

AL'S DHAKA CAMPAIGN ENDS

(Clockwise from right) Supporters and activists of Awami League throng Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday to join its election rally. Awami League President Sheikh Hasina waves from the dais. Security men keep vigilance during the meeting. Hasina introduces grand alliance candidates contesting the parliamentary elections from Dhaka city. An army man keeps his eyes open as part of beefed up security. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR



'Do not vote for war criminals'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE), a platform of eleven teachers' organisations, yesterday urged all teachers, not to cast vote for war criminals, repressors of women and corrupt candidates in the upcoming national election. They also called upon the teachers to encourage women and first time voters to cast their vote for establishing a progressive government. "Thousands of teachers have become victims due to repression of BNP-Jamaat alliance leaders and activists. Now time has come to establish a education and teacher-friendly government through

casting vote on December 29," said Prof Quazi Faruque Ahmed, chief coordinator of NFTE, at a press conference at its office in the city. He also said that the ninth parliamentary election is very much important as country's development, quality education and teachers' progress can only be ensured if progressive political forces come to power. Teachers who will be polling officers should play a neutral role during the election period for the greater interest of democracy, he added. NFTE leaders M Azizul Islam, Mosharraf Hossain, Prof MA Sattar, Mohammad Ali Chowdhury, M Arzu and M Abdur Rashid were present at the press conference.

First-ever reunion at BAF Shaheen College held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 5,000 former students of different batches gathered on the BSF Shaheen School and College premises yesterday amid huge enthusiasm and joy in their first-ever reunion. The alumni, who attended the programme with their spouses and children, passed the whole day gossiping with their classmates, seniors and teachers and enjoyed a cultural programme. Inaugurating the reunion, Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman said Shaheen College has not only become successful institutionally,

but also its students have earned a good image at different national and international levels. "I believe this trend of success of the institute and its students would be continued," he added. Speaking at the special guest, Bangladesh Football Federation President Kazi Salahuddin, who was a student of 1970 batch of the school, said he is very glad to come to his school and on the familiar playground where he once played a lot. Principal of the college AM Amzad Hossain hoped that the newly formed ex-Shaheen Association Dhaka (ESAD) would play a positive role for

the betterment of the college. ESAD General secretary Zia Shamsi said BSF Shaheen School was established in 1960. A total of 5000 students of the schools and college from home and abroad participated in the programme. Air Commodore M Sanaul Huq, who is also the president of college governing body, hoped that this kind of gathering of new and old ex-students would be continued. A check for Tk one lakh and five computers were handed over to the college authorities for the welfare of the students. Brig Gen MM Salehin and ESAD president addressed the programme.

CANCER RESEARCH INSTT

Irregularities in Tk 6cr purchase

Top official faces departmental action

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

The health ministry has recently taken departmental action against only one official of the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) six months after the probe committee submitted its report identifying several other officials and staffs involved in corruption at the institute.

The ministry sent a show cause notice to NICRH Director and Project Director Prof Dr AMM Shariful Alam on December 17 on charges of misconduct and corruption.

The one-member probe committee led by Deputy Secretary (hospital) Dr Mohammad Abdul Jalil of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare submitted the report to the ministry on May 29.

The report revealed that corruption in the purchase of computer and software, hospital furniture and office equipment worth about Tk six crore in 2006 caused a huge monetary loss to the government.

The report said the director of the hospital took an initiative to prepare a joint inventory of the items only after the launch of the investigation on

March 30, 2008. But he had not taken any such steps in the last two years before the investigation started, it added.

The report said Prof Dr Shariful Alam, former project director and president of Technical Specification Committee (TEC) Dr Farhad Halim, and members of Survey and Receiving Committee were found involved in the irregularities while the store-in-charge and store keepers assisted them.

The report recommended formulating an inclusive committee to identify the officials responsible and to assess the extent of financial loss.

It also recommended taking legal action against Dr Alam who took charge as the project director on April 23, 2007.

According to the report, Dr AFM Kamal Uddin, registrar, Radiation Oncology, was not directly involved in the process of purchase, but he assisted and influenced the project director in this regard.

The report recommended transferring Dr Kamal and Dr Mostofa Aziz Sumon (OSD) of the directorate of health services immediately.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dr Kamal wondered how the

investigation committee found his involvement in corruption. Even he was not officially informed of the committee report, he added.

When contacted, Dr Shariful Alam and Deputy Secretary (Hospital) Dr Abdul Jalil declined to make any comments.

Four muggers held in Savar

UNB, Savar

Local people caught four muggers while they were fleeing after robbing off a vegetables trader in Imandipur area here yesterday morning.

The arrested were identified as Azad, Rony, Sohel, and Shohel. Police said five muggers hacked vegetables trader Salam early in the morning while he was going to his business establishment in Genda Bazar, leaving him injured. They took away Tk 5,000 from him.

Hearing his cry for help, local people rushed in and caught four of them after a hot chase.

Later, they were handed over to police after giving them a good beating.

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