



## DEMOCRACY EMERGES THE WINNER



Supporters and political activists greet BNP-backed mayor candidate Mohammad Manjur Alam, who won the Chittagong City Corporation elections on Thursday defeating his rival Awami League-backed candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury. The voting took place in a fair and peaceful manner, but tension ran high when supporters of both the candidates, equipped with sticks, gathered near MA Aziz Stadium in the port city during vote counting on Thursday night and chased each other. Members of the armed forces were deployed to avert any untoward incident. Talking to reporters yesterday, Mohiuddin brought allegation of anomalies in the vote counting.

Photo: ANURUP KANTI DAS



Duja to celebrate silver jubilee on Sept 19

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duja) will celebrate its silver jubilee on September 19.

The decision was taken at a meeting yesterday attended by the founding members and former and present leaders of the association.

Khairuzzaman Kamal, Moshir Rahman, Rezaul Karim Sarker, Tarun Sarker, Kailash Sarker, Hasan Zahid Tusher, Mustak Ahmed, Mahbubur Rahman and Shahjahan Shuvo were present at the meeting.

A preparatory meeting for the celebrations will be held at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) cafeteria at 11:00am on June 23. Founding members, former presidents and general secretaries and member of the executive body are requested to attend the meeting on time.

For details, please call on 01552389208 and 01712996519.

Duja, an organisation of Dhaka University correspondents representing different media houses, was established on September 19, 1985.

## Create conditions for global peace

Ambassador Qader tells discussion in Washington

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh's Ambassador to the US and State Minister Akramul Qader said creating right conditions for world peace is imperative for achieving global peace.

"We live in a global village and threats to our peace and security are interconnected. To ensure durable and lasting peace, it is imperative to create the right conditions for our peoples, he said while addressing the 24th Ellsworth Bunker Asian Ambassadors Series Discussion, organised by the Asia Foundation at the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on Tuesday.

Congressman Keith Ellison, Democratic-Minnesota, also took part in the discussion, titled 'Imperatives of global peace: Implications for Asia', said a message received here on Friday.

The ambassador said Asia has received an increased and focused attention in the foreign policy of US President Barack Obama, which hold prospects for closer cooperation between the USA and the Asian countries.

While mentioning Bangladesh as a consistent and frontline contributor to the UN peacekeeping missions having implications on global peace, Qader reiterated Bangladesh's role as a protagonist of peace and harmony not only in South Asia but also in the world.

Addressing the occasion, the US Congressman also underlined on South-South cooperation as a vehicle for bridging the gap between the developed and developing world.

Ambassador John Dinger, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of US State Department, Nancy Yuan, Vice President of Asia Foundation, ambassadors from a large number of Asian countries, diplomats and representatives from a good number of US-based think-tanks, senior staffers of the foundation and the embassy officials attended the function.

The Asia Foundation initiated the Ellsworth Bunker Asian Ambassador Series programme in 1998 to bring together Washington-based Asian diplomats and American political, business, media and policy leaders for off-the-record discussions of key issues, which have significance on Asia's future.

## Ban on export of mineral resources demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports took stage a demonstration at Keraniganj yesterday to press for their seven-point demand, including a ban on export of mineral resources.

The committee leaders held a brief rally at the Keraniganj Press Club before taking out a procession that ended at Kadamtali intersection. Committee convenor engineer Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah led the march.

Speaking at the rally, the leaders called for resuming the production in closed gas wells immediately, forcing the foreign companies working in gas blocks to tap gas from unexplored gas fields within a specific time period, repairing and reinstalling the gas and electricity lines and repairing all state-run power plants.

They also demanded immediate cancellation of all the programmes, including 'PSP 2008' and 'Phulbari Coal Project', which go against the national interest.

Prof Anu Muhammad, engineer BD Rahmatullah, Junayed Safi, Belayet Shikder, Aslam Khan, Bachhu Bhuiyan and Zulfikar Ali joined the demonstration.

## Loadshedding-free country in 2 years

Says commerce minister

BSS, Dhaka

Commerce Minister Mohammad Faruq Khan yesterday said Bangladesh would become a loadshedding-free country in two years as the government has taken a massive initiative for improving power generation.

"People would not have to be worried about electricity crisis for a long time," he said while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion titled 'Future course of action about ICT' and installation of executive committee of Cyber Cafe, Owners' Association of Bangladesh (CCOAB) at the National Press Club.

Vice chairman of Bengal Group and RTV and director of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Md Jasim Uddin spoke as the special guest.

Former president of CCOAB Jahir Hossain chaired the function. CCOAB President Nazmul Karim

Bhuiyan gave the address of welcome.

CCOAB's Senior Vice President Niamul Haque Khan, General Secretary AM Kamal Uddin Ahmed, former general secretary Zulfikar Haider, president of ISP Association Akhteruzzaman Manju, chairman of

## PM undergoes minor operation

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina underwent a minor operation at Ganobhaban yesterday morning.

Renowned surgeon Dr Kamal Bosh conducted the operation on Hasina's leg.

Prime Minister's press secretary Abul Kalam Azad said, "Now she is well".

Dr Bosh suggested Hasina for taking complete rest till Sunday.

Bangladesh Tourism Promotion Foundation Alhaj Najir Miaspoke.

The commerce minister said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken steps to open new avenues with enormous opportunities in the information communication technology (ICT) sector and the professionals in the sector, including CCOAB, should utilise those opportunities.

Referring to the rule of Awami League from 1996 to 2001, he said the then government waived all sorts of taxes and duties on computer and computer accessories, which reduced the price of those drastically taking the country to the era of ICT.

"But BNP-led government in 1992 did not avail the offer of connecting the country with submarine cable free of cost," he mentioned, adding that they failed to take a political decision for the welfare of the state.

## Sangma in city to attend Nirmul body conference

BSS, Dhaka

Former Speaker of Indian Lok Sabha PA Sangma arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a five-day visit to attend the 6th Conference of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee.

Sangma will attend a number of programmes and Bangladesh Christian Association (BCA) will host a reception in honour of him at Tejgaon Church Community Centre at 11:00am today, a BCA press release said.

The former Indian Speaker will preside over a seminar on 'Fundamentalism and Communalism: Responsibility of Citizens' at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel tomorrow.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Christian Association Nirmal Rozario said Sangma is also scheduled to make a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Ganobhaban residence tomorrow morning.