PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE

'Govt has no

right to spend

public money

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB)

President AQM Badruddoza

Chowdhury yesterday said the

government is now spending public

money to cover up its corruption,

failures and non-democratic activi-

But the government has no right

The nation is facing a grave crisis

to spend taxpayers' money for its

at this moment due to failures and

corruption of the government,

Badruddoza said at a discussion

marking the second anniversary of

in the next election, we will have to

"To resist this failed government

ties by hiring lackeys abroad.

party's interest, he added.

Bikalpa Chhatra Dhara.

for party

interest'

BDNEWS. Dhaka

METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

'BNP-Jamaat govt violates constitution'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said those who don't recognise Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the proclaimer of independence and the proclamation by the Mujibnagar government should

be considered as 'seditionists'. The Proclamation of Independence made by the Mujibnagar government on April 10 in 1971 is now part of the constitution, they said, adding that those who disregard it is virtually ignoring the constitution and that they should

be charged with sedition. The Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee (Forum for Secular Bangladesh) organised the discussion at the BILIA auditorium in the city to mark the 35th anniversary of the proclamation.

Acting President of the committee Shahriar Kabir said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government have been violating the constitution, although they vowed to uphold it while taking office

They are violating many rights of the people enshrined in the constitution, he said, adding that flouting the articles related to independence and sovereignty of the country is tantamount to 'sedition'.

President of the advisory committee of the organisation Prof Kabir Chowdhury presided over the discussion. President of Supreme Court Bar Association Barrister M Amir-UI Islam, Director of BILIA Waliur Rahman, Barrister Sara Hossain and Prof Muntasir Mamoon also spoke.

Recalling the memories of Mujibnagar government, Barrister Amir-UI Islam, also the author of the Proclamation of Independence, underscored the need for projecting the complete history and the role of national leaders in the War of Liberation to the young generation.

The speakers also said the day proclamation was never celebrated in a befitting manner. Rather. a vested quarter has always tried to distort the history and even changed the constitution for political gains, they added.

Tanjim Ahmed Sohel MP, son of prime minister of the Mujibnagar government Tajuddin Ahmed, Joint General Secretary of Awami League Sved Ashraful Islam, son of Sved Nazrul Islam, then acting president, and former home minister Mohammad Nasim, son of Captain (Retd.) M Mansur Ali, also spoke.



President of Supreme Court Bar Association Barrister M Amir-UI Islam speaks at a discussion at the BILIA auditorium in the city yesterday to mark the 35th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence. Sitting from left are Tanjim Ahmed Sohel MP, Syed Ashraful Islam, Shahriar Kabir, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Prof Muntasir Mamoon and Mohammad Nasim.

Formulate pro-poor health policy

Experts tell regional seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a regional seminar vesterday called for formulating health and drug policies focusing on the poor and disadvantaged groups to ensure their easy and regular access to health services.

The 3-day seminar titled 'The future of health services: Who will live and who will die' has been organised jointly by Health Action International Asia Pacific (HAIAP) and Gonoswasthaya Kendra (GK) at Savar near Dhaka.

Health and drug experts from 19 Asia-Pacific countries are attending the seminar to discuss a number of issues including national and international health and drug policies, health status and future actions.

Speaking at the inaugural ses-

Detainee dies at hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A detainee was declared dead when Jail police brought him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with mark of injuries on his body.

The dead, Abdul Qaiyyum 25, was the son of Shamsul Haque of Dakkhin Arshadpur in Comilla. He was brought to DMCH early

hours of yesterday. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for

Magistrate in inquest report said marks of injuries were found on forehead, eyes, neck, legs and

14 young men, women held at cyber cafe in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested 14 young men and women during a raid on a cyber cafe at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday as they were found in an objectionable situation.

Almost all the arrestees are students of different educational institutions, police said.

The police also seized two cases of liquor from the cyber cafe on Igbal Road, which has some furnished rooms and beds.

The police said the cyber cafe has only three computers.

Owner of the cyber café, who only identified himself as Bappi, said he has been running it for the last

sion, the experts highlighted that subsidised services in health sector which are meant for the poor in reality tend to provide greater benefits to the well-off depriving the disad-

vantaged groups. Top 20 percent of the population utilises over 26 percent of the total financial subsidies provided through government health expenditure, said HAIAP Adviser and Co-ordinator Dr K Balasubramaniam referring to a World Bank report that collected data from 21 developing countries including Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and

"Even primary healthcare subsidies, which are believed to be directed to the rural poor, are used more by the rich than the poor," he said in his keynote presentation.

According to The Human Development Report 2005, more than one billion people of the globe lack access to safe water and 2.6 billion lack access to improved sanitation while four people die from malaria alone every two minutes, three of whom are children.

Vaccine-preventable illnessmeasles, diphtheria and tetanusaccounts for another 2-3 million childhood deaths.

Five lakh women who die each year from pregnancy related causes elonged to poor countries.

Referring to the failure of international system, Dr Balasubramaniam said excuses are heard that it is too difficult and expensive to reach the poor, but it is an inbuilt discrimination against the

"We are very badly betrayed by the health profession which has

become so commercial," he added. Highlighting that the existing health policies mainly benefit the rich, HAIAP Governing Council Chairperson Dr Prem Chandran John said. "We are not deciding who will die or who will live. The rulers and economists have already decided it. Meanwhile, the poor have become poorer and weaker."

In his welcome speech, Dr Prem called for formulating a guideline saying that the agenda for better health lies in the hands of the people and peoples' organisations, but the governments and international agencies have, by and large, failed to meet the peoples' needs.

In his inaugural speech, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain highlighted a number of successes in the health sector, which he said, have placed Bangladesh at a better position than many other South

Asian nations. He said issues concerning health for the poor were also emphasised in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), which is guided by

the Millennium Development Goals. Prof Abul Qasem Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of Gonobishwabidyalay, presided over the session.



the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

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

at Jessore and lowest 21.8 degree Celsius at Sayedpur

5:40am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were

•	, ,	•		
City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.0	25.6	76	60
Chittagong	32.5	24.5	68	70
Rajshahi	33.4	25.6	85	74
Khulna	34.0	25.8	71	71
Barisal	33.6	25.6	80	73
Sylhet	29.8	23.0	63	88
Cox's Bazar	33.4	25.0	63	69

SPECTRUM TRAGEDY 1st anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first anniversary of Spectrum Sweater Industry Tragedy in which 65 garment workers were killed and 85 others injured.

Bangladesh National Council (BNC) of Textile, Garment and Leather Workers and other trade unions will observe the day as 'Safe Workplace Day' to mark the tragedy.

Since 1990, a total of 425 workers were killed and 2399 others injured in 24 accidents that included building collapse and fire, said a report of BNC.

At a roundtable yesterday, politicians, trade union leaders, human rights activists and members of civil society said most of the garment factory buildings are vulnerable to collapse at any time like the Spectrum building at Savar as these are not constructed properly.

Terming the garment factories "death trap", they said there is no security for 20 lakh workers at their workplace in 40,481 garment factories as most of them are built ignoring the building code.

They suggested formation of an expert committee comprising representatives of government, owners and workers to identify the factories with faulty construction in the greater interest of garment workers.

The roundtable titled 'We want a safe workplace, not a death wall' was organised jointly by BNC and Najya Baniiva Jote at the National Press

Speaking at the roundtable, Awami League Presidium Member Tofael Ahmed said indifference of owners and authorities concerned is primarily responsible for the accidents, while the number of death increases due to lack of equipment for salvage opera-

He called for trust fund for the workers and build separate industrial enclave for garment factories.

"Though most factories are not built as per the rules, the government did not take any steps to identify the risky buildings," said Roy Ramesh Chandra, general secretary of BNC. Blaming the Spectrum owner for

the tragic accident, Skop Co-ordinator Dr Wazedul Islam Khan demanded Tk 7 lakh as compensation for each family of the dead.

Injured Spectrum worker Jahangir Alam said they did not get proper treatment and compensation in due time after the tragedy.

BNC President Mamunur Rashid Chowdhury presided over the roundtable where Human Rights Activist Dr Hamida Hossain, BGMEA Vice-president Shahadat Hossain, JSD General Secretary Jafar Sajjad, Workers' Party General Secretary Bimal Biswas. Ganatantri Partv President Nurul Islam, Abul Basar of Trade Union Kendra, Sultan Uddin Ahmed and Kamrul Anam of BILS and injured Spectrum workers Nur-e Alam and Milon also spoke.

3 murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered bodies of two men and one woman from the city's Demra and Uttara areas yesterday. Police could not ascertain identities of the victims as of 8:00pm

yesterdav. Uttara police said they found a body of a slaughtered woman aged about 25 abandoned near a boundary wall of a house at Dakkhin Khan

at about 9:30am. Police said they also found bruises all over her body.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for

autopsy. Meantime, Demra police recovered a slaughtered body of a man aged about 30 from a field at West Boxnagar in Sarulia yesterday

They also recovered a body of a youth abandoned in a fied at

Police suspect the youth aged about 28 was strangled to death. Both the bodies are lying at the Mitford Hospital morgue after autop-



Discussion on poems

Nazrul Institute will hold a discussion on 'Poems of Nazrul praising Prophet Muhammad (SM)' to mark the Holv Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (SM). Venue: Institute

auditorium. Time: 4:00pm Discussion on Miladunnabi

Bangladesh Tariqat Foundation will hold a discussion to mark the Holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (SM). Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Kakrail. Time:

Discussion on prophet

Ashequane Maizbhandari Association will hold a discussion to mark the Holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (SM). Venue: Institute of Engineers. Time: 10:00am.



Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury speaks at a rally at Bahadur Shah Park in the city

KANSAT KILLINGS

'Bring culprits to book'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday demanded that the persons responsible for the killings at Kansat in Chapainawabganj be brought to book immediately.

Terming the killings acts of genocide, he said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government has killed 14 people as they were demanding uninterrupted power supply for

During its previous tenure, the BNP government had also killed farmers who demanded fertilisers. he said at a protest rally at Bahadur Shah Park in old part of Dhaka. The BDB and Bangladesh Tariqat Federation (BTF) jointly organised the rallv.

Terming the alliance government 'a government of plunderers',

BFUJ confce tomorrow

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Biennial representatives' conference of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will be held at Jativa Press Club tomorrow.

Scheduled to start at 10.30 am. the conference is expected to be inaugurated by the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

BFUJ President Igbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul urged all concerned to make the conference

Awami League leader Suranjit

Sengupta yesterday urged Prime

Minister Khaleda Zia and Speaker

Jamir Uddin Sircar to explain why

the fire had broken out in the

Zia and as head of Parliament Jamir

Uddin Sircar will have to explain why

the fire had broken out in parlia-

ment," he said, alleging that they

were behind the fire incident to

destroy some important files to hide

Muktangan in the afternoon,

Suranjit strongly criticised the

government for appointing US

lobbyists by spending public money.

"People don't give taxes for this," he

Bangladesh Awami

Swechchhasebok League organ-

ised the meeting protesting acute

crisis of kerosene, fertiliser and

diesel, demanding expulsion and

trial of the ministers, who patron-

ised the militant outfits, and steps

AL presidium members Tofail

Ahmed and Sheikh Fazlul Karim

Selim MP also spoke at the meeting

with Swechchhasebok League

President Bahauddin Nasim in the

Criticising the alliance govern-

ment for the fire incident at the

Sangsad Bhaban, Tofail said, "The

rule of Khaleda will come to an end

He said the Khaleda-led govern-

ment had destroyed the country and

its image through plundering of

national resources and also the

administration through

forced to accept the demand for

reforms and the 14-party will not

allow any election until their elec-

toral reform proposals are imple-

Tofail said the government will be

through this fire."

to contain prices of essentials.

Addressing a public meeting at

"As Leader of the House Khaleda

Sangsad Bhaban.

their misdeeds.

said.

incident: AL

Badruddoza said it has siphoned huge public money from the country into foreign countries, creating a crisis of dollars

He also said that the farmers did not get supply of diesel and fertilisers in time. As a result, crop yields worth Tk 2000 crore will be lost this vear, he added The BDB chief urged all to unite

under an honest leadership to topple the alliance government, putting an end to its misrule. BTF President Nazibul Bashar

Maizbandhari said that if Khaleda-Nizami government comes to power again, pirs, fakirs, dargah and shrine will become extinct. He said there are more than 450

pirs in the country and they have

The World Bank (WB) is going to

take a 15-year programme for

agriculture development in

ment fund of US\$50 million for

successful implementation of the

team led by its Country Director

Christine Wallich at a meeting with

Agriculture Minister M K Anwar at

his office in the city yesterday.

Agriculture Secretary Kazi Abul

Kashem and other officials of the

PM, Speaker behind JS fire

He urged the party men to join

the sit-in programme in front of the

Prime Minister's Office on April 19.

"If the government tries to foil our

peaceful programme, we'll

announce non-stop programmes,"

programme, said a press release.

The bank has offered endow-

Inis was disclosed by the WB

Bss, Dhaka

Bangladesh.

agri development

15-yr WB programme for

election Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik said the

crores of followers who will play a

significant role in the upcoming

government has already set up a mechanism for manipulating the election results in its favour through appointing JCD cadres as upazila election officers and politicising the Election Commission. BTF General Secretary Md Zakir

Hossain, BDB Joint General Secretary Feroz M Hasan and Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury also spoke. Later, they took out a procession

ment in agricultural sector to

strengthen research, extension

work and training to farmers and

WB, the minister said, reform is

effective. He said, "we have identi-

fied our challenges for agriculture

development. We are prioritising the

will be very useful to our endeavors.

"terrorist and godfather" of JMB

kingpins Shaekh Abdur Rahman

and Bangla Bhai. He said if Awami

League gets the opportunity to run

the country again, they will try

Khaleda in `people's court'.

Demonstrators hold up empty pitchers during a protest against water crisis

in the city yesterday. Awami Swechchhasebak League organised the protest

rally at Muktangan.

He said, support from the donors

areas to face those challenges."

Welcoming the initiatives of the

fieldworkers.

that ended at Zero point near the

'CHT Census and Trends' Elaborating the bank's plan, she said, it will take two projects concentrating on reforms of agricultural

Bss, Dhaka

The publication was prepared under the joint collaboration with LGED and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

Hossain formally inaugurated the publications yesterday as chief guest at a seminar organised by the LGED at RDEC Bhaban in the city.

Cirdap signs MoU with

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (Cirdap) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) was signed in the city yesterday to carry out mutually beneficial collaborative

This agreement will enable the two organisations to take up joint programmes in their common areas of interest and exchange technical and other expertise for mutual

Dr J Gabriel Campbell, Director General ICIMOD, Dr Madhav B Karki, Deputy Director General, Programmes of ICIMOD, Dr Durga P Paudyal, Director General of Cirdap and other senior directors of Cirdap were present at the signing

ICIMOD will strengthen its resolve to bring down poverty in the region through its programme activities.

Death anniversary



Nurunnessa Begum, wife of late Abul Hossain, says a press release occasion, a doa

Today is the first

death anniver-

mahfil will be held at her village in Gazipur.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend



Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Comilla and Noakhali in

temperature over the country.
Highest temperature 35.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 6:19pm today and rises at

ity/ iOwii	icinperature		r idiriidity ii i	
	in Cel	sius	percer	ntage
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
haka	33.0	25.6	76	60
hittagong	32.5	24.5	68	70
ajshahi	33.4	25.6	85	74
nulna	34.0	25.8	71	71
arisal	33.6	25.6	80	73
ylhet	29.8	23.0	63	88
ox's Bazar	33.4	25.0	63	69



yesterday protesting the attacks on demonstrators by police and BNP workers at Kansat in Chapainawabganj.

form polling centre-based committees," he said. The BDB chief demanded immediate elections of the students' unions at all educational institutions.

saying that the tenure of the unions has expired long ago, but no steps have been taken to elect new com-The election to Dhaka University Central Students' Union could not be held in the last 17 years, he said

and termed it a conspiracy to hinder the development of leadership and political thinking in the country. At the programme, some leaders and activists of Biplobi Chhatra Maitri led by its general secretary Sheikh

Faruk joined the Chhatra Dhara.

Presided over by Chhatra Dhara President Manowar Ali Rishu, the meeting was also addressed by Tarikat Federation President Syed Naiibul Bashar Maiibhandari, Jativa Oikya Mancha leader Abdur Rauf. Gono Forum leader Mostofa Mohsin Montu and Bikalpa Dhara leaders MA Halim, Firoz M Hasan, Nurul Amin Patwari, Mahi B Chowdhury MP. ATM Kamal and Moral Amzad

Later, Chhatra Dhara took out a procession in the city to celebrate its founding anniversary.

Indicators 2001 launched research institutions and invest-

Local Government Engineering Development (LGED) yesterday launched a publication on 'Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Census Indicators 2001 and Trends' to help the policymakers to set precise goal for future development actions in the

(ICIMOD) Nepal. CHT affairs Secretary M Ibrahim

ICIMOD

Bss, Dhaka

programmes.

Dr Paudyal, in his speech, said this is an important occasion for Cirdap, as jointing hands with

