Call to hold direct

polls to women's

reserved seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Narigrontho Probortona, a woman rights

organisation, yesterday

demanded the government

place a bill in the first session

of the 9th parliament for

holding a direct election to the

reserved seats for women in

ing 45 reserved seats for

women in parliament for next

10 years, but the constitution

has to be amended in order to

hold direct election to those

alliance government having

majority seats in the parlia-

ment will have to bring

amendments to the constitu-

tion to implement its pre-

election commitments for

holding a direct election to the

Election Commission to take

necessary measures to hold a

direct election to the woman

at a human chain programme at the north gate of Supreme

Court to press home their

Akter, Sultana Akter Rubi,

seats in parliament.

They also called on the

The leaders were speaking

Women leaders Farida

The leaders said the grand

There is a system of keep-

the house.

seats, they added.

woman seats.

demands.

WAR CRIMINALS

Trial process soon

Says finance minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Finance and Planning Minister AMA Muhit yesterday said the government is set to start taking steps for the trial of war criminals.

In addition to its groundwork on some legal aspects at home, it has already communicated with the UN officials to start the process, he added.

The minister said this at a view exchange meeting with reporters at the Sylhet Circuit House in the afternoon.

the finance minister, flew to his home town on Friday evening and offered fateha at the shrines of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) and Hazrat Shahporan (RA).

The bureaucrat-turned-politician, also the lawmaker from the Sylhet-1 constituency, also addressed his first meeting with the government officials, chiefs of education institutions, political leaders and social leaders on the law and order situation at the circuit house.

The government is giving topmost priority cooperation.

on ensuring law and order, Muhit said, adding. "We would not allow anybody to create troubles on the campuses."

Asking the officials to remain strict on the law and order situation, he said, "Education institutions should be kept free of violence at any cost. Unruly capture of the campuses should be stopped," adding, "We want to get out from the confrontational political culture. We are committed to making enlightened and violence-free campuses."

Muhit called on the concerned officials to Muhit, on his first visit after taking over as hold the upazila elections in a free and fair

The officials as well as the political activists should avoid excess of doing anything, he said, adding: "We will break the tradition of breaking laws using the name of party. We will not take any terrors in the party and there will be no new entrants as well."

As BNP is the country's second largest party, Muhit said, it would be hard to carry out the government's development efforts without its



Garment workers hold a white flag rally at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting Israeli attacks on civilians in Gaza.

Deal extortionists with iron hand

Minister asks law enforcing agencies

with an iron hand to restore concerned departments to measures for attaining selfdistrict which would help pave irrespective of their identity or the way for ensuring normal party affiliation. development process.

Friday evening at the Deputy pressure and not to entertain Commissioner conference any interference. If there is any Labour, Employment and room the minister directed the interference for violating the Expatriates Welfare Minister law enforcers to take neces- set rules of the government, he Engr Khondoker Mosharraf sary actions as per law to curb might be informed to deal the Hossain called upon the law the law breakers as terrorism matter, the minister added. enforcing agencies to deal the and extortion hinder developterrorists and extortionists ment activities, he told the

k An miem, onai ouolio neath management firm

He asked the concerned officials to take necessary law and order situation in the round up the anti-socials sufficiency in food in the district. To attain this target, he assured necessary seed, The minister called upon fertiliser and other agriculture Addressing the heads of all the officials to act as per rules of inputs available as and when

departments of the district on business and not to yield to any necessary. Office Space for at prime GULSHAN AVENUE Rajuk approved for Commercial Use . 4,000 sft per floor . upto 12,000 sft available from 3rd to 5th floor with 25

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Police raid 3 JU halls as BCL factions clash

A CORRESPONDENT, JU

Police raided three halls of Jahangirnagar University (JU) early yesterday in the wake of clash between two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists.

The police entered AFM Kamaluddin Hall, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall and Maulana Bhashani Hall at around 3:00am.

No arrest was made and no arms were recovered during the

Around 15 gunshots were heard during the raid. The university authorities said the police fired all the gunshots. But witnesses said the gunshots were heard from both the sides police and students.

Meanwhile, the police arrested two men of general secretary Johny's group at Maulana Bhashani Ball yesterday morning.

Physiotherapy students resume hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Physiotherapy Students' Union (BPSU) resumed their hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, as the government did not implement the pledges it had made nearly two months ago.

They have been demanding realisation of their fourpoint demand.

They started observing a hunger strike on November 25 at the same place demanding the government announce a date of building a distinct college of physiotherapy, withdraw false cases against the students, take necessary steps for admission procedure in the first year physiotherapy course and recruit physiotherapy teachers at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR)

Though the Director (medical education) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof Dr Khondokar Mohammad Sifayet Ullah and Director of NITOR Prof Dr Sheikh Nurul Alam assured the students of necessary steps within a week and made the students postpone the strike, eventually no steps were taken in this regard.

Following a clash among the physiotherapy and orthopaedic students, the Nitor authorities suspended the classes for an indefinite period on September 4.

All the classes, examinations and clinical practices have been halted since then making the future of around 600 students uncertain.



demanding direct election to the reserved seats for the women.

bouring countries.

the city.

"We have already ordered

the law enforcement agen-

cies to take strong steps to

stop smuggling of the illegal

arms," she said while

addressing the inauguration

of an eye camp at Uttara in

The home minister

sought people's cooperation

in rooting out terrorism,

extremism and extortion

among the main commit-

ments of our government.

But it is not possible for the

administration alone," she

people from all walks of life

will stand beside us (govern-

ment)," she added.

"It will be possible when

"Eradicating terrorism,

from the country.

Steps taken to stop arms smuggling from neighbouring states

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Advocate Sahara Khatun yesterday said they have taken measures to stop smuggling of illegal arms from the neigh-

BNSB holds AGM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Society for the Blind (BNSB) organised the annual general meeting extremism and extortion are (AGM) at its Mirpur office in the city yesterday, says a press release.

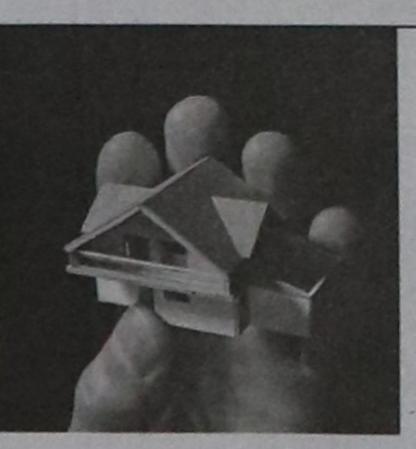
Presided over by BNSB Chairman Khandker Mahbub Hossain, the meeting was said. addressed by its General Secretary Prof Khaleda Khanam and representatives from different districts.

Mahbub called on all to come forward for the betterment of the visually challenged people and requested the BNSB leaders to be sincere to make the society vibrant.

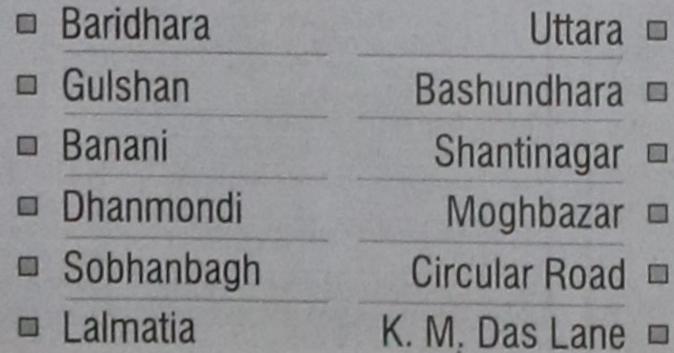
He distributed blankets from his personal funds to the visually impaired students.



Devotees offer prayers at Ramakrishna Mission in the city yesterday during a programme marking the 147th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. PHOTO: STAR



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Rokeya Begum, Shahinur Begum, Tahera Begum, Farhana Akter, Lovely Yasmin, Mustari Begum, Firoza Begum, Jahanara Sheikh, Khadija Begum, Shamima Sultana and Razia Begum spoke at the programme.

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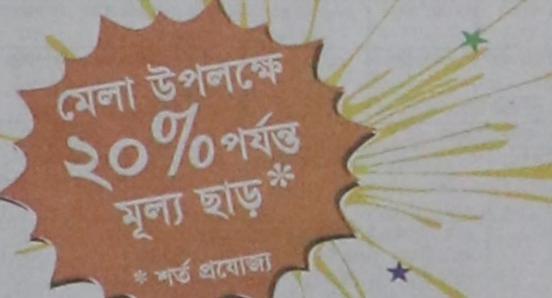
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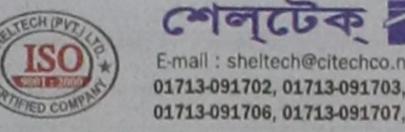
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সময় : সকাল ১০:০০-সন্ধ্যে ৬:০০ স্থান : শেল্টেক্ লাউঞ্জ, শেল্টেক্ টাওয়ার, ৫৫ বীর উত্তম কাজী নুরুজ্জামান সড়ক (পশ্চিম পাস্থপথ), ঢাকা



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