

Some leaders fuel doubts about polls

Says Badruddoza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some political leaders are responsible for throwing the general election into uncertainty, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said yesterday.

The countrymen still have doubts about the general election. The death of Gonatantri Party President Nurul Islam, a candidate in the parliamentary election, in a mysterious fire at his house and some comments of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and BNP leaders Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Hannan Shah have cast doubts on the elections scheduled for December 29," he said at a meeting of Bangladesh Kalyan Party at its central office in the city.

But the new electoral alliance Jatiya Jukta Front comprising BDB, Gono Forum and some small political parties believe that the election will be held on schedule, said the BDB chief.

"In the past, the political parties, which were in power, amassed ill-gotten money while the opposition staged demonstrations on the streets, called hartal and boycotted parliament sessions," he said.

He also said that his party and the Jatiya Jukta Front would play a vital role in ending the politics of conflicts and hartal.

Bangladesh Kalyan Party

President Maj Gen (retd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim presided over the meeting. BDB Secretary General Maj (retd) Abdul Mannan, Progressive Democratic Party Chairman Ferdous Ahmed Quarishi and Forward Party Chairman Mostafa Amin also spoke.

USAID dy asst administrator for Asia due in city on Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator for Asia Margot Ellis will arrive in the city on Sunday as part of her three-day visit to Bangladesh.

The recently appointed Ellis' first visit to the country will provide her with an opportunity to assess first-hand US government-funded development assistance programmes here.

In addition to meeting with development partners and members of the civil society, she will also visit several key USAID-sponsored programmes to hear directly from participants and beneficiaries.

Mainstream HIV issue for effective prevention

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday underscored the need for mainstreaming the HIV/AIDS issue to help raise awareness and provide cost-effective service.

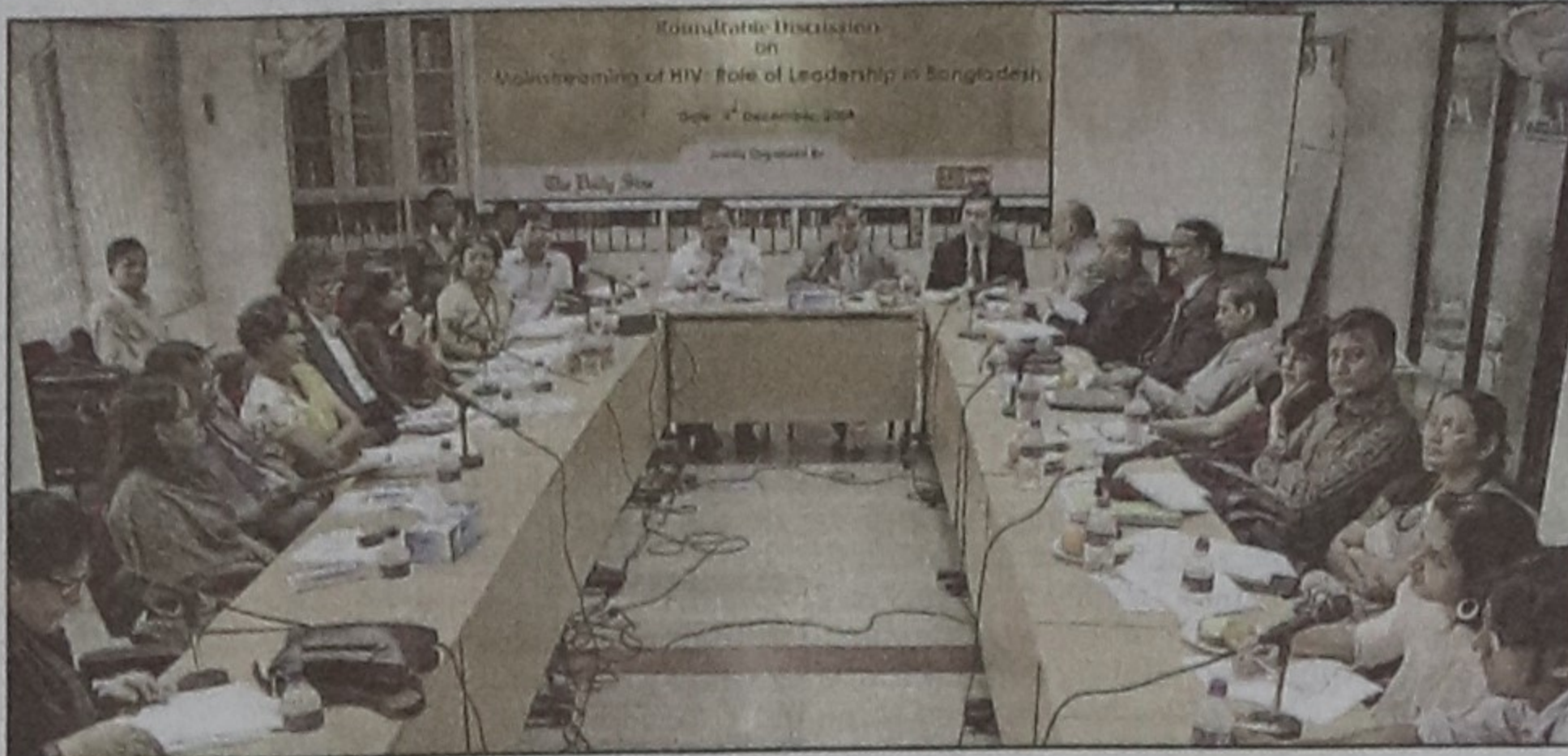
The roundtable titled 'Mainstreaming of HIV: Role of Leadership in Bangladesh' was organised jointly by the UNFPA and The Daily Star at its conference room in the city.

The speakers said mainstreaming of HIV would also help in removing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), utilising service delivery and ensuring human and reproductive rights.

While delivering the keynote paper Khandaker Ezazul Hoque, HIV officer of UNFPA Bangladesh, said mainstreaming is a process that enables development actors to address the cause and effect of HIV/AIDS.

In his welcome speech, Porchai Suchitta, deputy representative of UNFPA Bangladesh, said multi-sectoral response is important for effective prevention of HIV.

"People of this country are now more pro-active and willing to talk about HIV and



Participants at a roundtable on 'Mainstreaming of HIV: Role of Leadership in Bangladesh' jointly organised by The Daily Star and UNFPA at the newspaper's office in the city yesterday.

AIDS. What we need now is to harmonize our efforts for meaningful result," he said, adding that big population in the country is a big challenge to keep the prevalence of HIV low and more advocacy is needed in this regard.

Highlighting the government's initiatives in combat-

ing HIV/AIDS, Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad, additional secretary to health and family welfare ministry, said, "AIDS is not only a burden for health but also a burden for development as it affects our productivity and household income."

It is a threat for the country and the nation, he added.

It is time to review the National HIV/AIDS Policy which was formulated in 1997 as by this time situation has changed much, said Dr Mozammel Haque of UNODC.

He said policy makers should think of allocating budget from revenue sector in future rather than depending

on just donor agencies to work on HIV/AIDS.

The speakers said the programmes on IDUs and high risk groups and PLWHA should not be stopped for a single day while the issue of HIV/AIDS should be incorporated in the curriculum of non formal education also as it is introduced in formal education system.

Expressing optimism focusing the activities of the government and non-government organisations on this issue they said Bangladesh is in right track to achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) that targets the halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015.

The speakers also recommended focusing on motivation about HIV/AIDS prevention, conducting more researches on AIDS related issues, access to government level data relating to AIDS/HIV should be easy for

people, talking to the youth and other vulnerable groups before adopting any policy and strategy, increasing budget for AIDS prevention programme, conducting continuous monitoring and evaluation of AIDS prevention programme.

Habiba Akter of Ashar Alo Society, Shale Ahmed of Bandhu Social Welfare Society, Tasnim Azim of ICDDR,B, Dr M Ziya Uddin and Dr Ferdous Alam Shibib of NASP, Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, chief editor of BSS, Dr Zaman Ara of UNFPA, Farhana Haque of IUB, Mahfuza Rahman of Unesco, Zamiur Rahman of mass communication department, Parveen Rasheed of SMC, Avra Saha of UNAIDS, Moogdho Mim Mahzab and Saeda Bilkis Bani of UNFPA, Shah H Imam and Shahnoor Wahid of The Daily Star also spoke on the occasion.

Wrong policies contribute to destruction of jute sector: People's Commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People's Commission on Jute and Jute Industry yesterday demanded trial of those involved in corruption saying that wrong policies and irregularities have contributed to the destruction of jute sector in the country.

The government should form a commission to investigate irregularities by the chief executives of the successive governments, jute ministry, officials involved in management of industries and leaders of the central bargaining agencies (CBAs), said the People's Commission at the launch of its report at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The 11-member Commission was formed on June 1 of last year to identify the persons responsible for the crisis in jute sector, assess the losses and make recommendations for the development of the jute industry.

Justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani was the chairman and Shah Alam, a jute expert, was the secretary of the Commission.

Its members included engineer Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah, Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Nur Mohammad, Shahidullah Chowdhury, Morshed Ali, Mamunur Rashid, Selina Hossain, Professors Dr Abul Barakat, Anu Muhammad, MM Akash, Dr Shamsul Alam and journalist Nurul Kabir.

"The total loss in jute sector would be over Tk 150000 crore from 1982-83 to 2005-06," said Alam, adding that Bangladesh can earn this amount if the authorities patronise jute cultivation and industry creating huge employment and earning

enormous foreign exchange.

Alam said members of the proposed probe commission should be selected under a transparent process.

Apart from traditional ways of investigation, the commission will collect complaints by publishing notices, and the trial should be conducted in a special court within the fastest possible time, he said.

Alam said the People's Commission has found the chief executives of the governments, executives of jute ministry, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, chairmen and directors of state-owned Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), general managers and managers, trade union leaders and the managers of the privatised jute mills

responsible for the destruction of jute sector.

Alam said the government should also nationalise all privatised jute mills, provide autonomy to the mills in selling and buying raw jute and exporting jute products and bring all the agencies related to jute under the jute ministry.

The government should also conduct modern researches on jute, diversify jute products, ensure timely supply of raw jute and power in the mills and appropriate wages to the workers, he added.

The middlemen system in selling and buying jute should be scrapped, he said, adding that the use of any artificial fiber harmful to jute industry should be banned.



Suhrawardy's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 45th death anniversary of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy will be observed today in a befitting manner, says a press release.

The nation will pay homage to Suhrawardy, one of the greatest leaders of undivided India, who dedicated his whole life for the welfare of the people by upholding democracy above all.

Shaheed Suhrawardy Jatiya Smriti Parishad, Bangladesh National Personality Research Centre and Biswa Bangalee Sammelan have jointly chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The day's main programme will start with offering Fateha and placing wreaths at the mazar of Suhrawardy in the morning.

Other programmes include a discussion on 'The contribution of Suhrawardy in establishing democracy' on the graveyard premises.

3 JMB men held in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Three members of outlawed Islamist outfit Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were arrested at Shoulmari village in Nilphamari on Wednesday night.

Acting on a tip-off, Jaldhaka police arrested Noor Alam, 23, Mamun-ur-Rashid, 40, and Golzar Rahman, 22, and also recovered important documents from their possession.

Officer-in-Charge of Jaldhaka Police Station Narendra Nath Sarker said the police have been interrogating the arrestees.

Ctg journos observe token strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The members of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) yesterday observed a one-hour work abstention in the houses of all seven local dailies in the port city demanding immediate implementation of the 7th Wage Board Award.

Brief rallies were held during the token strikes where leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and CUJ called on the management of the newspapers to implement the wage board and not to resort to any dillydallying in this regard.

Journalists from the daily Azadi, the daily Purbokone, the daily Suprobat Bangladesh, the daily Kamaphuli, the daily Nayabanga, the daily People's View and the daily Bir Chattagram Mancha abstained from work from 7:00pm to 8:00pm yesterday.

BFUJ Vice President Omar Kaiser, Secretary General Dibakar Ghosh, CUJ President Mostak Ahmad, General Secretary Nazimuddin Shyamol and former CUJ president Shahid Ul Alam addressed the rallies.



Light fog may occur

UNB, Dhaka

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

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 29.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 14.0 degrees Celsius at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:28am tomorrow.

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	27.6	18.6	72	80
Chittagong	28.3	19.0	80	73
Rajshahi	27.0	15.3	90	85
Khulna	28.2	18.6	77	76
Barisal	28.6	17.2	91	92
Sylhet	29.3	18.2	83	74
Cox's Bazar	29.5	19.3	76	72

Know Bangladesh Better

Read Star Insight, a fortnightly publication of The Daily Star. It's coming out twice a month every alternate Saturday along with our regular issue.

The current issue (December 06, 2008) covers stories from Rangamati, Sylhet, Pabna Bogra & Jhenidah. Coming out Tomorrow. Ask your hawkers for your copy.



Send your comments & contribution to

Star Insight

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Tel: 8824051; 8853948-9. Fax: 8810383. email: admission@bracu.ac.bd

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Radisson Water Garden Hotel Dhaka, one of the premium five star international chain hotels in Bangladesh is looking for a suitable candidate for the position of **Sous Chef**. The candidate must be a Bangladeshi Citizen. This position is primarily responsible to provide highest quality foods appropriate to the market by assisting the Executive Sous Chef and Executive Chef in all areas of Kitchen operation.

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- To provide value added service to customers by doing whatever reasonable and possible to meet or exceed customer's expectation.
- To coordinate, supervise and prepare the production of food as required for service and special functions to ensuring that all stations are set for forecasted covers.
- Demonstrating recipe knowledge for all food items and dishes making suggestion to improve quality and eliminate waste.
- To assure that all kitchen personnel and servers are aware of specials, plate presentations and prices.

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