



A group of boys frolicking in the Buriganga river at Fatulla to cool off during the midday heat yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## HOLDING NEXT GENERAL POLLS Seek consensus of all parties

*Khandker Mahbub urges govt*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bar Council Vice Chairman Khandker Mahbub Hossain yesterday urged the government to create a ground for consensus of all political parties on holding the next parliamentary elections in a democratic manner.

"The country's economy is now being damaged, law and order situation is seriously deteriorating, and democratic environment is in a path to be ruined," he told a press conference at the council's conference room where its pro-BNP leaders were present.

They urged the government to leave the monotonous attitude of hogging the state power to save the people from the ongoing violence.

Mahbub, also an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, said the country's people had no faith in the judiciary now, since the lower court judges were discharging judicial functions to serve the ruling party in some cases.

The government was torturing thousands of people, particularly the opposition party men, physically and mentally by taking them on remand in false cases using the law enforcers, said Mahbub.

He urged the judges and law enforcers to discharge their duties without any political consideration.

## Today's HSC exams now on April 19

UNB, Dhaka

The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations scheduled for today have been shifted to April 19 (Friday) due to countrywide hartal called by Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee Chairman Prof Taslima Begum told the news agency over phone about the decision to shift the exams.

The exams scheduled for morning shift will begin at 9:00am while that for the afternoon at 2:00pm.

Islami Chhatra Shibir, a pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student body, on Tuesday called the countrywide daylong hartal today.

## Finish war crimes trial soon

*Demands Muktiyoddha Sangsad*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The freedom fighters of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad yesterday demanded immediate completion of the war crimes trial and capital punishment for the war criminals.

They raised the demands at a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

"Since we, the freedom fighters, are still alive, the government must comply with our demands and uproot the war criminals from Bangladesh," said Monirul Haque.

Over 300 members of the organisation participated in a procession with sticks from Muktangan to Jatiya Press Club around 11:00am today to resist the "illegal and undemocratic hartal" enforced by pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir, declared the freedom fighters.

Over 300 members of the organisation participated in a procession before the rally and protested the 36-hour hartal enforced by the BNP-led 18-party opposition.

Emdad Hossain Motin, secretary general (admin) of the sangsad, protested the hartal called by Hefajat-e-Islam and criticised the group for making "illogical and irrational demands".

## DU women denounce Hefajat demands

DU CORRESPONDENT

Female students and teachers of Dhaka University yesterday denounced the 13-point demand of the radical Islamist group Hefajat-e-Islam, which vehemently opposed the national women development policy designed for the empowerment of the repressed gender.

The protesters said the demands were anti-constitutional and against the spirit of the Liberation War and called upon the people to build social resistance to keep the nation free of this "evil force".

While the constitution ensures equal rights of men and women, the Hefajat demands intend to keep women confined to home and bar them from taking part in any developmental process, said Rokeya Hall Provost Prof Nazma Shaheen, addressing a protest rally at

Santrashbiroddhi Raju Bhaskarja on the campus.

Hefajat terms the national women development policy anti-Islamic and demands its cancellation.

Prof Gulshan Ara Latifa, provost of Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, said Hefajat was scheming to plunge the country into "an era of darkness" by curbing women's rights.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said that in the name of religion, Hefajat attempted to block women's participation in society, which would eventually hold back the country's progress.

Pro-VC (academic) Prof Nasrin Ahmad chaired the rally, while three more provosts -- Prof Sajeda Banu of Shamsunnahar Hall, Prof Farida Begum of Kuwait Moitri Hall, and Prof Nilufar Nahar of Sufia Kamal Hall -- also spoke.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on Acting President Abdul Hamid at his residence in the capital's Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban area yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

sweeten your Boishakh  
with airtel favourites



You can enjoy  
exclusive discounts at  
these partner outlets:

To enjoy rewards, text **partner code** to **2580** and show return SMS at participating outlets

- airtel favourites program extends to both prepaid and postpaid users. To find out if you are eligible, text **FAV** to **2580**
- Rewards at participating outlets are subject to specific terms & conditions
- Tk. 2 + VAT will be charged per SMS
- To learn more about airtel favourites & our growing partner world, visit [bd.airtel.com](http://bd.airtel.com) & [facebook.com/airtelbuzz](https://facebook.com/airtelbuzz)

\* Details related to special offers can be obtained by visiting the relevant outlets