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

Call to resist all

against country

Speakers at a discussion yesterday

said the historic revolution by the

soldiers and people under the

the first time after the liberation

war that soldiers and common

people fought together for the

by Colonel Taher Sangsad on the

eve of the National Revolution and

tried to implement the core spirit of

the liberation war through the

Party Haider Akbar Khan Rano said

if the revolution had been success-

ful, the total history of Bangladesh

could have been different and a

society free from repression and

Politburo members of Workers'

The discussion was organised

interest of the country.

Dhaka University.

revolution.

conspiracies

DU CORRESPONDENT

people.

The other demands are formulation and implementation of propoor national health policy, establishment of an autonomous and he said, adding that in the election accountable local government, reforms of laws protecting the rights to livelihood and control over natural resources, and ensuring climate justice and humane

Economic Association Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman 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 Angikar Bangladesh, Advocate Mosharraf Hossain Mojumder of National Disabled Forum, Dr Dijendranath Sarkar and Nazrul Islam spoke on separate directorate for them, as

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

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

Dr Kholiquzzaman said to observe the impact of economic recession, the government has formed a committee where the Chairman of Bangladesh representation from civil society is

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 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

"To ensure food security land trade union rights of garment reform is a must and our pattern of workers cancelling the Labour Law agriculture should be changed 2006. Tac consistent with

constitution Attorney general tells court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

leadership of veteran freedom Attorney General Salauddin fighter Colonel Taher on November Ahmed yesterday told the High 7, 1975 took place to foil the con-Court that the government had spiracy against the liberation war and establish democratic rights of constituted the Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) through promulgating an ordi-They said the revolution was nance within the framework of one of the greatest events in the history of the nation as it was for the constitution.

During the hearing of the writ petition challenging the legality of the Truth and Accountability Commission Ordinance-2008, he also said that no rules of the constitution were violated due to formation of the commission.

A HC bench of Justice Mir Solidarity Day at the seminar room Hasmat Ali and Justice Shamim of the Teacher-Student Centre at Hasnain adjourned the hearing of the petition until November 9. The speakers said Col Taher

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 illgotten wealth to the state.

Earlier, the petitioners' councorruption could have been estabsel advocate Toufik Rewaz told the court Tac had been consti-President of Colonel Taher Sangsad Kamal Lohani called on tuted as an alternative institution people to be united to resist all to the court and there was no rule conspiracies against the country in the constitution of forming any and the liberation war by the anticourts or judicial system.

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 con-

fessing to their corruption and

handing the ill-gotten wealth

back to the state exchequer. Supreme Court lawyer Adilur Rahman Khan Shubhro, Ubinig Executive Director Farida Akthter, 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.

KIS get-together

Kodaikanal International School (KIS), a multicultural school in Tamil Nadu, India, will hold an information reception gettogether in Dhaka today, says a press release.

Members of the school management committee and parents and guardians of Bangladeshi students will attend the programme.

The event will begin at 5:00pm alternative or substitute to the at Hotal Sarina, 27 Banani C/A, Road # 17.

Trip inside hospital Prison

FROM PAGE 1

liberation forces.

started to talk. "Not good. I've lost leave. 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 "So, what about madam (BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia]? Isn't she

doing anything for you?" this correspondent asks Babar. "Nothing. She issued a state-

ment 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.

At this point, a person with

close-cropped hair came along and

stood beside. Babar made eye

contact with him and signalled to ever progress you see in the investi-

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?"

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- But no-one bothers.

gation was made during my term. So tell me how come I was involved

Before moving towards the exhome affairs boss, the correspondent spoke to the duty staff, posing "I can't say anything. I tried to himself as someone with idle curi-

> The staff said Babar walks every day while Moudud and Nazmul Huda once in a while. People meet the former ministers all too often



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 uncharged, Met Office

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 Humidity in Celsius percentage

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

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 emer-They also demanded reinstate-

ment 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 pro-

cession 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 Mafruhi 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 Hatirdia, 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-lll Hospital in Abidjan city, Ivory Coast, on October 28.

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



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 Civara 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

Museum. Time: 11:00am.

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

demanding trial of the war criminals



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.

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 the traffic jam for hours on end.

roundabout remained at a standstill from 8:00am to 10:00am causfrom the airport roundabout.

roads, leaving the footpaths free EC'S RESTRAINONAL 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

enter into or come out of the airport for nearly two hours from The connecting roads also 8:00am as AL activists blocked the entry points to the airport.

> who arrived at ZIA in the morning were forced to remain inside the airport for hours before they were able to come out.

Saudia Arabia at 7:30am and is still waiting inside as I can't enter the area," said Shafigul Islam, driver of a microbus. He said that he had come from Langolkot 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

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

Former premier Hasina ing several kilometres of tailbacks returned home yesterday ahead of the elections after five months in The AL supporters lined up the Europe and America for treatment.

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 Hardly any vehicle was able to reception into an election campaign.

The turning of a reception into an election campaign is in violation of election code of conduct as As a result, many passengers 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 "My passenger arrived from in the future to ensure an electionfriendly 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. very clear that their (the teachers uphold the constitution. 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.

consultation and beyond anyone's sent to the advisory council for Tabarak Hossain Khan, social approval, the letter said.

would foil achievements of the

movement regarding equal rights for women.

National Professor Kabir Murshid, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Mohabbat Khan, Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, Prof Ajoy Roy, Women leaders Ayesha Khanam, Rokeya Kabir, Prof Hayat Mahmud, Prof Imtiaz Ahmed, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed,

They said the project was earlier Mojumder, Tarana Halim, included in the PRSP without Ziauddin Tareque Ali, Ajoy Roy of Sammilito Samajik Andolan, colknowledge and later suspended. umnist Syed Abul Moksud, Khushi The project, after revival, has been Kabir of Nijera Kori, advocate

welfare activist Saleh Ahmed,

They also said the project freedom fighter Shamsul Arefin, Shawkat Ara Hossain teacher of Dhaka University, social worker H Hossain, painter Quyyum They asked the chief adviser to Chowdhury, advocate Subrata Signatories to the letter said it is take bold steps in this regard and Chowdhury, social activist Razia Samad, former additional secre-The signatories to the letter are tary Jamil Chowdhury, barrister Tania Amir, journalists Chowdhury, Prof Khan Sarwar Muniruzzaman, Sohrab Hasan, Mafidul Haque, Sharmin Murshid, Sabreen Rahman, Sanjib Drang of Bangladesh Adivashi Forum, and

Numan Ahmed Khan of IED. They also sent a copy of the letter to primary and mass education adviser Rasheda K cultural activists Ramendu 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 obstacles that may hamper normal 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

garment sector.

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

growth of the garment industry.

fledged fashion and design university," he said. Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury also gave assurance of help to the local exporters in

BGMEA Institute of Fashion and

Technology (BIFT) into a fully-

accessing duty-free and quota-free market in the USA. BGMEA President Anwar-Ul-

Mirza Aziz said the local export- Alam Chowdhury Parvez said ers will get Tk 1,050 crore as cash hartals, closure of ports, political incentives in 2008-09 fiscal year. He instability, workers' dissatisfacurged private bankers to reduce tion, flooding, bad shape of infrabank interest rate to boost the structure, higher bank interest rates and scarcity of energy may Commerce and Education become impediments to achieving Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman as a the target of \$25 billion export a special guest identified three yearby 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 Ahmad from Chittagong-13 and The Daily Star.

The idea of forming a new electoral alliance came from AL thinktank to pocket the benefit of BNP not taking part in the parliamen-

tary 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.

Dhaka-7, Munshiganj-1 and and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal 15 Munshiganj-2 constituencies, Oli candidates.

Chittagong-14, and Bikalpadhara Secretary General Maj (retd) 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 candi-B Chowdhury may contest from dates, Gono Forum 20 candidates,

Daewoo starts

FROM PAGE 16

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury stated this based on the information received from the government sources of the Republic

"This is indeed good news, if true. and would mean that our initiatives have paid off," he said.

The foreign ministry also received a letter from Daewoo stating that the dismantling process had begun, which might take a few days to

Iftekhar said a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday evening underscored Bangladesh's "strong resolve" to deal with the situation on the eastern maritime front.

He said the home adviser, the chiefs of the armed forces and other senior civil and military officers

attended the meeting. "Of course we have goodwill for Myanmar, a close neighbour, but critical national interests have to be protected," the foreign adviser said.

the Bay of Bengal with Myanmar, but is resolute to protect her sovereign territory, including territorial waters. Currently, a Bangladeshi delegation led by Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossain is visiting Myanmar to talk to the Myanmar authorities to resolve

He said Bangladesh wants a peace-

ful resolution to the current issue in

tion of naval ships in the Bay for hydrocarbon exploration. Iftekhar was in communication with some foreign diplomats in Bangladesh and Bangladeshi ambas-

the matter of unwarranted mobilisa-

sadors abroad. The Myanmar ships started exploration activities Saturday ignoring Bangladesh Navy warnings that they (ships) were intruding into Bangladesh waters. The area is well within Bangladesh's maritime territory and marked as deep-sea blocks 8-

13, reports our staff correspondent. Dhaka officially lodged protest with the Myanmar ambassador Sunday. Myanmar also protested to the Bangladeshi ambassador in Myanmar the same day.

Bangladesh later requested the North Korean government to ask Daewoo, which is conducting the exploration for Myanmar, to stop its activities in its territorial waters. Dhaka also requested Myanmar's closest ally China to ask Myanmar to quit Bangladesh waters till the maritime boundary is demarcated as per the UN guidelines. China yesterday hoped that

through equal and friendly negotiations and maintain a stable bilateral relationship. As their friend, China will contribute in an appropriate manner," said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang at a press conference, reports Xinhua. Myanmar's government yesterday

Bangladesh and Myanmar settle the

dispute through friendly negotiations.

"We hope the countries will settle it

tion off Myanmar's western Rakhine coast, reports AP. A government statement on state radio and television evening news called Dhaka's demand "unlawful and

rejected Bangladesh's demand to

immediately halt oil and gas explora-

wrongful," and stated that the operations will continue. The statement was the first official response to tension over disputed waters that flared earlier this week.

"The government of Myanmar will

protect its territorial boundary in accordance with international laws." the statement said. Myanmar in 2005 awarded exploration rights in the area to Daewoo,

with initial feasibility studies conducted in 2007. Bangladesh's protest came after Daewoo began formal exploration in

the area in September.

Milk test results FROM PAGE 1

Rights and Peace for Bangladesh

The HC bench also granted three petitions filed by Dano, Red Cow and Nido companies through their lawyers to become parties in the case for defendingthemselves. Deputy Attorney General Rajik Al

Jalil submitted a government notifica-

tion on the lab test reports of the

powder milk before the HC bench

saying that melamine was found in three brands of milk powder and the restriction on the other five brands should be withdrawn. The HRPB on November 5 filed the petition with the HC seeking a directive on the government to produce the test reports conducted by the Chemistry Department of Dhaka University, BSTI, Atomic Energy Commission and also the reports obtained from abroad on the eight

powder milk among the people. During the hearing, advocate Manzill Murshid, counsel for HRPB, told the court that different news items on the powder milk had been published in the newspapers. It had been reported that even some members of the expert committees had confusion over the test reports, he

brands of milk powder before the

court to dispel confusion about the

Murshid said the government on November 2 announced that toxic melamine was found in three brands ofmilk powder.

In the current situation, the reports of lab tests conducted at home and abroad need to be produced before the court to dispel confusion about the test reports, headded.

Counsels for the milk powder companies advocate Mahmudul Islam, barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud and barrister Tania Ameer told the court that both the consumers and businessmen have been suffering due to the HC restriction on display and sale of the milk powder. Earlier, upon a writ petition filed by

HRPB, the same HC bench on October 23 ordered the government to stop sale and display of eight brands of milk powder found tainted with melamine until receiving the lab testreports from abroad.