Make all probe

reports public:

Gono Forum and Jatiya Oikya Mancha President Dr Kamal

Hossain yesterday demanded of the government to make public all

investigation reports on the series of

bombings and killings that terrified

Referring to the killing of a

teacher at Rajshahi University, he

also alleged that the government is

patronising the killers instead of

effective measures to curb terrorism,

bombings and killings? Dr Kamal

posed a question while inaugurating a

Why the government is not taking

Dr Kamal

the entire nation.

punishing them.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

METROPOLÍTAN/NEWS

CONSTABLE MURDER

Hearing in case

against Mirza

begins today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

court sources said.

before it today.

Magistrate's (CMM) Court trans-

trial and it. after receiving the case

Four other accused are Shahab

Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)

student wing of the ruling BNP,

Yusuf Bin Jalil, Abu Iqbal and

Sumon. Of them, Abbas, Khokon,

Yusuf and Laltu obtained bail from

the High Court (HC) while Abu Iqbal

got bail from the sessions judge's

The case was stayed for long

The HC vacated the stay order

Meanwhile, a lawyer for Laltu on

clearing the way for starting its trial.

July 4 in 2004 submitted that his

client had instructed him not to

proceed with the rule. Accordingly,

the bench comprising Justice

Sheikh Rezowan Ali and Justice

AFM Ali Asgar discharged the rule

Following the vacation of the rule.

for non-prosecution.

court. Sumon is still at large.

time following a court rule.

Include environment, socio-economic issues in coal policy: Experts

Experts yesterday called for incorporating environmental and socioeconomic issues in the country's coal policy to avert any possible disasters during or after the extraction of coal from the mines.

They also laid emphasis on the inclusion of water management and rehabilitation issues in the policy saying that livelihood of the relocated people in the mining sites should in no way be hampered.

The observations came at a meet the press on the draft Bangladesh Coal Policy organised by Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Centre (IIFC) at IDB auditorium in the

Terming the underground water issue in the open pit mining a major challenge, water expert Dr Ainun Nishat said the water to be pumped out from underground before extracting coal might again be injected into the ground to check imbalance of water level in the mining site and its sur-

"Even a modelling followed by a pilot project can also be conducted, and a provision in this respect can be incorporated in the policy," said Dr Nishat, also Country Representative of The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Bangladesh.

On the return of fertility at the mining site following coal extraction, he said a committee comprising soil scientists can be formed who could

'Launch mass

against POPs'

Experts at a national workshop vester-

day urged the government and NGOs

to launch a mass awareness campaign

highlighting the negative effects of

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs),

a class of toxic chemical substances

that can harm human and environment.

aldrin, heptachlor, diedrin, DDT, chlor-

dane, dioxins and furans, are still in use

or existing in different parts of the

country but the actual quantity is

Development Organisation (ESDO) in

collaboration with International POPs

Elimination Network (IPEN) organised

the two-day workshop on POPs at the conference hall of the Press Institute of

representatives of different national

wants to address the POPs issue but

we have lack of skilled manpower and

pesticides and DDT are still in use in

and production of POPs are banned.

government to create awareness on

INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

Achievements

to be displayed

on March 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to

display achievements in different

sectors in last 35 years since the

independence on mobile vehicles in

the capital on March 26 as part of

the Independence Day celebration

and national tradition and culture

will be projected from decorated

mechanised vehicles during the

Independence Day parade at

National Parade Square. The vehi-

cles will also parade city streets

Independence Day celebration

programme and maintenance of law

and order at the home ministry

asked the secretaries to select the

best national achievements in their

areas and place those at the next

Lutfozzaman Babar chaired the

cast the combined march past by

members of the armed forces and

law enforcing agencies live by radio

and television from the parade

government has decided to tele-

cast live the march past through

electronic billboards at different

points in the capital and

adequate security measures for

smooth celebration of the

Independence Day.

The meeting also decided to take

This is for the first time the

State Minister for Home Affairs

The meeting decided to broad-

An inter-ministerial meeting on

after the march past.

meeting on February 26.

meeting.

ground.

Success stories in various fields

Hossain Shahriar, executive direc-

Jute and Textile Minister Shajahan

and international NGOs participated.

Environment and Social

unknown, they said.

technical know-how.

POPs among the people.

A number of POPs, including DDT,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

awareness

campaign

them mandatory for the coal compa-

The internationally renowned water scientist also recommended community-based monitoring system for environmental aspects during the coal extraction.

On the relocation and rehabilitation of the locals he emphasised the amendment of the land acquisition laws stating that under the existing regulations there are many complexities and the relocated people become subject to deprivation, as they are compensated in instalments, which they cannot utilise

'The coal policy should also be independent. No interest of any particular company should be considered while formulating the policy, said Dr Nishat adding, "Safeguards should be equal for every company."

The whole process, from the beginning to end, should be rigorous and transparent, he said suggesting the use of the most advanced technology in the mines to avert environmental hazards.

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Member Mosharraf Hossain recommended a detailed study on socio-economic and environmental impacts of Phulbari

"No deal should be made if the extraction of coal fails to offset the agricultural and environmental loss,

Briefing the advantages and

underground mining, the mining engineer said, "These are just the two ways of mining and we cannot choose the system, rather it depends on the soil structure. For instance. Phulbari requires open pit mining while the Barapukuria requires

underground." IIFC Executive Director Nazrul Islam however laid emphasis on extracting coal considering tremendous pressure on gas for power generation and the increasing demand of power in the country.

He said in most of the coal producina countries includina India. China and the USA, coal-fired power exceeds more than 50 percent of their total power.

Nazrul said the draft Bangladesh Coal Policy already contains provisions of compensating environmental damages and guarantees by the

He said the policy seems to be a brake for the investors in the country, but "We don't want Bangladesh to be another Nigeria exporting all the energy.

"That is why we made the provisions of using coal locally and exporting in a restricted manner by 1:2 in the first 10 years and 1:1 progressively,' he added.

Senior General Manager of Petrobangla Maqbul-e-Elahi and IIFC Consultant Ehsanullah also spoke at the press meet.

the CMM's Court on December 18 last year directed the authorities concerned to send the case to the sessions judge's court for trial. According to the prosecution,

over 150 activists led by former Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas brought out a procession during a dawn-dusk hartal called by the (then) opposition BNP at about 11:30am on February 13, They attacked a procession of

the (then) ruling Awami League near Razarbagh Police Lines.

As the BNP cadres from the procession sprayed bullets on the police barracks, constable Abu Naser, 27, at Razarbagh Police Lines in Malibagh, was bullet-hit when he was standing in the corridor. He died on the spot. Constable Partha Roy was also seriously iniured during the incident.

Subedar Jamal Uddin filed a murder case with Motijheel Police Station the same day. The investigation officer pressed charges against Mirza Abbas and five others on July 11, 2001.

Qulkhwani

Eviction of old buses, trucks begins in Mar

STAFF CORESPONDENT

Eviction of more than 20-year-old diesel-run buses, minibuses and trucks from the city will begin next month in a bid to keep its air free from pollution.

Mobile courts will work in different parts of the capital under the joint supervision of Department of Environment, Bangladesh Road and Transport Authority (BRTA) and Metropolitan Police to identify and phase out the age-old vehicles.

This was decided at a meeting in the city yesterday with Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam in

The meeting was informed of the findings of air quality monitoring stations installed at four prime points

Mobile courts filed 87 cases against old vehicles emitting nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide that pollute city air.

The meeting also discussed amending the Motor Vehicles Ordinance 1983.

Emerging from the meeting, Tariqul told The Daily Star that the government is taking the initiative to phase out outdated motor vehicles to keep the environment of the capital free from pollution.

"We want to ensure fresh air for the city dwellers," he added.

Environment Secretary Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, BRTA Chairman MA Momen and Project Director of Air Quality Management Nasiruddin were present at the meeting.



Citizens Rights Movement and Nagorik Sanghati form a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday protesting continued corruption and irregularities in public hospitals, including Dhaka Medical College and



Rain or thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Rangour, Dinajour and Mymensingh in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged night

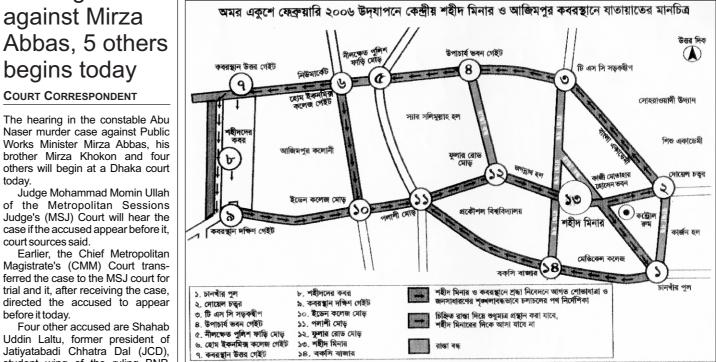
Highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 18.0 degree Celsius at Dinajpur and Srimongal. The sun sets in the capital at 5:57pm today and rises at

6:28am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

major cities and towns yesterday were: Temperature Humidity in percentage 31.5 60 79

23.0 20.8 Dhaka 99 29.6 Chittagong 33.2 19.3 74 Rajshahi 96 32.0 61 68 Khulna 21.8 31.5 22.0 Barisal Sylhet 27.5 19.1 87 74 Cox's Bazar 20.7

Routes to Shaheed Minar, Azimpur Graveyard



Build a world free from conflicts

President tells int'l youth summit

President lajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon the young generation to acquire adequate knowledge to build a brave new world free from conflicts by facing the recent challenges.

"I want these fresh minds to spread in every corner of the world with the message of unity, brotherhood and togetherness," he told a summit meet of youths who moved beyond their national borders and gathered in Dhaka. The President inaugurated the

2nd 'Beyond Borders International Youth Summit' as chief guest at a local hotel. Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka attended the programme as special guest jointly organised by Democracy Watch and the British Council.

At the outset, lajuddin paid deep respects to the unfading memory of the martyrs of the historic Language Movement.

In the history of the world, vouths have been considered most successful force in achieving victory in every field. "In days of war, in days of development and in days of distress - a nation always gets the support and encouragement from the youths," he said. He noted that recent "informa-

tion revolution, technical breakthrough and tremendous development in science and education extended the frontiers of our knowledge to a great extent". Saying that the youths of Bangladesh have marked their

success all over the world, he further observed that in the fields of education, economy, science and technology, sports and social services, there are many proud names that had added glory to the country. "Observing their splendid

deeds, I hope our next generation will inspire and be able to shape up their career properly. He termed the youth 'main driving

force' of the country, symbol of hopes and aspirations of the nation. He was happy to see such a

wonderful summit of young generation coming across the borders to exchange their creative thoughts and wonderful culture that would enhance the cultural bond between the youths of tomorrow.

New UN resident coordinator calls on President

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Newly appointed UN resident coordinator and UNDP resident representative in Bangladesh Renata Lok Dessallien made a courtesy call on President lajuddin Ahmed Bangabhaban yesterday.

lajuddin briefed her about Bangladesh's success stories, including those in the field of ICT and underscored the need for further development of agriculture sector. He mentioned that government is trying to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. People irrespective of caste and creed are living here in harmony, he added.

Dessallien said this year is very mportant for Bangladesh, as caretaker government will be formed to conduct general elections and she hoped there will be peaceful elections n January, 2007.

Nazimullah new envoy to UAE

ATM Nazimullah Chowdhury has been appointed Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. Chowdhury joined the erstwhile

Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP) in 1971 and appointed to BCS (Foreign Service) in 1974.

mass campaign of Gono Forum at Muktangon in the city. He said farmers are not getting electricity for irrigation despite paying the bill and whenever they demanded electricity they were

treated with bullets. On diesel smuggling, Dr Kamal called upon the state minister for home affairs to take necessary

steps to stop its smuggling. He also criticised the grabbing of land of the minorities in the name of

development at Savar near Dhaka. Dr Kamal urged people to be

aware of their rights and come forward to establish it. Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, presidium

member Abdur Rouf, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Sagir Anwar Organising Secretary Fazlul Kabir Kawsar, and city unit President Mostafa Mohsin Mantu also spoke at the mass campaign organised by

JMB Chittagong commander on fresh remand

UNB, Chittagong

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Chittagong divisional commander Javed Iqbal alias Mohammad was taken on a five-day police remand yesterday for interrogation on his involvement in blasting bombs in Panchlaish Police Station area during the countrywide August 17 serial bomb blasts.

Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Court granted the fiveday remand when he was produced in the court.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Mohammad from Kathtul area under Pahartali Police Station in the port city on December 13 and recovered huge explosives

Police forces turned into political lackey

February 22

Qulkhwani of journalist AZM Haider will be held at his residence at Dhanmondi Road No-6, House No 24 in the city after Maghrib prayers

today, says a press release. Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the

DHAKA O D A

Seminar

United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and Northern University Bangladesh (NUB) jointly organise a seminar on International Mother Language Day with Ataus Samad, advisory editor of the daily Amar Desh, as chief guest. Prof Nurul Momen, former chair, dept of IR, DU, will be the keynote speaker. Venue: NUB, 754 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time:

Discussion

Bangladesh Awami Jubo League organises a discussion to mark the International Mother Language Day. Venue: Institute of Engineers. Time:

Discussion

Workers' Party of Bangladesh will hold a discussion on 'Struggle for language and development of non-communal democratic spirit'. Venue: Asad auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time:

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Opounnayan' [Misdevelopment] by noted economist Dr Atiur Rahman will be held. Venue: Nazrul Mancha. Boi Mela, Time: 5:00pm.

Publication ceremony

Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman will unveil the cover of a book titled 'Bibidh proshongo' (Miscellaneous topics) by Rashed Khan Menon. Venue: Lethok Kunja, Boi Mela. Time: 5:00pm.

Publication ceremony

Dar kak, a literary magazine, will hold

Faridpur region have constantly

example, were arrested without any court order, tortured and charged with sedition Many such victimised officers

mate financial dues. PROMOTION AND POSTING POLITICAL CONSIDERATION The government has crippled

have even been denied their legiti-

the police service by a policy of 'pick-and-choose' and witchhunting Three retired police officers were appointed to the apex post of the police only out of political con-

sideration, ignoring the norms and traditions of the service. Shahudul Haque, Ashraful Huda and Abdul Quiyum became IGP after retirement from service. which is unprecedented in the history of police in the subcontinent. Shahadul and Quayum retired as additional IGP and Huda

as DIG. But they were promoted to

the rank of IGP According to rules.

no retired officers can be promoted. Although Shahadul was convicted of contempt of court, the government did not discipline him for more than a year after the conviction in a total disregard to the

Other key posts of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Additional IGP of CID, Director General (DG) of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) were held by the retired officers under contract during the regime.

Especially the officers who failed to demonstrate political allegiance to the BNP-Jamaat alliance suffered a lot. Muklesur Rahman, an honest officer of SP rank, has remained an officer on special duty (OSD) since the beginning of this regime. ASP Habibur Rahman was

withdrawn from Bhola after the election and was suspended later. Since then, he has remained under suspension although no charge could yet be brought against him. He ordered lodging of an first information report (FIR) against the BNP candidate in Lalmohan of Bhola for snatching rifle from police and killing a worker of his opponent camp on the election day of 2001. Most of the policemen belong-

ing to Hindu faith in Dhaka have been transferred outside the capital. Besides, there have been anything but instances of sending police members from the minority community abroad for training or

The Hindu policemen and those

hailing form Gopalgani and greater

been deprived in the last four years. The police administrations outside Dhaka had been given verbal instructions not to send any Hindu policeman for duty during the last Saarc Summit in November.

A police officer hailing from Gopalganj was superseded thrice while he was an ASP. After he was made an additional SP, he was deprived of the promotion for 11 times despite having excellent service record. Another mid-level officer, ASP Mizanur, had been transferred as many as for 15 times in the last four years.

The officers who have family ties with opposition leaders or workers and who are from minority community and who had association with progressive and democratic student organisations during their student life had continuously been denied due promotion and posting

Most of the officers from Gopalganj were given insignificant postings. They were first made OSD and then transferred to RRF or Armed Police Battalion.

Before appointments to the posts ranging from constable to ASP, the authorities first want to be convinced about the candidates' allegiance to the ruling coalition.

There is no transparency in

recruitment and promotion, said a

ioint report prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Bangladesh government The government recruited 299 ASPs, 1,422 SIs, 268 sergeants and 24,270 constables during its tenure. Recruitment of 200 more

ASPs, 263 SIs, 118 sergeants and

406 constables are under process.

A total of 13,519 new posts have

been created and the number of the

police force now stands at **GROSS IRREGULARITIES** With a view to put officers loyal

to BNP-Jamaat on duty during the next parliamentary election, the administration has cut short the training courses so that the new recruits on training can go to the field before the election. A large number of others are

undergoing training at different training institutes.

Some well-placed sources said another hidden agenda behind such recruitment is to bar the next government from undertaking recruitment. "It is being done in a way that the next government do not find vacant posts to fill," said a

retired police officer. Originally, an advertisement was made for recruitment of 786 SIs, but later 850 were recruited. About 90 percent of the recruits have been learnt to be workers of BNP, its student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jamaat-e-Islami's student front Islami Chhatra Shibir and relatives of ruling coalition men.

Only 322 candidates passed the written test and an additional mark of 20 had to be awarded to bring them in. As many of the coalitionfavoured cadres still failed to qualify, a new subject called 'aptitude test' was introduced and the examiners gave high marks to the party cadres, and finally had them recruited.

Most of the appointments are being made on political consideration or bribery. Newspapers have mentioned names of many of such police officers in their reports.

The training period for the recruits has been reduced from three years [one year in police academy and two years in the district] to one year [six months in police academy and six months in the district]. This has been done to make sure that the ruling alliance men's jobs are confirmed before the next election. Similarly, training periods for the newly recruited ASPs and constables have been curtailed so that they too can work in favour of the BNP-Jamaat alliance during the election.

Paradoxically, 29 ASPs recruited through 20th and 21st BCS examinations were fired only a week before their passing out of the academy.

Six of them appeared in the subsequent BCS examinations and were selected in police, administration and other cadres. But on unwritten orders from the home ministry, the establishment division did not allow them to join.

In yet another alarming move, the government has appointed Masud Rana of Sariakandi, Bogra as an SI although his name was on a police list of suspected militants. The list was prepared after August 17 countrywide blasts. Masud is now in training at Sarda Police Academy.

Mizanur Rahman Shwadhin, a Dhaka Suhrawardy College unit JCD leader who was arrested in connection with Ramna blast in April 14, 2001, has also been appointed as an SI. He too is now taking training at Sarda. Police arrested him along with his brothers at a mosque mess at Matuail in

Both Rana and Shwadhin will pass out of the academy on

BNP and Jamaat men with criminal records are randomly filling the vacant posts of National Security Intelligence (NSI). Ekramul Haq, a Chittagong-based JCD cadre, who was arrested and charge-sheeted in an abduction case, has been appointed a field officer of the NSI. He is now posted

in Chittagong. Besides, although 52 deputy assistant directors at NSI were appointed fairly in early 2001, 19 of them were fired merely on political grounds after alliance came to office. All the eight non-Muslim

officers of this batch lost their jobs. **BREAKING POLICE MORALE**

Despite being faced with numerous problems, the honest members of the police department have been trying their utmost to keep the department working. But their moral has been severely undermined by the last four years' culture of political appointment and illegal favour to the dishonest ones.

The climate of impunity inside the department over the last few years has made the crooked officers even more desperate. For instance, recklessness of Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Motijheel Police Station, had gone to an extent of hiring goons to gun down his neighbour's college-going son. Much to the distaste of the honest

officials, police stations these days are controlled by local leaders of the ruling coalition. They [political leaders] determine whom to arrest and when to lodge a FIR. Talking to The Daily Star on a remedy to the situation and reform of

the whole department, former and some incumbent police officials stressed the importance of operational independence allowing police to operate without interference. Commenting on consequence of politicisation of the department, former additional IGP Ahmedul

Huq Choudhury told The Daily Star, 'Alliance candidates, leaders and workers will get illegal assistance before and during the next election and the politicisation is in fact These policemen are being used in political persecution, he

said, adding: "Overall, the ongoing politicisation is sending the morale of the police administration to a rock bottom."