METROPOLITAN/NEWS

The Daily Star

with a holistic approach and the

schools have an important role to play

Country Director of Save the

Children USA Edward Olney

chaired the meeting while Director

of Primary Health Care Dr

Mahbubur Rahman, Mission

Director of USAID Gene V George,

Medical Officer of WHO

Bangladesh Dr Jeorge Komba Kono

and Managing Director of GSK

Limited, Bangladesh M Azizul Huq

Nutrition (HPN) of Save the Children

USA Dr Nizam Uddin Ahmed

stressed the need for raising public

awareness and community mobili-

Programme Manager of SHN Dr

Rasheduzzaman Shah delivered

Director, Health, Population and

were present as special guests.

for the development of children

Fair polls, good governance, HR important for Bangladesh: EC

UNB, Dhaka

The European Commission (EC) has said holding of next general elections in a free and fair manner. ensuring good governance and human rights are important for Bangladesh for building its image as a democratic nation. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, com-

missioner for External Relations of the European Commission, made the remarks yesterday during a meeting with Foreign Minster Morshed Khan who arrived in Brussels on the second leg of his four-nation European tour

During the meeting, bilateral trade and political relations between Bangladesh and the EC were discussed, according to a news release received from Brussels.

upcoming election.

Morshed Khan and Waldner also discussed trade facilities and increase of export from Bangladesh to EU countries. Funding of EC projects in Bangladesh, especially in the social

sectors such as health and education, was also given priority during

the meeting The EC commissioner proposed Morshed Khan briefed the EC sending election observer mission Commissioner on political situation to Bangladesh to monitor the and ongoing trade and economic

development of the country. Waldner thanked the minister for successfully handling the terrorist outfits and appreciated the way Bangladesh has handled the situation.

Morshed Khan described the EU as the most important partner of Bangladesh, specially in capacity building. He sought continued support of the European Commission in enhancing trade and attracting FDI to Bangladesh.

He also briefed the commissioner on the country's achieve ments in poverty alleviation, microcredit, elimination of gender discrimination in school enrolment. reduction of infant mortality, supply of safe drinking water and reduction of aid dependency for development programmes.

The minister said Bangladesh has achieved several Millennium Development Goals such as provision for safe drinking water, school enrolment and immunisation.

Launch agitation against govt Dr Reza tells 'Blue for Peace' programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Reza Kibria, son of former slain finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, vesterdav said Kansat incident has inspired the repressed people of the country to launch mass movement against the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government.

He said people in several parts of the country are going to launch agitation like Kansat verv soon as government's repression is continuing unabated. Dr Reza was addressing the

'Blue for Peace' programme initiated by Asma Kibria, widow of slain Kibria, in front of the National Press Club in the capital Dr Reza said the campaign to

protest the killing of his father would continue until the masterminds of the killers are arrested and brought to justice

He said a group of assassins and militants has captured the politics of the country and they are killing all good people

"Under the BNP-Jamaat regime, many sons like me have lost their fathers, but they could not organise any movement against the killers as they received threats from different quarters," he said. "However, seeing our peaceful

movement many families have been inspired and they are thinking of protesting their father's killings," he added. Dr Reza said, "We want to awake

people's conscience through our peaceful protest and thereby we want to put an end to all such killings in the country.

Wearing blue clothes, people from all walks of life including Asma Kibria, former Dhaka University

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police recovered a powerful bomb on the compound of Ahsanullah College at KDA avenue in Khulna city at about 1:15pm yesterday. Night guard of the college Zillur

Rahman first spotted the bomb, which created a panic among students and teachers Members of the Rapid Action

Battalion (Rab) rushed to the college soon after receiving the information Later, explosives experts

Islami in their side

STAFF CORRESPONDENT the primary schools of Brahmanbaria district in 2004 School Health and Nutrition (SHN) revealed that a total of 56 percent of Programme will be expanded to ten the students suffered from some upazilas of Brahmanbaria following degree of anaemia, 56 percent were its success in a pilot project to infected with intestinal worms and improve health and nutrition status almost a quarter of the students of school aged children. were stunted.

Centre in the city yesterday.

successful, the speakers said.

health related policies.

Core elements of the programme

are health and nutrition services.

water and sanitation, promotion of

healthy behaviours and school

A baseline survey conducted in

SUCCESS IN PILOT PROJECT

This was disclosed at a meeting The study also revealed that 63 organised by Save the Children percent of children defecated in the USA in collaboration with open field and only 8 percent had Directorate General of Health access to a sanitary latrine at home. Services and Directorate General of Knowledge on using a latrine Primary Education at Bangladesh

speakers said.

was found to be quite high, but China Friendship Conference practice was considerably low, it showed The SHN programme will be

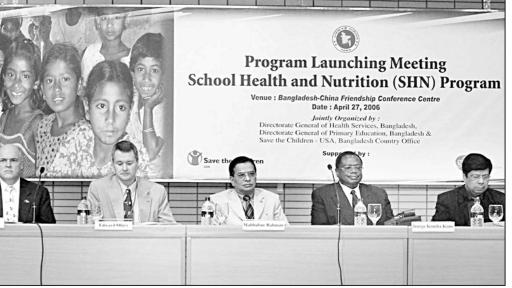
School Health & Nutrition to

be expanded to 10 upazilas

Through a comprehensive SHN programme, a total of 22, 318 stuexpanded with the support of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) as the dents of 64 primary schools in six programme at Nasirnagar in unions of Nasirnagar received Brahmanbaria proved immensely deworming medicine twice a year, annual vision screening service, class room based weekly iron supplementation, access to first aid kits and ailments at schools, the

the welcome speech and the students under the programme staged a drama portraying the success of The speakers also said SHN the programme programme is a prevention activity

sation



School Health and Nutrition (SHN) Programme was launched at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Gene V George, Edward Olney, Dr Mahbubur Rahman, Dr Jeorge Komba Kono and Dr Nizam Uddin Ahmed.



'Opposition conspiring to break alliance'

PHOTO: STAF

DU CORRESPONDENT

(CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Leaders of ruling BNP-Jamaat Islam Selim said the major three coalition government yesterday Opposition leaders said the governinstitutions -- partisan president, to said opposition 14-party alliance led ment seems insincere in holding by Awami League (AL) has been be partisan chief advisor to the dialogue on electoral reform agenda caretaker government and the Chief hatching conspiracy against the and so it is conspiring to avoid talks four-party alliance government to Election Commissioner (CEC) -- in in the name of including Jamaat-ebreak the alliance ahead of the next the present system of caretaker general election through creating mment are the main obstacles The government has been anarchy in the country. for a free and fair election. showing lame excuses to avoid They said opposition parties are "It is not enough to appoint just a dialogue, they said, adding that if afraid of the successful alliance of neutral referee, the rules and reguthe 14-party can pass responsibility the four-party, as they know they lations of the game should also be to Awami League (AL) why the fourcannot win the next election to be party alliance cannot rely on BNP for neutral." he said. held in 2007 if they cannot break "Prime Minister has to agree to BNP-Jamaat alliance. the rationale and necessity of the They were speaking at a As part of 'opposition parties' blueroundtable organised by Jatiya reform proposals in principle and print' to break the alliance, AL has been stop statements against the proposhatching conspiracy to destroy counals and present them to people try's democracy through creating anarchy and to tarnish country's image distortedly," said JSD Syed Zafar by portraying Bangladesh as a commu-Sajjad nal country, the leaders added while JSD President Hasanul Huq Inu addressing national student council of alleged that the BNP-Jamaat alli-Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), student ance has already started using wing of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh at black money, religion and state Paltan Maidan in the city. resources for its publicity in the Addressing the council, Health wake of the next general elections. and Family Welfare Minister Dr Jativa Oikva Mancha leader Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain said Pankaj Bhatyacharya said Prime AL wanted to introduce Bangladesh Minister has already bought two as a communal country to the outside helicopters with Tk 71 crore for use world through the militancy but we in the election campaign, while successfully eliminated militancy from the country. ruling party people are given Barrister Moudud Ahmed said a licenses of television channels conspiracy is going on against aimed at syndicating news. country's democracy and coalition Samyabadi Dal General government through so-called Secretary Dilip Barua, Professor movements in the name of reform in Harunur Rashid of Dhaka the Election Commission and University, Iqbal Sobhan caretaker government. Chowdhury, editor of The ICS President Muhammad Bangladesh Observer, Sammilito Shafigul Islam Masud presided over Sangskritik Jote General Secretary the meeting. Golam Kuddus and AL leader Nurul

Shoib Chy granted bail again in sedition case **COURT CORRESPONDENT** A Dhaka court yesterday again

granted bail to sacked managing director of Ingilab TV Salauddin Shoib Chowdhury in a sedition case as the prosecution lawyers did not oppose the bail petition. On March 21, the High Court

cancelled his (Shoib) bail granted by a lower court on April 30 last year as a rule was pending on the same issue with the higher court. The High Court had also directed

Shoib to surrender before the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court within six weeks.

As per the order, he appeared before the court yesterday and prayed for bail.

During the hearing, Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) Farid Halder did not oppose the bail petition although the judge asked PP Abdullah Mahmud Hassan and the APP whether they have any objection in this regard.

The prosecution even did not take part in the hearing on another petition submitted on May 21 last year by the PP for cancellation of Shoib's bail, saying that the present situation and the earlier situation was not the same

Meanwhile, the defence withdrew the petition filed for taking back Shoib's passport seized earlier by the law enforcement agencies.

After hearing both the sides, Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah granted bail to Shoib upon a bond of Tk 5 lakh under his lawver Samarendra Nath Goswami's lone surety.

Mohammad Abdul Hanif, officerin-charge (OC) of the Airport Police Station, had filed the sedition case against Shoib with the Chief



Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad forms a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday protesting proposed contempt of court law

Elect legislators from all communities

ment seats for indigenous people.

community

He said the election commission

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, a noted

3 killed in stampede in Pirojpur

discipline, charged baton on people

when they tried to get the blessing of

They however acknowledged

People, standing on both sides of

that there is huge crowd for last few

days to get 'blessed water' and

banana from Tota Hujur of

Sonakhali.

should identify the constituencies.

Speakers call at workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for introducing proportional election system to elect legislators epresenting all communities. They said all candidates must disclose all relevant information

Three people were allegedly killed

in stampede caused by police baton

charge on those who went to collect

'blessed water' from a newly

emerged Pir (religious guide) at

Mathbaria upazila in Pirojpur district

Mafizuddin. 50. of Andharmanik.

Fulbanu, 60, of Sapleza and Sumon

police, engaged in maintaining

Mia, 70, of Golbunia villages.

The victims were identified as

According to witnesses and

on Wednesday.

including their assets and liabilities so that voters can elect honest and competent people in the next general election.

economist, said honest and patriotic The workshop titled 'Study report candidates will not dare to contest on democracy, electoral process the next general election if election and the role of citizens' was organexpenditure is not restricted strictly. He suggested displaying voter ised by the Institute for Environment and Development (IED) at BETS list at all union parishad offices to centre in the city end discords about it. The speakers said the benefit of Justice Abdur Rouf said democdemocracy cannot be achieved racy cannot be practised properly without electing competent candiwithout strengthening citizens' role dates from all groups including during the election He urged the election commiswoman, indigenous and minority communities. sion to create public awareness

Indigenous leader Sanjib Drang about competent candidates in the demanded five out of 300 parlianext general election.

While presenting the keynote paper, Monwar Mostofa said proportional election system should be for example, Bandarban can be designated as indigenous constituintroduced as around 72 percent ency so that all political parties people have no faith in present nominate their candidates from that political leaders.

Robayet Ferdous, assistant professor of mass communication and journalism department of Dhaka University, laid emphasis on the survey of different political parties to know about their ideology,

programme expressing their solidarity with the demand for trial of the killers. Bomb recovered

Ali and Ahmed Ilias joined the

Awami League leaders Dr Dipu Moni, Faridun Nahar Laily, Syeda Razia Sultana, Kaniz Fatima, Tohra

Teachers' Association President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Mahila

at Khulna college

Metropolitan Magistrate's Court Dhaka on January 24, 2004.

DUPDAA reunion

A daylong grand reunion of Dhaka University Political Science Department Alumni Association (DUPDAA) will be held on May 19 at the TSC on the university campus, says a press release

Alumni are requested to register **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal** their name and collect coupon from the following persons by May 17: Dr Aminur Rahman of Political Science Department (966-1920 Ext: 4475), Rezaul Hag Chowdhury Mushtag (935-0869 & 01711-524158), KMA Bari (881-2165 & 01711-527147), Rafiqul Islam (955-4043 & 0189-240473), AKM Nurul Alam (956-2531 & 0152-631705), Mostafa Kamal (9673130 & 01711-526354) and Nazrul Islam (988-1296 & 01715-036839). family sources, police and village



Lecture

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra organises a special lecture on 'Archaeologica heritage and preservation crisis' with Prof Dr AKM Shahnewaz as keynote speaker. Venue: Kendra auditorium. Time: 5:30pm.

Discussion on hajj

A discussion on 'Learn about hajj' will be held. Rules of hajj will be presented through audio, video and animation. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 4:30pm.

Lecture

To mark the 10th anniversary of Liberation War Museum, it organises a lecture by Liz Shevsesco, secretary general of International Coalition of Historic Sight Museums of Consciences. Venue: Museum auditorium. Time: 5:00pm

Rally

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon will hold a rally demanding demolition of illegal structures along the rivers of Shitalakkha, Buriganga and Turag. Venue: In front of National Museum Time: 10:30am

objectives and activities

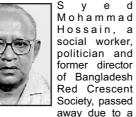
Dr Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman moderated the workshop where Jyoti Chattopadhay, Noman Ahmed Khan and representatives of some NGOs also spoke.

every day under the scorching heat

of the sun to collect blessing.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



away due to a cardiac arrest at Birdem Hospital on April 25 at the age of 68.

Amanullah Hossain Apu and Syed Ataullah Hossain Tapu, daughter Shaila Khandaker Mita and three grandchildren.

the adviser to Dhaka City unit of Awami League. His qulkhwani will be held at his

residence at South Begunbari, Tejgaon after Asr prayers today. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwani

Death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of Abdur Razzak Mukul, a freedom fighter and former Awami League lawmaker, says a

Qulkhwani of Dr

Kaafee Billah,

an economist,

will be held at

his mother's

residence at

House # 44A,

Road # 116,

Gulshan after

Asr prayers

A milad mahfil will be held at his Mohammadpur residence after Asr prayers

Qulkhwani

today, says a press release.

Dr Kaafee passed away due to a

Relatives, friends and well-

a group of 12-15 activists of ICS in front of Suryasen Hall of DU at around 2:30pm and beat them up.

Earlier, at a rally in front of Arts Building of DU on Tuesday, BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon DU campus any way.



social worker, politician and former director of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, passed

He is survived by two sons, Syed

Syed Mohammad Hossain was

Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) at its office in the city yesterday.

"Once a consensus is made between the BNP and AL on the reform issues, the government can discuss those with its coalition partners before implementation. The 14party will have no objection then," said JSD General Secretary Syed Zafar Sajjad, in his keynote speech.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

holding dialogue.

AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed reiterated that there would be no election without the reforms in the Election Commission (EC) and caretaker system.

"The alliance government has politicised every sector of the administration by appointing and promoting partisan people and removing the honest and neutral officials," he pointed out.

Speaking for strengthening movement on the streets in line with the dialogue, he said transferring power through elections under the present system of caretaker government and the EC will push the nation into darkness

Communist Party of Bangladesh



Islam also spoke

Bangladesh College Teachers' Association stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday to press for their various demands

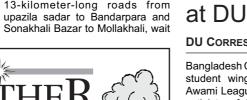
BCL also chased ICS activists on Among them, Shahid Kamal, a press release

head. Ahead of the ICS council, BCL and its alliance Chhatra Sangram Parisad kept guarding different entrances to the university and residential halls gates to resist

Witnesses said BCL men chased BCL men also chased another

group of ICS men at Suhrawardi Udyan at around 4:00pm

called its activists to resist Shibir on



Thundershowers likely

0

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

D

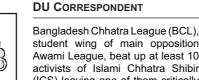
Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said and predicted that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

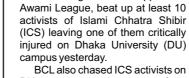
Yesterday's highest temperature of 37.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamati and the lowest of 19.5 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:26pm and rises at 5:27am tomorrow

The 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	32.2	22.3	66	60
Chittagong	34.0	26.0	80	72
Rajshahi	32.0	22.7	71	64
Khulna	36.3	24.8	71	52
Barisal	35.5	23.6	77	83
Sylhet	30.5	19.5	76	63
Cox's Bazar	34.0	25.5	63	77



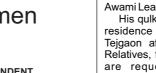


DU campus as they came from outside Dhaka to join national student council at Paltan Maidan.

student of English Department of Khulna BL College, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) with injuries in

Shibir men from entering DU from Wednesday night.

massive heart attack in Maryland, USA, on April 19. wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwani



BCL beat 10 Shibir men

Pir by breaking the queue. Tota, riding on a motorcycle at At least 20 people were injured. 10:00am every day, starts giving his Local administration attributed blessing on their water or banana to the death to victims' previous illness fulfill their wishes or remove illness. and old age complications.