According to official

sources, hearing will now be

Washington. The hearing

deferred on request by the

Chevron to the arbitration

court -- International Centre

for Settlement of Investment

August, ICSID had set December 1 to 5 for the hear-

ing of the Bangladesh's state-

ment on Chevron's claim for

four percent tariff payback on

Hossain standing for

Bangladesh made a submis-

sion on the issue on August 5.

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal

hydrocarbon business.

IMB sends

newspaper

leaflet, CD to

office in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Outlawed Islamist outfit

'Jamaatul Mujahideen

Bangladesh' (JMB) has sent a

addresses in Pabna by regis-

Pabna received a parcel con-

taining the two items on

Tuesday. The office of the

president of Pabna Chamber

of Commerce and Industry

also received a similar parcel,

destroying anti-Islamic forces.

In the leaflet, JMB called for

"The Jehadi Kafela is com-

tered mail.

sources said.

leaflet and a CD to two

The Prothom Alo office in

After an initial hearing in

Dispute (ICSID) -- in Hague.

# METROPOLITAN/NEWS

## \$149m IDA credit to improve water, sanitation situation

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank has approved a US\$149 million IDA credit to Bangladesh to support the improvement of water supply and sanitation services in the city.

The Bank's Board of Directors in Washington yesterday approved the credit for the Dhaka Water Supply and Sanitation Project, according to a message received here.

The project is designed to improve by 2025, up from 12 million now. sustainable delivery of storm water drainage, wastewater, and water services by the serious strains on the city's ability to Dhaka Wasa, which has the sole responsibility of providing these services in the age services to its citizens. Delivery of service varies significantly even inside

This will be achieved through rehabilitation, repair, and expansion of the city's sewerage network and treatment plants, and installation of storm water pumping stations and rehabilitation of canals to

help improve drainage and minimize country director for Bangladesh. urban flooding.

Wasa's pilot expansion of water and sanitation services into some of Dhaka's slum often pose quality issues. This project areas to help increase services to the urban aims to improve and expand these ser-

hygiene practice in the slums. Dhaka is one of the fastest growing mega-cities in the world, and its popula-

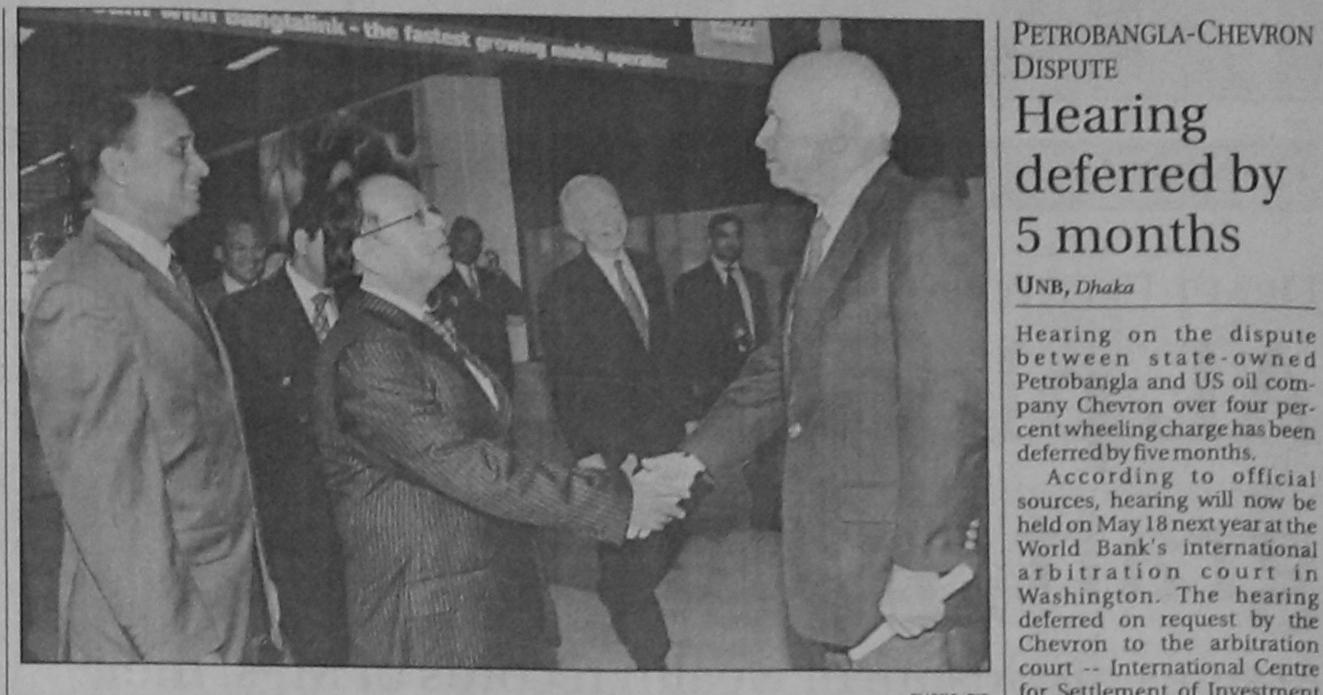
provide basic water, sanitation and drainwater and sanitation services throughout particularly poor in slum areas.

drainage services hurt the poorest citizens the most," said Xian Zhu, World Bank

He added, "Households in slum areas The project will also support Dhaka tend to rely on more costly alternative sources and alternative providers which poor, and finance training to improve vices to all people living in Dhaka, especially poor people."

Fook Chuan Eng, World Bank Senior Financial Analyst and Task Team Leader tion is expected to reach nearly 22 million for the project, said, "Currently Dwasa only supplies water to 70 percent of the This population growth is placing population of the Dhaka Metropolitan Area and its suburbs."

He added, "The quality and quantity of Dhaka. There are no piped distribution Dhaka is inadequate and uneven, but is networks available in slum areas, where approximately 4 million people live. This "Poor water supply, sanitation, and project will help DWASA to bring water and sanitation services to about 305,000 poor people living in slums."



Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury sees off US Senator John McCain at Zia International Airport in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Make pledges to bring war

criminals to book

Rights activists tell political parties

#### Proposal to hold DU convocation on Jan 29

**DU CORRESPONDENT** 

The deans' committee of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday proposed to hold the 45th convocation of the university on January 29.

The deans' committee made the proposal at a regular meeting of the body with DU Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in the chair.

The committee also proposed to confer honorary doctor of science degree upon Dr Lee and inventor of arsenic freeing Sono filter Prof Abul Hussam and to invite Prof Lee, a teacher of chemistry department of the Taiwan University, as convocation speaker.

Prof Faiz told the reporters that the proposal would be placed at syndicate meeting and then be finalised by the academic council of the university.

Mentionable, the 45th convocation will be the fourth convocation at the DU after the liberation war. After the liberation war the first convocation was held in 1999.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

#### Call to ensure representation in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called on the government to ensure representation of the people with disabilities in the parliament to uphold their equal rights.

Terming access to the parliament constitutional rights of the people, they said the government should involve the people with disabilities in the parliamentary standing committee for their development.

National Disabled Development Foundation, National Disabled Forum, Social Welfare Ministry and National Social Welfare Council jointly organised the discussion at Rabindra Sarobar in the city to mark the 17th International Day of Persons with Disability.

Citing lack of government organisation for disabled people to explore their talents, National Disabled Forum Chairperson AHM Noman Khan said the government should come forward to take steps in this regard.

National Foundation of Disabled People Managing Director Mansur Ahmed stressed the need for collaboration of the government and non-government organisations for their welfare.

#### Tac cancels its regular press briefing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) yesterday cancelled its regular press briefing as Chairman Justice Habibur Rahman Khan was busy in finishing all pending works before the expiry of the

Supreme Court (SC) stay order. After the SC stayed for a month the High Court (HC) order declaring Tac illegal and unconstitutional, the Tac boss said he would speed up commission's activities to finish all pending jobs before the expiry

of SC stay order. "Our chairman is busy in holding hearing of the cases pending with the commission and briefing will not be held today," said Tac Deputy Secretary Shamim Al Mamun while distributing a press release among the waiting iournalists.

### emational Conference : An Essential Strategy to g Good Health For All

PHOTO: STAR

Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed speaks at the inaugural session of a four-day international conference at the Brac Centre for Development Management (BCDM) at Rajendrapur yesterday.

### Country to achieve MDG in health by 2015

Says Fazle Hasan Abed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh would certainly be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) in health by 2015, paper. said Founder and Chairperson of Brac Fazle Hasan Abed needed so that a proven and

inaugural session of a four-day international conference on 'Scaling Up: An Essential Strategy to Attaining Good Health for All' at the Brac Centre for Development Rajendrapur.

become an example to differ- tiveness and impact measureent African and Asian countries in combating diarrhoea, tuberculosis and malaria. These countries have been following Brac's strategies of scaling up programmes, he said.

"Although the country has made substantial progress in the health sector in the last three decades, still we need to go for effective and sustainable

programmes that would be scaled up and the aim of the conference is how to expand these programmes," he said while reading out the keynote

Abed said that scaling up is effective intervention can He was addressing the reach as many of the targeted population as needed, he said.

Before scaling up, programmes should be pilot tested for feasibility and fine tuning of the intervention, research and evaluation are Management (BCDM) at absolutely necessary for programme design, imple-Bangladesh has already mentation strategy, cost effecments," he said while 'talking about the factors for a successful scaling up process from the Brac's experience.

Dr Richard Cash of Harvard University, Dr Timothy Evans of World Health Organisation, Stefan Nachuk of Rockefeller Foundation and Mary Taylor of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation also spoke.

#### 5th, 8th amendments have created religious bias

Speakers tell book launching ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

5th and 8th amendments to the constitution have created tremendously affected the spirit of secularism and ideology of liberation war.

The book titled 'Constitution Made Easy' written by Justice Gholam Rabbani is a pathfinder of the nation and it will assist new generation to understand the constitution, they added.

Former adviser to a caretaker government Sultana Kamal as the chief guest unveiled the cover of the book organised by Unnayan Shamannay with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation at the National

Press Club in the city.

She said. "Our constitution Speaker at a book launching was the direct outcome of programme yesterday said the liberation war. But the 5th amendment changed the preamble, while the 8th religious discrimination amendment inserted article among the people, which have 2(A) by which Islam was declared the state religion. These amendments have affected our secularism which was the main principal during the liberation war."

Dr Atiur Rahman said, "People are the owner of the constitution. So, everyone should have clear knowledge about it. I hope this book will assist people to understand the

constitution." Columnist Syed Abul Maksud said the national constitution is an incorrect book where the first sentence is erroneous.





#### Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over

the country, Met Office said. Highest temperature 30.1 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sandwip and lowest 14.3 degrees at

Srimangol. The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:27am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: Temperature in Humidity in City/Town

	Celsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.4	18.7	71	74
Chittagong	28.0	18.5	84	77
Rajshahi	28.2	15.7	93	84
Khulna	28.6	18.6	91	84
Barisal	28.0	17.6	94	89
Sylhet	28.7	17.9	90	75
Cox's Bazar	29.8	19.5	70	67

#### SC UPHOLDS HC ORDER Detention of Babar illegal

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld High Court order declaring illegal the detention of former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, turning down a government plea for holding him behind

Chamber Judge MA Matin gave the ruling upon a petition moved by the government seeking stay on operation of the November 27 High Court judgment.

On October 26, a 30-day detention order was issued against Babar as he was about to get out on bail from Dhaka Central Jail.

The home ministry issued the detention order following a general diary (GD) filed with Gulshan police station stating that it would be a 'violation of the Emergency Power Rules if he is set free'.

#### HC starts delivery of judgement on EPO, EPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday started delivering judgement on a writ petition that challenged the legality of some provisions of Emergency Powers Ordinance (EPO) 2007 and Emergency Power Rules (EPR) 2007, stating those who deny some fundamental rights of the people, including the rights to obtain bail in cases filed under these provisions and rules.

The HC bench comprising Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Justice Md Abdul Hye will today continue delivering the verdict in the case.

On June 15, the HC following the writ petition issued a rule upon the government to explain why the provisions for death penalty and disallowing bail in EPO and EPR should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

After holding a long hearing on the rule, the HC started delivering verdict.

Former adviser to a care taker government and Ain O Shalish Kendra Executive Director Sultana Kamal, Editor of the New Age Nurul Kabir and Assistant Prof Sheikh Hafizur Rahman Karzon on June 5 jointly filed the writ petition as public interest litigation.

The sections of the EPO provide death penalty and life-term imprisonment with fine for violating them and also any other rules with retrospective effect.

#### Appeal for help METRO DESK



Firoz Khan, news editor the weekly Chuadanga Darpan and Chuadanga

correspondent of the daily Janata, has been suffering from heart disease, says a press release.

He is now undergoing treatment at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Centre in Dhaka.

According to doctors, he | HC bench as per its earlier needs to undergo a heart bypass operation immediately, which involves around Tk 2 lakh. But his family is not in a position to bear the cost. The family members have

appealed to the well-off section of society to extend a helping hand to help him lead a normal life. Contributions can be sent to Hafiz Uddin Khan, A/C No.

21014420, Prime Bank Ltd,

Mouchak Branch, Dhaka.

Phone: 01711-958786.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Fourteen human rights and development activists called on the political parties to pledge in their election manifestoes to ensure the trial of war criminals and others responsible for violations of human rights and to stop

> announcement before the steps to make state-run television and radio autonomous and set up separate cells for

people, Dalits and the working class at the National Human Rights Commission to ensure Hossain of Kamal Hossain and Hill Tracts peace treaty, the their rights. The rights activists submitted memorandums with the said the election manifestoes implement women developdemands to the political

women, children, indigenous

memorandum include enforce international stan- ple, the memorandum said.

President Iajuddin Ahmed

yesterday called upon all to

extend their wholehearted

cooperation to country's

transition to an elected govern-

ment through general election.

addressing the graduation

ceremony of the National

Defence Course (NDC) and

Armed Forces War Course

(AFWC) 2008 at the National

Defence College at Mirpur in

Lt Gen Mohammad Aminul

Karim gave the welcome

civil officials, including 22

officers from 11 countries

India, Sri Lanka, Nepal,

Forty-five senior army and

speech on the occasion.

HC order to

before court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday

directed for fourth time the

parents and uncle of Humayra

Abdin, an expatriate trainee

doctor in London, to produce

her before the court on

December 14 in connection

filed by Ain O Shalish Kendra

(ASK), a human rights organi-

sation, and Humayra's cousin,

an HC bench comprising

Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain

and Justice Quamrul Islam

father Joynal Abedin and her

mother appeared before the

Meanwhile, Humayra's

On November 26, following

a contempt petition by ASK,

the HC ordered them to appear

before the court yesterday in

connection with a contempt of

contempt rule against them.

writ petition with the HC stat-

ing that the parents of

Humayra, 33, forcibly kept her

detained against her will.

Siddiqui passed the order.

In response to the petition

with a habeas corpus petition.

produce

Humayra

Commandant of the NDC

He made the call while

UNB, Dhaka

the city.

to elected govt

President urges all

parties, said a press release

Sultana Kamal and Meghna dards of human rights and Guha Thakurata of Ain O makelaws accordingly. Salish Kendra (ASK), Zakir Bangladesh Legal Aid and the activists said. Services Trust, Babulal Sardar Foundation, Ranjan Karmakar insurance. of Steps Towards Develop-Kori, Shamsul Huda of and Development and Sara Associates.

In the memorandum, they

Extend help in transition

Pakistan, Myanmar, China,

Malaysia, Oatar, Saudi Arabia,

Nigeria and Sudan completed

from Bangladesh army, navy

and air force participated in

college has conducted 10

national defence courses and

air force, 69 civil service and 56

overseas members from 12

countries have successfully

The president congratu-

graduated in the National

lated the graduating officers

and hoped that they would

contribute more to nation-

building activities through

their knowledge and profes-

So far 89 army, 27 navy, 26

Twenty-two senior officials

the NDC course.

AFWC 2008.

eight AFWCs.

Defence Courses.

The political parties should Hossain of Nagorik Udyog, also pledge to ensure security Aasif Saleh of Drishtipat, of journalists, artists and Begum Shamsunnahar of litterateurs and check repres-Naripokkho, AN Mahmud of sion and harassment of them,

Other demands include of Bangladesh Dalit and arranging alternative housing political recruitment of Excluded Movement, Ayesha for slum dwellers before their Khanam of Bangladesh eviction, declaring national They also demanded that Mahila Parishad, Dr Faustina minimum wage, introducing the political parties make Pereira of Human Rights and rationing system for workers, Legal Aid Programme, Brac, and introducing unemployelections that they would take Rina Roy of Manusher Jonno ment allowance and social

The political parties should ment, Khushi Kabir of Nijera also draw up manifestoes pledging to ensure the rights Association for Land Reform of ethnic minorities and implement the Chittagong activists said.

They should also pledge to of the political parties should ment policy, ensure more parcontain pledges to stop cor- ticipation of women in politics ruption in the judiciary, and distribute Khas lands The signatories to the recruit competent judges, among genuine landless peo-

He urged them to utilise the

Terming the graduating

knowledge they gained from

these courses for the enhance-

ment of the security and

foreign officers goodwill

ambassadors, I believe, the

cordial relations between

Bangladesh and your coun-

tries would be further

strengthened and deepened

The function was attended

by senior civil and military

officials, including Army Chief

General Moeen U Ahmed,

Naval Chief Vice-Admiral

Sarwar Jahan Nizam and Air

Chief Air Marshal S M Ziaur

through you.

development of the nations.

sionalism.

Since its inception, the ambassadors, President

#### mitted to establishing Islamic rule by destroying oppressors, exploiters and dishonest leaders," the leaflet reads. It also blamed the media for

publishing "wrong information" about JMB. The CD contains footage of activities of JMB militants. Pabna-based staff reporter of the Prothom Alo filed a

yesterday. The leaflet and the CD were also handed over to the police. The police said they have

general diary with the police

launched an investigation into it. "We have already informed the higher authorities of the matter," said Md Iqbal Shafi, officer-in-charge of Pabna Police Station.

taken the matter seriously and

#### Aziz gets addl charge

UNB, Dhaka Cabinet Secretary M Abdul

Iajuddin said, "As goodwill Aziz, NDC, has been given the additional charge of the principal secretary to the Chief Adviser's Office until further appointment to the post, said an official announcement yesterday.

#### Prevention of burn injuries can reduce mortality rate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a training programme yesterday said learning about the prevention and management in burn injuries can reduce the mortality and disability rate caused by injuries.

The training on 'Emergency management of severe burns (EMSB)', designed to help the health professionals with the ability to provide effective treatment within the first 24 hours after an injury, was organised by Interplast Austrailia and New Zealand (IANZ) in partnership with Centre for Injury Prevention and Research in Bangladesh

(CIPRB) at a city hotel Speaking as the chief guest, Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett said, "Training medical professionals on the effective management of burns is a crucial step to overcome the

deficiency at an available care." Inaugurating the programme, Prof Peter Maitz, on behalf of IANZ and Austraila and New Zealand Burns Association (ANZBA), drove home about the course and how it focuses on the first crucial 24 hours following an injury.

CRPB Executive Director Dr AKM Fazlur Rahman gave an overview of the burn injury scenario in the country while presenting the statistics that females are the most vulnerable to the burn injuries and most accidents originate from kitchen.

#### DHAKA

#### ODA Venue: National Press Club. Time:

3:30pm

#### Seminar Social Welfare Ministry, Jatiya

Pratibandhi Unnayan Foundation, National Social Welfare Council and NFOWD organise a national seminar on people with disabilities. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 9:30am.

#### Seminar A seminar on 'Duty-free market

access in Korea: Potential for Bangladesh exports' hosted by Bangladesh Foreign Trade will be held. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10:00am.

#### Anti-graft procession Anti-Corruption Commission and

Transparency International

Bangladesh jointly organise an anticorruption procession to mark International Anti-Corruption Day. Venue: South Plaza, Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Time: 10:30am.

#### Human chain

Save the Environment Movement court charge and issued the (Paba) will form a human chain. Venue: Institute of Fine Art, DU. Earlier, Humayra's cousin Time: 11:15am. Shipra Chowdhury and ASK jointly filed a habeas corpus

#### Human chain

A human chain will be formed by Democratic Left Alliance protesting vandalism of Balaka sculpture.

#### Press conference Bangladesh-India-Pakistan Forum

organises a press conference condemning the terrorist attacks on Mumbai. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium. Time: 11:00am. Roundtable

German Technical Cooperation

GTZ holds a roundtable on

'Appropriate energy mix for

sustainable development'. Venue:

#### Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Report launch

Peoples Commission-Jute and Jute Industry will launch its report Venue: Dhaka reporters' Unity. Time: 3:00pm.

#### Workshop An advocacy workshop on 'Role of

media to prevent HIV/Aids and drugs' will jointly be held by Department of Narcotics Control and Padakkhep Corsortium-GFATM-907, Venue: 10:30am.

#### Award handover

WFA Media Awards 2008 will be given away. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.