

Campaign for Dec 29 parliament elections kicks off



(Clockwise from top left) Rashed Khan Menon, a candidate of grand alliance for Dhaka-8 constituency, and his supporters take out a procession from the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday as part of election campaign. Grand alliance candidate for Dhaka-9 Saber Hossain Chowdhury speaks at an election rally on the Madartek Abdul Aziz High School ground. Four-party alliance candidate for Dhaka-11 Md Shahbuddin leads an election campaign at Karwan Bazar. Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal takes out an election procession in Paltan area. Four-party alliance candidate for Dhaka-4 Abdul Hai talks to a voter during a campaign. Communist Party of Bangladesh takes out an election procession from the Central Shaheed Minar.

Hasina opens AL election media cell today

UNB, Dhaka
Awami League will open its election media cell today. Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the media cell at House no 33, Road no 4 at Dhanmondi in the capital at 4:00pm. Journalists will be able to collect all necessary information on Awami League's election activities from the media cell.

Two murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
8:30am.
Two bodies were recovered in the city yesterday. Jatrahari police recovered a mutilated body of an unidentified youth from Kazla. They said the decomposed body was recovered after the sweepers found the beheaded body and the severed head at about 1:30pm. Meanwhile, Motijheel police recovered the body of a young woman from a drain near the Rajarbagh Police Line at about

Bijoy Utsab begins today

UNB, Dhaka
A four-day victory festival titled 'Bijoy Utsab 2008', organised by Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, will begin in the city today. The family members of Bir Shrestha will inaugurate the festival at the Central Shaheed Minar at 3:30pm. The programmes of the festival will be held at the Central Shaheed Minar and the Rabindra Sarobar Mancha at Dhanmondi daily on December 14-16 at 4:00pm, says a press release.

25 hurt in pre-polls violence

METRO DESK
At least 25 people were injured in pre-poll violence at Chandpur and Narsingdi yesterday. A Correspondent in Chandpur reports: Ten people were injured in a clash between the supporters of BNP candidate Md Nurul Huda and rebel independent candidate Dr Jalal Uddin, who are contesting the parliamentary elections from Chandpur-2 constituency, at Chandpur yesterday. Two minibuses of Dr Jalal were also vandalised during the clash that took place at Matlab Maxi Stand. Witnesses said the clash erupted when supporters of Dr Jalal came face to face with the supporters of Md Nurul Huda at the Maxi Stand as Dr Jalal was going to Matlab for election campaign. The police, however, could not arrest anybody in this regard. Sub-Inspector Mujahidul Islam of Matlab Police Station (south) said a case was filed against 10 people, including both the candidates. Meanwhile, in a press conference at Chandpur Udayan School, Dr Jalal said Nurul Huda instructed his supporters to launch the attack, fearing his defeat in the election. UNB adds: Two groups of BNP activists were locked in a

BSD starts election campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) started its election campaign from its central office in the city yesterday, says a press release. BSD Convenor Comrade Khalequzzaman inaugurated the campaign in a meeting. In his inaugural speech he urged voters to cast their vote for BSD instead of corrupt candidates. Coordinator of Dhaka city BSD Bazlur Rashid Firoz chaired the meeting while member of central committee Comrade Mubuil Haider Chowdhury, Convenor of the party election conducting committee Comrade Abdullah Sarkar, Comrade Subhangshu Chakrabarti and Rajekuzzaman Ratan also spoke.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, party leaders and guests stand as the national anthem is played at a programme to launch the party's election manifesto at a city hotel yesterday.

AL ELECTION MANIFESTO Hasina hailed for giving priority to agri sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Leaders of Bangabandhu Krishibid Parishad in a statement yesterday hailed Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina for giving priority to agriculture sector in her party's election manifesto. They also felicitated Hasina for including issues like curbing of price hike, poverty alleviation, action against corruption and the development of power and energy sector in the manifesto. In another statement Agriculture University Teachers' Federation also welcomed AL election manifesto.

'Spearhead cultural movement against fundamentalists'

DU CORRESPONDENT
Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for spearheading the cultural movement against the overall repression and hegemony in the society. They also urged people to carry the movement against fundamentalists and the people who provide shelters to them. The discussion was organised by Banglar Sangskriti Andolon (BSA), a platform of students and cultural activists, in the city to discuss the objectives and position of cultural movement in the country. Noted educationist Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Justice Golam Rabbani, Lt Col

Music contest begins Dec 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Kendriya Kachi-Kanchar Mela and Bombe Sweets Company Ltd jointly organise a three-month music contest for primary and secondary students beginning from December 16, says a press release. The primary round will be held at district level, secondary round at divisional level and the final round will be held in Dhaka. Interested students are requested to contact the headmaster of their respective schools. This competition ends on March 26.

Robbery at fish trader's house in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
A gang of robbers took away a single barrel gun and 100 bullets, six cell phones and 16 tolas of gold ornaments from the residence of a fish trader at Shamsur Rahman Road in Khulna in the early hours of yesterday. According to the police, the robbers wearing masks entered the house of Khan Saifullah breaking open the collapsible gate and kept the fish trader, his wife and four children confined in a room at gunpoint. They also warned the fish trader not to file any case, family sources said. Recently, an unidentified man demanded a huge amount of toll from the fish trader, but he refused to pay, family members said. The robbers left behind a crowbar, a screwdriver and a pair of sandals in the bedroom of the fish trader.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka
Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur over northwestern and southwestern parts and the river basins of the country during morning. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. Highest temperature 30.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sandwip and lowest 14.7 degrees Celsius at Srimangol. The sun sets in the capital at 5:13pm today and rises at 6:33am 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	28.9	18.8	84	72
Chittagong	28.7	18.4	82	74
Rajshahi	28.7	16.4	97	81
Khulna	29.8	19.5	97	82
Barisal	29.6	18.2	91	91
Sylhet	27.0	17.3	83	85
Cox's Bazar	30.5	20.0	76	70

Traditional food festival held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A festival of traditional foods of Dhaka city was held at Hazaribagh yesterday in connection with the celebration of 400 years of the capital city. The foods included bakarkhani and meat curry, nehari and bread, gulgula, dal and potato chips. The festival was organised jointly by Dhakabashi and Dhaka Nogorir Charsho Bachhar Udayan Parishad at its office. President of Dhakabashi Mohammad Shukur Saleque attended the festival as chief guest. He said the people of old Dhaka are fond of entertaining the guests with their traditional foods. He also urged the government to establish a number of modern primary schools in the city especially at Hazaribagh, Nawabganj, Chawkbazar, Narinda and Farashganj, says a press release.



Workers spruce up the premises of a memorial to martyred intellectuals at Rayer Bazar killing ground in the city yesterday ahead of Martyred Intellectuals' Day to be observed tomorrow.