# Equip commission with power to deal with HR violations

Speakers tell dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly formed National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) would be a 'toothless body' unless it is equipped with 'enforcement mechanism', said the theemergency as soon as possible. speakers at a dialogue yesterday.

at a city hotel.

Making a vow of not letting the NHRC would be tough to deal with human rights violation. in Bangladesh where there are numerous poverty and illiteracy.

"Poverty and illiteracy are the main tion from civil society. causes of inequality in the society. To of job putting life of men, women and formation of NHRC.

children at stake," said Justice Chowdhury.

He also observed that as the state of emergency restricts some fundamental rights of people it would be better to lift region should sit together to fix an agreed

"Establishing human rights commis-The dialogue titled 'National and sion is not enough unless it has independregional institutions for the protection of 'ence, defined jurisdiction and adequate human rights: Challenge for Bangladesh' power to deal with human rights violawas organised jointly by South Asian tion," said the Associate Professor of Sharmin Chowdhury. Institute for Legal and Human Rights Chittagong University Dr Abdullah Al Studies (SAILS) and the French Embassy Faruque who presented the keynote to ensure human rights in the region and

to become a 'toothless body' its commission 'toothless body' as it lacks Chairman Justice Amirul Kabir power to initiate independent proceed-Chowdhury, however, observed that it ings against perpetrators of human rights

He also said the commission is overenemies against human rights including whelmed by government staffs, and lacks experts in human rights and representa-

protect human rights we must create regional, or international, are the pivotal sufficient employment opportunities for instruments in upholding human rights," our youths who often indulge in criminal said M Charley Causeret, ambassador of activities including extortion in absence France to Bangladesh, referring to the

Emphasising the necessity of an institution in South Asia to ensure human rights the speakers observed that the leaders from different countries of the charter on human rights.

"The commission must conduct investigation independently and impartially and the court and the commission should work hand in hand," said Dr Shirin

"Regional initiatives should be taken thus we would be able to learn from each He said many people consider the others. We see light on the horizon as Bangladesh has established human rights commission finally," said Dr Kamal Hossain, chairperson of SAILS.

UN special rapporteur for Somalia Dr Shamsul Bari chaired the dialogue while Noemie Bienvenu, legal adviser to national consultative commission of human rights in France, Senior Lecturer "Institutions, should they be national, of University Montpellier I, France Dr Katarzyna Grabarczyk, Supreme Court lawyer Dr Faustina Pereira, and Prof Dr Imtiaz Ahmed also spoke on the occasion. .The NHRC started its functioning on December 1.

# HC VERDICT ON EPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An appeal may be moved at the Supreme Court (SC) today to halt the operation of the High Court (HC) judgement declaring illegal the provisions of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) 2007 that deny the rights to obtain bail in cases filed under these rules.

yesterday, Attorney General HCverdict.

be held before the chamber bench of the Appellate Division on Sunday," he added.

Sources said the AG's office has already prepared an appeal seeking stay on the HC judge-

illegal and void some provisions of the Emergency Powers Ordinance (EPO) 2007 and Emergency Power Rules (EPR) 2007 that deny some rights including obtaining of bail in cases filed under these provisions and rules.

The HC declared illegal the provisions suspending HC jurisdiction to stay the convictions handed down by the trial courts against the accused during proceeding of the appeals and the rights of the people to move to the courts against the government actions under the ordinance and rules.

provisions empowering the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to transfer the cases filed

On June 5 of this year, former adviser to caretaker government and Ain o Salish Kendra Executive Director Sultana Kamal, New Age Editor Nurul Kabir and Dhaka University Assistant Professor Sheikh Hafizur Rahman Karzon jointly filed the writ petition as public interest litigation with the HC challenging the legality of the EPO sections 3 (Kha) and 5 and the EPR rules 11 (3), 19 (Gha), and 19 (Uma).

### Electoral maps published

METRO DESK

The Mappa Limited, a cartographic organisation, prepared a set of 371 maps of different size in English and Bengali language titled 'Bangladesh National Parliament Election Map 2008', says a press release.

Boundary of each electoral constituencies, name, number, number of voters, polling booths and polling centres of each constituency and relevant information on ensuing general election have been depicted in the maps.

The maps could be collected from the office of The Mappa Ltd (112, Green Road, Farmgate, Dhaka), Tel: 8116710, 8117260 during office hours.

# আমার সম্মানিত মোয়াক্কেল কনভেয়র লজিস্টিকস লিঃ , প্রতিনিধিত্বে ইহার চেয়ারম্যান ও ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব কবির আহমেদ, ৫৭ কামাল আতাতুর্ক এভিনিউ, বনানী বা/এ, বনানী বাজার, টাকা-১২১৩ এর পক্ষে সকলকে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, অত্র কোম্পানীর ব্যবসায়ীক প্রয়োজনে ও বৃহত্তর স্বার্থে এবং গ্রাহক গনকে উনুত সেবা প্রদানের নিমিত্তে কোম্পানীর লোগো বা ব্রান্ত পরিবর্তন করিয়া নিম্নে বর্ণিত রূপে নতুন আঙ্গীকে করা হইয়াছে।



ক্রপাভরিত লোগো সমূহের বর্ণিত বিষরণ

ইহা কোম্পানীর সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও সর্ব সাধারনের জ্ঞাতার্থে সর্বোত সহযোগিতা কামনায় কোম্পানীর মঙ্গলার্থে জ্ঞাত করা হইল

এ, কে,এম, খালেক নেওয়াজ ফরাজী এল এল,বি (অনুর্সা) এল এল, এম वारेनजीवी, वाःलापिन पूर्वीय कार्षे रारेकार्षे जिल्निन চেম্বারঃ 'ল' চেম্বার

৯১/১, ওয়ারল্যাস রোড (৩য় তলা) মগবাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৭ क्वान-२०५२४२२, त्यावार्च-०३३२४४३४५४



Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a dialogue jointly organised by South Asian Institute for Legal and Human Rights Studies (SAILS) and the French Embassy at a city hotel yesterday.

#### Temple damaged at Keraniganj

UNB, Keraniganj

A group of criminals partially damaged a Hindu temple in a bid to grab the land at Nayabazar Vehor here yesterday.

President of the temple committee Bhagirath Bhattachariya said one Salahuddin made a fake deed of purchase of land of the two centuries old temple. His musclemen yesterday partially damaged the temple and looted goods worth about Tk2 lakh.

Drupadi Rani of the temple said land grabbers were creating problems for them in a bid to evict theminorities from the area.

Police officer said they received complaint of damaging the temple and were taking stern action against the culprits.

### **ELECTION MANIFESTOES**

## Include extrajudicial killing issue

HR bodies urge parties

DU CORRESPONDENT

Odhikar and Narigrantha Prabortan, working for human rights, yesterday placed a 12point issue, including extrajudicial killings and violations of human rights in jail, for including those in the election manifestos.

The speakers called on the political parties to mention in detail how they would work with these issues and would ensure human rights in their manifestos.

Narigrantha Executive Director Farida Parvin placed the issues at a press conference held by the organisations

> in the city. Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan presided over the programme, says a press release.

Other issues include repression and killings by the law enforcers, arrest at special drives, representation of women in the parliament, freedom of the media, price hike of essentials, health services and rights of farmers.

# Appeal with SC likely today

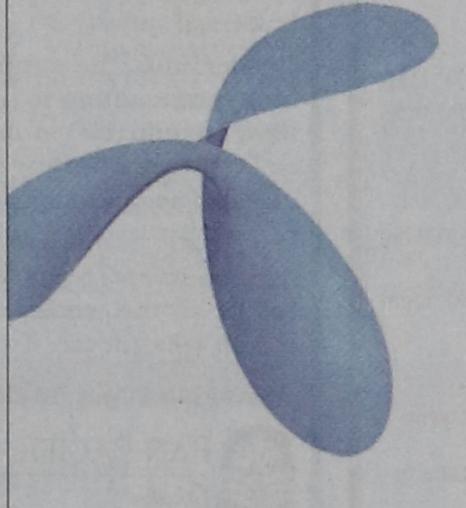
Talking to The Daily Star

(AG) Salahuddin Ahmad said the government must file an appeal with the SC against the "Hearing of the appeal may

Upon a writ petition, an HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Abdul Hye on December 4 declared

The court also cancelled the under the EPR to other courts.





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