# METROPOLITAN/NEWS

## Old Dhaka residents to stage hunger strike for power, water

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of Old Dhaka threatened to observe a daylong hunger strike on May 25 if Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) and Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA) fail to supply uninterrupted electricity and adequate water by May 21.

The threat came from a meeting of Old Dhaka Janakalyan Samity (ODJS) yesterday, says a press release

Addressing the meeting, ODJS leaders said people of the area have been suffering immensely for a long time due to deplorable condition of the roads at Faridabad, Gandaria, Sutrapur, Dayaganj, Farashaganj, Wari, Banglabazar, Jurain and Laxmibazar.

But the authorities have not taken necessary steps to resolve the problems, they added.

The leaders also urged WASA authorities to take up steps to clean manholes and place lids on the uncovered manholes of the areas

## Four JCD men held for 'bid to abduct girl'

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Detective Branch (DB) arrested four Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists on Friday night for attempting to abduct a girl from her house in the city.

The arrested JCD men are Shanto, 24, Shawon, 20, Raju, 24, and Shahadat, 22. They are among five named in the first information report (FIR) recorded yesterday with the Sadar Police Station under sections 4 and 5 of the Speedy Trial

According to the FIR filed by Sub-Inspector Rafique of the Sadar PS, the JCD activists attempted to abduct the teenage schoolgirl from her house at Mirzapur road in the city at 8:30pm on Friday.

The criminals, however, failed in their attempt in the face of a strong Director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) Syeda Rizwana Hasan, second from left, speaks resistance from the neighbours.

After the JCD men were arrested, the girl's father, a contractor, was threatened with death over cell phone yesterday afternoon sources said. Driver killed, rice-laden

## 2 godowns of Meghna Oil Mill gutted

**Ratify Cedaw to ensure** women's empowerment

## Speakers tell roundtable

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Patriarchal society and lack of opportunity to contest parliamentary election directly are the two main obstacles to empowering women in the country, said the speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They said violence against women and the absence of rule of law are also impediments to establishing women's rights.

The speakers demanded ratification of UN Convention on the Elimination of all sorts of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw) to ensure women's empowerment. The roundtable titled 'Women's

achievements in empowerment in the 35 years of independence and our duties' was organised jointly by the Weekly 2000 and Women's Development Foundation (WDF) at the National Press Club in the city.

Presenting the keynote paper, Fouzia Khondokar Iva, a gender expert and women's rights activist, narrated women's achievements in different sectors in last three decades

"Contribution of women in garment industries and private organiency sations including NGOs are of significant achievements of

women," she said, adding " Two women have been occupying the highest political position for 15 /ears. "Despite this we hardly find women at the policy making position in the administration," she main-

tained Explaining the term 'women's empowerment', she said it is a 'process' through which women can obtain control over their physical, mental, intellectual and spiritual possessions.

Prof Mahmuda Islam of Dhaka University raised a question on the achievement of women's empowerment as Cedaw is yet to be ratified.

Rekha Chowdhury, secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, asked how long women would have to wait for the ratification of Cedaw on the ground that it is opposed to Shariah law.

She pointed out that women lawmakers in parliament are not given opportunity to play their due

part as they don't have any constitu-

Tasmima Hossain, editor of the fortnightly Anonnya, said, "Women's empowerment will not be possible unless they establish their rights over property.

Describing women as essential for the development of national economy, Bodiul Alam, country director of Hunger Project, called for creating scope for women at the policy making level as they are less corrupted than men.

He stressed the need for poverty alleviation as well as the elimination of 'evil circle of malnutrition' for omen

Moderated by Director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) Syeda Rizwana Hasan, the programme was also addressed by educationists Rokeya Mannan and Prof Mahbuba Nasrin of DU President of Nirapad Sarak Chai Actor Elias Kanchan and acting editor of the Weekly 2000 Golam Mortuja.

🕑 মে'০৬ সকাল 🕽 ০টা

গব কনফারেন্স রুম

"স্বাধীনতার ৩৫ বছরে ক্ষমতায়নে নারীর অর্জন ও করণীয়"

গোলটেবিল বৈঠক

## Tribute paid to Nasreen Hug STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday paid tribute to the memory of Nasreen Pervin Huq, a prominent social activist, saying that she dedicated her life to the welfare of the deprived people. She never compromised her

principles and did what she believed was right, they said. People's Health Movement

(PHM), Bangladesh organised the memorial meeting at Gonoshasthaya Kendra in the city. Nasreen, country director of ActionAid, died following an accident at the car park of her residence on April 24.

Colleagues of Nasreen and development workers took part in the meeting and recalled her contribution to various fields.

She played a significant role in establishing rights of rural women and garment workers, they said. PHM members AFM Imamuddin

AHM Nohman, Md Shafiuddin Nasreen Sultana, Fakrul Ferdous and Shahadat Hossain spoke at the meeting. Nasreen's sister Shirin Hug and Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury of Gonoshasthaya Kendra were also present Later, a milad and doa mahfil was

held for the salvation of the departed soul

Jov asks Jubo Mahila League to strengthen movement

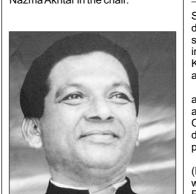
#### BDNEWS, Dhaka

Members of Bangladesh Jubo with Awami League President Joy at Sudha Sadan in the city yesterday

comprising activists from the city's north and south units presented bouquet to Joy

strengthen their movement and lend a hand to the oppressed country men

with Jubo Mahila League President Nazma Akhtar in the chair.





bazar area in Burichang upazila

Later, police seized the bus but

Our Correspondent from

Sirajganj adds: A young man was

crushed under the wheels of a bus

on the Dhaka-Bogra highway at

Baniagati in Kamar Khanda upazila

The accident occurred when

Shariful Islam Sharif, 19, son of

Mozib Rahman of the upazila, was

crossing the road at around 11:00

Police sent the body to Sadar

hospital morgue for autopsy.

vesterday

vesterday

The Daily Star

PHM member AFM Imamuddin speaks at a memorial meeting for Nasreen Pervin Huq, country director of ActionAid. The meeting was organised by People's Health Movement (PHM), Bangladesh at Gonoshasthaya Kendra in the city vesterday.

## 6 killed in road crashes

critical condition where the duty

doctors declared him dead.

STAR REPORT

At least six people, including a subinspector (SI) of police, were killed in separate road accidents in Tangail, Comilla and Sirajganj vesterday

Our Correspondent from Tangail reports: A sub-inspector (SI) of police was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Tangail highway yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Nazimuddin, 38, of Bhatkura village under Mirzapur upazila.

The accident took place at around 9:00am when a Dhaka bound passenger-laden speedy bus from Tangail hit his motorbike from behind at Ashekpur area near Tangail town leaving him seriously injured, police and witnesses said. Local people rushed Nazimuddin to Tangail General Hospital in a

Police said SI Nazimuddin Police said Renu Miah, 29, son of worked at Gazipur DSB. Badsha Miah of Dennagar village in UNB from Comilla reports: Three Borura upazila of the district, was people, including a woman and her run over by a bus at 12:30 pm,

son, were killed as a bus fell into a leaving him dead on the spot. roadside ditch in Daudkandi upazila on Comilla-Matlab road yesterday. Police said the accident took its driver managed to flee. place at Maruka when the driver lost

his control over steering at about 11:45am, killing the three on the spot. The dead were identified as

Rasheda Akhter, wife of Swadhin Mia of Daudkandi municipal area, Rasheda's 18-month old son Yasin and Mozammel Huq Moju, 35, of Daulatpur area. Police sent the bodies to hospital

morgue for autopsy. Meanwhile, a youth was killed in

## 'Bring Kansat culprits to book'

Shahriar Kabir of the Forum for

Secular Bangladesh said the names

of abused women should also be on

the list for compensation alongside

the names of those killed or injured

Violence against women across

the country has been increasing as

the attackers know they would go

unpunished as the families of the

victims as well as the administration

always try to cover up such incidents,

he said and called for taking stern

action against the culprits to curb

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion vesterday demanded that the persons responsible for killing 20 people and resorting to repression on women in Kansat be brought to book immediately

Members of the law enforcement agencies and local BNP workers attacked the people of Kansat in Chapainawabganj as they had been demonstrating for uninterrupted power supply since January.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) organised the discussion with civil society members at Dhaka

Reporters' Unity office. The BMP leaders authorities

People of Kansat want proper investigation into police atrocities and punishment to the attackers who tortured them brutally and looted their valuables, he added.

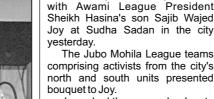
The speakers called on the government to pay compensation to the victims, make the law enforcement agencies and administration free from politicisation and not to harbour criminals.

They also urged the human rights organisations to provide legal aid to the women victims.

Presided over by Mahila He also said that properties of the policemen and other officials Parishad President Hena Das, the who are responsible for killings and meeting was also addressed by Masuda Rehana Begum and Maleka Banu of the Parishad, General Secretary of Sammilita Samajik Andolon Tobarok Hossain, Convenor of Muktijuddho Projonmo Mehedi Hasan, Advocate Harisadhan Dev Barman, Advocate Jeyad Al Malum and Advocate SMA Sabur.

a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in Nimsar

in the attacks



Apu Ukil moderated the meeting

at a roundtable titled 'Women's achievements in empowerment in the 35 years of independence and our duties' organised by the Weekly 2000 and Women's Development Foundation (WDF) at the National Press Club in the city hacked to death A taxicab driver was hacked to death

Mahila League exchanged views Sheikh Hasina's son Sajib Wajed

Jov asked the women leaders to

## in N'ganj

#### UNB, Narayangan

Two godowns of Meghna Oil Mill in Sonargaon upazila were gutted in a fire yesterday morning.

Fire Brigade sources said an electrical short-circuit sparked off the fire at about 10:00am, which swept through the two godowns, damaging machines and other goods.

Fire fighters rushed to the scene at about 10:30am and extinguished the blaze after a struggle for two and a half hours

The loss was estimated at about Tk1 crore.

## Rural people deprived of treatment Says Ershad

#### BDNEWS, Rangpur

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said the rural people are being deprived of treatment as the doctors are willing to stay only in urban areas.

"Medical service was brought to the door of the rural people in the country during the rule of the Jatiya Party," he said.

Ershad was addressing a conference of village doctors of north Bengal at Makbul Hossain Memorial Diabetic Hospital at Darshana in Rangpur as the chief guest.

Presided over by Dr Selim Shah, the meeting was addressed by JP Joint Secretary General Mashiur Rahman Ranga, Rangpur Poura Chairman Abdur Rouf Manik, Dr Touhidul Islam Babu, Dr Sudhir Ranjan Talukdar, Dr Nurul Islam, Dr Beni Madhab Barua and DrAlamgir Moti.

Ershad, also former president, said the incumbent government is now enjoying the benefits of the drug policy taken by the Jatiya Party government in the past.

He said the country is earning large amount of foreign currency exporting medicines due to their drug policy.

He said they managed to send doctors to the rural areas introducing upazila system in the country. But now they are deprived of medical facilities.

day to hijack a rice-laden truck. Sohag was strangled to death. He was identified as Mohammad

truck hijacked in city

Sohag, 40, who hailed from Shibaloy of Manikganj. Tajul Islam, helper of the truck, identified the body at Dhaka Medical College Morgue last night. He told reporters that the truck,

A driver was killed in the city vester-

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

heading for Chittagong. When the truck reached

took possession of the truck and

tion," he added. Locals found the body of the driver at the slope of Mirpur Embankment at around 7:00am.

the body from there. The body was found with hands tied and there were marks of injury

elsewhere and was dumped there.

UNB, Dhaka

country.

City/Town

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

Dhaka

5:20am tomorrow.

WEATHER

Thundershowers likely

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, Noakhali and Comilla in

Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the

at Jessore and lowest 21.5 degree Celsius at Rangpur

Max

36.5

35.4

36.2

36.5

35.2

30.2

34.0

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, Met

Highest temperature 38.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 6:30pm today and rises at

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

Temperature

in Celsius

Min

24.1

27.3

22.5

27.5

27.2

23.1

26.6

autopsy.

aden with rice from Naogaon, was

Kamlapur area, a gang of robbers

threw me away on the road. Then the gang left the scene along with the driver for an unknown destina-

On information, police recovered

on it.

Locals and police suspect that the victim might have been killed Police sent the body to Dhaka

the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

major cities and towns today were:

JOURNO KAMAL MURDER Convicted fugitive held

Medical College Morgue for

According to morgue sources,

yesterday. On her right are Fouzia Khondokar Iva and Prof Mahmuda Islam and on her left is Golam Mortuja.

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Army arrested a convicted fugitive in journalist Kamal murder case at Nayapara under Manikchhari upazila here yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, army personnel arrested Siraj Mia 30, who was sentenced to death by a court in Chittagong.

Siraj was the main accused in the murder case. Kamal, 23, Manikchhari upazila correspondent of the Bengali daily Ajker Kagoj, was killed on August 21 in 2004

Later, he was handed over to Manikchhari police. Manikchhari police sent him to the Khagrachhari jail.

Humidity in

percentage

Evenina

50

73

70

48

65

77

73

Morning

77

75

83

68

76

77

69

Jalil condemns attack on AL programme

by a gang of unidentified assailants at

Dhamrai Friday night. He was

30, with multiple stab injuries was

recovered by police yesterday from

near Fultala bazar of Dhamrai and

The body of driver Abdus Salam,

Cab driver

in Dhamrai

Dhamrai on Friday night.

undergoing interrogation.

sent it to hospital for autopsy.

UNB, Savar

#### BDNEWS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP in a statement condemned the attack on the the programme of AL Advisory Council member Fakhrul Islam Munshi by the ruling party cadres.

Jalil expressing his resentment said the ruling party being scared of losing power is now obstructing the peaceful programmes of the opposition.

He said the incident of launching attack on the programme of Fakrul Islam Munshi is the worst example of perpetuating the misrule of the ruling party.

He demanded arrest of and punishment to those involved in the attack



## View exchange

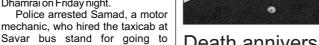
Manusher Janna Rasta organises a view exchange meeting on 'Movement of Rickshaw in Dhaka city roads: Analysis of favouring and opposing views'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:30am

## Launching ceremony

Focus Bangla, a nationwide photo agency, organises a launching ceremony of a book titled 'My Beautiful Bangladesh by Nadim Quadir. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:30pm.

## Discussion

Jatiya Samajtantrik Sramik Jote will hold a discussion to mark the May Day. Venue: National Press Club. Time 4:00pm



Death anniversary of Ahsanullah Master today BDNEWS, Dhaka

The second death anniversary of Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master will be observed today Ahsanullah, a lawmaker from

Gazipur-2 constituency and Sramik League leader, was gunned down by criminals during a conference of Sechchhasebak League on May 7, 2004

Awami League and its front organisations and Shaheed Ahsanullah Master Smriti Parishad have drawn up elaborate programmes to mark the day. The programmes include discussions and milad and doa mahfils.

A discussion will be held at the auditorium of Institution of Diploma Engineers in the capital at 3:00pm today, with Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as the chief guest.

Parliamentary team leaves for Kenya

The six-day conference will

Other members are Whip Alhaj M

Nairobi today, said an official

UNB, Dhaka

release

Islam.

A 10-member parliamentary dele-gation led by Whip Rezaul Bari Dina left Dhaka for Kenya yesterday to attend the 114th IPU conference. begin in the Kenyan capital of

during their visit to Kansat on April 24, they found that many women fell victim to repression by the law enforcers but most such incidents went unreported

Even a number of women were sexually abused and the children were also not spared from the attack by law enforcers, they said.

repression should be confiscated and they should pay compensation to the victims

repression on women.

Jahangir Alam Akash, general secretary of Rajshahi Union of Journalists, said the main demands of the people of Kansat are yet to be met although an agreement has been signed between Kansat movement leader Golam Rabbani and the



Mahila Parishad President Hena Das speaks at a view exchange meeting organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity office yesterday.

## All telephone lines go out Death anniversary of order in C'nwabganj

## BDNEWS, Chapainawabganj

All the telephone lines in Chapainawabganj have gone out of order since vesterday morning

Telecommunications between the region and other parts of the country as well as the outside world remained suspended due to the crisis.

It was not made clear why all the telephone lines in Chapainawabganj went out of order.

The assistant engineer of Chapainawabganj telephone exchange said the problem might

But they are yet to detect the

AFM Golam Mostafa, former executive vice president of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, passed away at Al-Hela Heart Hospital yesterday, says a press release.

He left behind his three sons and one daughter to mourn his death.

Today is the 25th death anniversary of Makbul Hasan Moni, a noted sports organiser, says a press release.

On the occasion

Qurankhwani and Milad Mahfil wil be held at his residence at Bakshi Bazar in the city at 5:15pm. Makbul Hasan Trust will donate Tk 4.000 to Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage.

Members of the trust, friends and admirers offer prayers at his grave

at Azimpur for the departed soul.



have been caused due to microcause of the problem

Obituary

Fattah and Senior Assistant Secretary Khandakar Anwarul

Zahed Ali Chowdhury, President of Standing Committee on Water Resources Ministry MA Matin, Abu Yusuf, M Khalilur Rahman, M Motahar Hossain, Shahjahan Chowdhury, Begum Merina Rahman, Begum Noor-e Ara Safa, Parliament Secretary Ehsanul