist Federation organises the Holy Kathina Civarā Dana and Buddhist Religious Congregation '08. Venue: International Buddhist Monastery. Time: 6:00am.

**Discussion**  
Bangladesh Sangskritik Academy will hold a discussion on November 7. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

**Poster exhibition**  
Sectors Commanders' Forum organises a cartoon and poster exhibition demanding trial of the war criminals beginning today. Venue: Rabindra Sarobar. Time: 3:00pm.

**Human chain**  
A human chain will be formed demanding punishment to the killers of Col Taher. Venue: In front of National Museum. Time: 11:00am.



Society of Conscious Artists takes out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding steps to create an environment conducive to free practice of art, culture and creativity in the country.

# EC warns AL

FROM PAGE 1

Commuters, particularly office goers and school children and their guardians were the worst sufferers as AL supporters started gathering at different spots and lined up the route through which Hasina was to return from the airport on her way to her Dhanmondi residence.

The gatherings began across the city from around 7:00 am.

Till Hasina reached her Sudha Sadan home at Dhanmondi at around 12:15pm, vehicles including buses, cars, auto-rickshaws remained standstill on most of the city roads causing several kilometres of tailbacks.

The connecting roads also witnessed severe traffic gridlock during the time.

City's Bijoy Sarani, Mirpur Road stretching between Science Laboratory to Kalyanpur, Farmgate, Banglamotor, Shahbagh, Gulistan, Paltan and Motijheel areas were clogged by Awami League supporters.

Many office goers and students were seen walking along footpaths to reach their destinations. Guardians with school children were seen desperately looking for transport to take their young children to and back from schools.

Others who had already

attained a transport was stuck in the traffic jam for hours on end.

Vehicles around the airport roundabout remained at a standstill from 8:00am to 10:00am causing several kilometres of tailbacks from the airport roundabout.

The AL supporters lined up the roads, leaving the footpaths free but obstructing vehicular movement on the roads. There was little order at the AL supporters' gathering there but police seemed incapable of removing them from the road.

Hardly any vehicle was able to enter into or come out of the airport for nearly two hours from 8:00am as AL activists blocked the entry points to the airport.

As a result, many passengers who arrived at ZIA in the morning were forced to remain inside the airport for hours before they were able to come out.

"My passenger arrived from Saudi Arabia at 7:30am and is still waiting inside as I can't enter the area," said Shafiqul Islam, driver of a microbus.

He said that he had come from Langklot in Comilla to pick up the passenger.

Awami League (AL) sources said that they had arranged a gathering of around 10 lakh people to accord

a welcome to Hasina. The massive gathering was the kick-start of AL's campaign for general election fixed on December 18, they said.

Former premier Hasina returned home yesterday ahead of the elections after five months in Europe and America for treatment.

**EC'S RESTRAINT ONAL**

The EC in a press release said yesterday that AL supporters pasting posters on windowpanes of vehicles, and bringing out a procession holding AL's election symbol "Boat" had turned the welcome reception into an election campaign.

The turning of a reception into an election campaign is in violation of election code of conduct as announced by the EC in its Candidates Code of Conduct, 2008, the press release said.

The EC requested AL to refrain from arranging such programmes in the future to ensure an election-friendly situation in the country.

The press release added that according to the code of conduct any registered political party or a candidate nominated by the party or any independent candidate or any person on behalf of them cannot organise any election campaign before the last three weeks preceding the election date.

# Concern over mosque-based

FROM PAGE 16

15,000 resource centres under the project.

They said Tk 470 crore of the Tk 650 crore would be spent on salaries and allowances for 40,000 supervisors and 5,500 teachers who must be appointed from among the Imams of mosques and from other religion-based centres in accordance with the design of the project.

Signatories to the letter said it is very clear that their (the teachers and supervisors to be recruited) educational qualification is not as expected for educating children with a broad mind.

They said the project would curtail constitutional rights of children as the project would use worship places of a certain religion to teach children and children of other religion would not have access to those worship places.

They said the project was earlier included in the PRSP without consultation and beyond anyone's knowledge and later suspended. The project, after revival, has been sent to the advisory council for approval, the letter said.

They also said the project would foil achievements of the movement regarding equal rights for women.

They asked the chief adviser to take bold steps in this regard and uphold the constitution.

The signatories to the letter are National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Mohabbat Khan, Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, Prof Ajoy Roy, Women leaders Ayesha Khanam, Rokeya Kabir, Prof Hayat Mahmud, Prof Imtiaaz Ahmed, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, cultural activists Ramendu

Mojumder, Tarana Halim, Ziauddin Tareque Ali, Ajoy Roy of Sammilito Samajik Andolan, columnist Syed Abul Moksud, Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori, advocate Tabarak Hossain Khan, social welfare activist Saleh Ahmed, freedom fighter Shamsul Arefin, Shawkat Ara Hossain teacher of Dhaka University, social worker H Hossain, painter Quyyum Chowdhury, advocate Subrata Chowdhury, social activist Razia Samad, former additional secretary Jamil Chowdhury, barrister Tania Amir, journalists Muniruzzaman, Sohrab Hasan, Mafidul Haque, Sharmin Murshid, Sabreen Rahman, Sanjib Drang of Bangladesh Advishi Forum, and Numan Ahmed Khan of IED.

They also sent a copy of the letter to primary and mass education adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury.

# CA spurs businesses

FROM PAGE 16

Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) organised the three-day-long Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exposition (Batexpo) to woo foreign buyers by showcasing locally manufactured RMG products.

Fakhruddin stressed the need for expanding product varieties and new markets to ensure competitiveness of the apparel business in a sustainable manner at a time of global financial turmoil.

Mentioning the formation of a committee to monitor the global financial crisis spillover into the national economy, especially the impact on RMG sector, Fakhruddin Ahmed said the current global crisis is a crisis of confidence. "We should look for markets beyond the USA and the EU," he said.

The chief adviser suggested that the manufacturers invest more and more on backward-linkage industries to make the country's RMG

products more competitive in the global market.

During the inaugural session, the chief adviser also distributed Corporate Social Responsibility awards to three local factory owners for their special contribution in social activities. The three factories that received the awards for 2008 are Flamingo Fashions Ltd, Ananta Garments Ltd and Babylon Group.

Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam during the session said the country should prepare for any possible fallout from the global financial crisis even though Bangladesh may not face a severe crisis.

Mirza Aziz said the local exporters will get Tk 1,050 crore as cash incentives in 2008-09 fiscal year. He urged private bankers to reduce bank interest rate to boost the garment sector.

Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman as a special guest identified three

obstacles that may hamper normal growth of the garment industry.

The challenges are scarcity of energy, shortage of skilled workers and reluctance to search for new markets, Zillur said.

"If it is possible during our tenure we will try to turn the BGMEA Institute of Fashion and Technology (BIFT) into a fully-fledged fashion and design university," he said.

Foreign Adviser Ittekkar Ahmed Chowdhury also gave assurance of help to the local exporters in accessing duty-free and quota-free market in the USA.

BGMEA President Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez said hartals, closure of ports, political instability, workers' dissatisfaction, flooding, bad shape of infrastructure, higher bank interest rates and scarcity of energy may become impediments to achieving the target of \$25 billion export a year by 2013.

# New poll alliance in the offing

FROM PAGE 16

contest together but will be satisfied with 30 to 40 seats, sources say. Some leaders from the AL also say Sheikh Hasina would agree to give around 100 seats to Ershad-led Jatiya Party, LDP and Bikalpadhara-led alliance, and other partners of the 14-party combine.

LDP President Oli Ahmad said they have about 45 former ministers and lawmakers who have popularity and accountability in their respective constituencies and can easily be elected from any alliance.

"The grand alliance or other electoral alliances will be directly and indirectly benefited in 80 seats. We have eligible candidates in 40 seats where BNP candidates were elected in 2001. The four-party alliance can easily be defeated in those 40 seats if LDP gives candidates under grand alliance or any

other electoral alliance," he told The Daily Star.

The idea of forming a new electoral alliance came from AL think-tank to pocket the benefit of BNP not taking part in the parliamentary polls, according to AL sources.

Meanwhile, AL leaders led by acting general secretary Syed Ashraf and LDP leaders led by Secretary General Prof Zahanara Begum held a meeting at Ashraf's house on Wednesday.

The meeting decided that they would now primarily distribute nomination forms separately for all constituencies and finalise the seat sharing after BNP clears its stance. If BNP refrains from contesting the polls, some leaders from the new alliance would contest in more than one constituency, the sources say.

B Chowdhury may contest from Dhaka-7, Munshiganj-1 and Munshiganj-2 constituencies, Oli

Ahmad from Chittagong-13 and Chittagong-14, and Bikalpadhara Secretary General Maj (ret) Abdul Mannan from Dhaka-10, Noakhali-1 and Laxmipur-1 constituencies.

B Chowdhury said his party is capable of contesting from over half of the total constituencies. On the other hand, Oli said they are able to give strong eligible candidates in at least 40 districts.

All partners of the grand alliance will submit nomination forms individually by November 13 and final candidates will be selected after knowing the position of BNP.

Meanwhile, a number of parties have finalised their candidates through interviews. JP (Ershad) has finalised 60 candidates, LDP 45 candidates, Bikalpadhara 30 candidates, Workers Party 25 candidates, Gono Forum 20 candidates, and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal 15 candidates.

# Call to resist all conspiracies against country

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said the historic revolution by the soldiers and people under the leadership of veteran freedom fighter Colonel Taher on November 7, 1975 took place to foil the conspiracy against the liberation war and establish democratic rights of people.

They said the revolution was one of the greatest events in the history of the nation as it was for the first time after the liberation war that soldiers and common people fought together for the interest of the country.

The discussion was organised by Colonel Taher Sangsad on the eve of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day at the seminar room of the Teacher-Student Centre at Dhaka University.

The speakers said Col Taher tried to implement the core spirit of the liberation war through the revolution.

Politburo members of Workers' Party Haider Akbar Khan Rano said if the revolution had been successful, the total history of Bangladesh could have been different and a society free from repression and corruption could have been established.

President of Colonel Taher Sangsad Kamal Lohani called on people to be united to resist all conspiracies against the country and the liberation war by the anti-liberation forces.

# Tac consistent with constitution

## Attorney general tells court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government formed Tac under the ordinance promulgated by the president on June 8, paving the way for the corrupt to walk free after voluntarily confessing to their corruption and handing the ill-gotten wealth back to the state exchequer.

Supreme Court lawyer Adilur Rahman Khan Shubbro, Ubinig Executive Director Farida Akhter, Awami League Women Affairs Secretary Dipu Moni and Odhikar Acting Director Nasiruddin Elan on August 25, filed the writ petition as public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the legality of the formation of Tac.

A HC bench of Justice Mir Hasmat Ali and Justice Shamim Hossain adjourned the hearing of the petition until November 9.

The chief law officer argued before the court that Tac formed for a limited period was not an alternative or substitute to any court or judicial system, saying that it is simply an executive system through which the people can voluntarily deposit their ill-gotten wealth to the state.

Earlier, the petitioners' counsel advocate Toufik Rewaz told the court Tac had been constituted as an alternative institution to the court and there was no rule in the constitution of forming any alternative or substitute to the courts or judicial system.

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# Trip inside hospital Prison

FROM PAGE 1

started to talk. "Not good. I've lost 12 kilograms in last three months. I've been suffering from a dozen diseases."

With beard and without his trademark spiky hair, the man who would hold an enormous sway during the BNP-led alliance rule, looked quite different.

This correspondent went to the cabin block to investigate leads that the BNP leader, detained on various charges, has been staying in an air-conditioned cabin at the BSMMU and allowed two personal bodyguards.

He negotiated his way to the second floor in no time. There, he found four prison guards engrossed in chatter. Eight policemen—four each in front of two cabinstoo were oblivious to this correspondent's presence.

One of the hospital staff said former law minister Moudud Ahmed stays at cabin No.315, former communications minister Nazmul Huda at 314 and Babar at 304.

"So, what about madam [BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia]? Isn't she doing anything for you?" this correspondent asks Babar.

"Nothing. She issued a statement after her release, didn't even mention my name there."

Moments after the answer, he enquired about the reporter's identity. After that, he seemed a bit hesitant about continuing the talk. Still, he opted to go on.

"Did Tarique Rahman talk to you before he left the country?"

"No, he never contacted me. Not a single message, not a call...nothing."

"So none from your party cares about you?"

"I don't know," Babar said in a voice barely audible.

contact with him and signalled to leave.

Later, one of the hospital staff said, it was his guard Iqbal.

The chat continued. "Do you think the election will be held on schedule?"

"I can't say anything. I tried to be very fair during our rule, and now I'm paying the price for that."

"What about Bashundhara bribery case, were you involved in the cover-up attempt?"

Babar paused and said, "What-

ever progress you see in the investigation was made during my term. So tell me how come I was involved in it?"

Before moving towards the ex-home affairs boss, the correspondent spoke to the duty staff, posing himself as someone with idle curiosity.

The staff said Babar walks every day while Moudud and Nazmul Huda once in a while. People meet the former ministers all too often. But no-one bothers.



# No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Light rains or showers is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong division and weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Sandwip and the lowest of 18.9 degrees at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:16pm today and rises at 6:09am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.8	21.2	65	66
Chittagong	31.0	22.2	75	79
Rajshahi	30.5	19.5	86	91
Khulna	31.0	22.0	71	62
Barisal	30.8	21.5	97	91
Sylhet	31.0	20.8	74	78
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.3	82	75



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**Poster**