Four-hour work stoppage in newspapers on Apr 25

Central Coordination Committee (CCC) of four unions and federations of newspaper industry yesterday announced a four-hour work stoppage from 11 am to 3 pm on April 25 in all newspapers and agencies to press demand for the realisation of a two-day weekly holiday, stopping conspiracies to cancel the existing holidays and implementation of the fifth wage board award, reports BSS.

The committee will stage demonstration and hold rally at the National Press Club at 11 am on the day and will hold unit meetings in all newspapers and agencies on April 15.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the Central Coordination Committee of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Press Sramik Federation (BSPSF), Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Karmachari Federation (BSKF) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) with convenor of the committee Fazle Imam in the chair.

BFUJ president and joint convenor of the Central Coordination Committee Amanullah Kabir, president of BSPSF Alhaj Mosharraf Hossain and president of BSKF Kamruzzaman Khan were, among others, present at the meeting.

Boishabi festival begins in CHT

KHAGRACHHARI, Apr 12: Tribal people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region today started celebrating their three-day traditional *Boishabi* festival with the pledge to maintain communal harmony as well as unity in diversity by establishing the rights of all, reports APB.

Mainly three tribes living in the region hold the carnival called *Boishabi* that encompasses *Boiju* of Tripura, *Sangrai* of Marma and *Biju* of Chakma in the last two days of Bangla month of Chaitra and the first day of Baishakh.

Different tribal organisations have arranged publication, *alpana* (drawing), *chika* (graffiti) and sports in the villages sprawled over the hills.

In observance of the *Biju* festival, over 1,000 tribal men and women brought out a colourful rally led by PCJSS leader Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma parading the main thoroughfares of the valley this morning.

Shantu Larma, in his address of welcome, urged all to be united in the struggle for realising the rights of the aboriginal people of the Hill Tracts through the implementation of the peace accord.

Cautioning about the machination of the conspirators, the chairman-designate of the interim Regional Council, Shantu Larma, sought direct intervention of the government to curb chauvinism and communalism for harmonious and peaceful coexistence of all communities and ethnic groups.

Tornado in Ramgoti

Death toll rises to 12

RAMGOTI, Lakkhipur, Apr 12: Seven more bodies were recovered yesterday from the river Meghna raising the total death toll to 12 following the tornado that swept over five unions of Ramgoti thana on Friday last, reports BSS.

Local administration sources said all the five unions were badly affected and some one hundred fishing boats reportedly missing following the tornado.

Meanwhile, Fisheries and Livestock Minister A S M Abdur Rob yesterday visited the tornado affected areas and distributed relief materials including nine metric tonnes of rice and Tk 50 thousand in cash among the affected people.

He visited Karaitala Bazar, Taltoli, Saheber Hat, Fazu Miar Hat, Hazir Hat and other affected areas.

Later the minister at a meeting with the district and thana officials directed the local administration to be on alert to face any disaster in the upcoming *kalbaishakhi* season. He also directed them to submit a complete report on loss and casualties due to tornado within the next seven days.

'Observations of Khaleda about famine-like situation a lie'

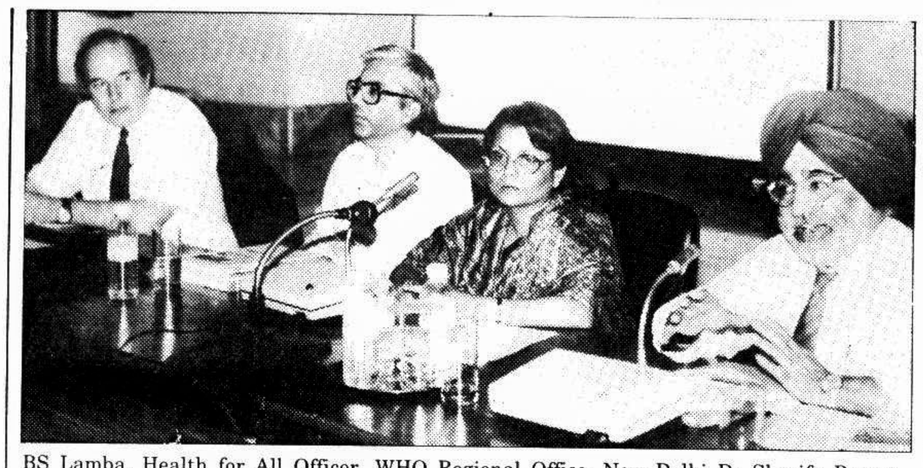
State Minister for Information Prof Abu Syeed said yesterday that the observations of Begum Khaleda Zia about famine-like situation in the northern part of the country is a blatant lie, reports BSS.

He said that hundreds of people, as reported in the Jai Jai Din starved to death during the regime of Begum Khaleda Zia in 1994.

The state minister quoted the Jai Jai Din as having said hundreds of people died due to starvation in the northern part of the country.

Briefing newsmen at his office in the afternoon Prof Sayeed said that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is running the country with all efficiency and honesty.

The government is as transparent as it should be under a democratic system and its accountability to people have been proved to be of highest order.



BS Lamba, Health for All Officer, WHO Regional Office, New Delhi Dr Sharifa Begum, Senior Research Fellow BIDS, Dr Ravi Narayan Co-Ordinator of the Society for Community Health and Awareness, Bangalore, Dr Noel Olsen, UK Intercollegiate Forum on Poverty and Health seen taking part in a seminar on Meeting the Health Needs of the Poorest and the most Vulnerable at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city yesterday. The seminar was jointly organised by World Health Organisation (WHO) and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). — Star photo

Scarcity of drinking water acute in many regions

Scarcity of drinking water is causing untold suffering to the people in many parts of the country, reports UNB.

In many places water-borne diseases are spreading due to the paucity of pure water for drink and household use.

UNB Naogaon corespondent says the crisis of drinking water has cropped up with the advent of the dry season, rendering about 70 per cent tube-wells inoperative.

Local people and officials say the ground water level has fallen sharply and the level in the river Atrai has also lowered alarmingly. The river Chhoto Jamuna, flowing through the town, has completely dried up.

Most of the tube-wells in the households of the town cannot fetch water due to fall in the sub-soil water. The people have to depend on the water supply from the municipality for all of their household works.

Increasing load shedding is also threatening the water supply posing further crisis for the town dwellers.

Most of the Tara pumps installed by the Public Health Engineering Department to ensure supply of the drinking water in the district went out of order due to lack of proper maintenance and care.

Besides, a programme to sink and re-sink 32 shallow and 1,171 hand driven tube-wells in the district, taken up by PHED, has been stopped due to unknown reasons.

In many areas of Rajshahi, people have been facing acute crisis of pure water as the tube-wells in these areas can not fetch sufficient water for them.

The worst hit areas of the district include Mohanpur, Puthia, Bagmara, Tanore, Godagari, Durgapur and many other parts of Barind project area.

The level of ground water has come down alarmingly and a normal tube-well with a 100 to 320 feet long tube cannot even reach the ground water level.

Experts at the local Met office say the situation arose due to sharp fall in the level of river water.

In Rajshahi region, almost half of the tube-wells out of the total 4,000 went out of order during the last year's flood. Many of these tube-wells have not yet been repaired, further aggravating the situation.

Some surface water bodies in the affected areas like ponds and lakes have also dried up due to the prevailing hot spell.

Another report from Barisal says the crisis of pure water in the divisional town is acute and many people have to stand in a long queue even after darkness to collect water from the street hydrants.

Official sources say the municipality cannot meet the demand of water in the town, which has been worsened by frequent load shedding.

The sources said total demand of water in the town is 80 lakh gallons. Sixteen pumps of the municipality are there to fetch this water. If all the pumps remain operative round the clock, these can supply only 40 lakh gallons. But due to load shedding and other technical problems, these machines can produce only 20 to 25 lakh gallons. So there remains a crisis of 55 to 60 lakh gallons every day.

Because of the inadequate supply, people have to depend on the tube-wells located in different neighbourhoods.

The situation in Shahrasti, Kachua and Hajiganj thanas in Chandpur have also worsened with the fall in ground water level.

High officials of Public Health Engineering Department visited these thanas to assess the situation recently. They said about 40 per cent of the total 126 deep tube wells in the district has been affected due to the fall in water level.

They further said the crises of pure water and water for irrigation have now turned acute in these affected thanas.

The level of water of the deep tube wells came down by more than 3.5 feet in some areas, said the sources.

Dhaka-Calcutta joint study reveals

Arsenic above safety level in 81.5pc of villages

Arsenic was found in 52 districts out of a total of 64 above the WHO recommended level of 0.01 milligram per litre (mg/l). In 42 districts the level is above 0.05 mg/l, which indicated that the contamination has assumed almost an alarming proportion, reports APB.

This was revealed in a study presented at a day-long seminar on "ground water arsenic contamination and sufferings of people of Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal" at Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) yesterday.

Dhaka Community Hospital and School of Environmental Studies of Jadavpur University, Calcutta jointly conducted the four-year study in which about 12084 hand tube-well water samples were analysed.

"These 42 districts comprises a landmass of 92,106 sq km with a population of 79.9 million. The entire population in these districts may not be drinking contaminated water but they are of course at risk," the study pointed out.

The analytical results of the survey showed that 67 per cent of the water samples in 143 thanas of 52 districts is not suitable for drinking as per the WHO recommended standard of 0.01 mg/l and 56.8 per cent of samples contain arsenic above the maximum permissible limit of 0.05 mg/l.

About 3332 pieces of hair, 3321 nail, 373 skin-scale and 1043 urine samples from people living in arsenic affected villages have so far been studied. On an average 92 per cent samples contains arsenic above the normal level.

"Further if it is true that arsenic toxicity appears after several years of exposure, then the picture may actually be far more grim than at present and children are at greater risk," the study observed.

From the affected villages, so far 3646 children below 11 years of age were examined and out of them 6.36 per cent has been found to have arsenical skin lesions.

In respect of magnitude of arsenic calamity, Bangladesh is more affected that West Bengal.

Speaking at the technical session, Science and Technology Minister Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan suggested that the Ministries of LGRD and Health should launch a combined programme to identify arsenic-contaminated tubewells.

He also called for evolving low-cost filters to test arsenic pollution in the affected areas.

The Minister urged the scientists to come out with effective solution to the health hazard and create awareness among the people.

The seminar was addressed, among others, by Science and Technology Secretary M Fazlur Rahman, BCSIR Chairman Prof M Masihuzzaman and Director of Geo-environmental Research Centre, Cardiff University, UK, Prof HR Thomas.

Prof D Chakrabarti, Director and Head of School of Environmental Studies, Jadavpur University, Prof C Subbarao of IIT, Khagragpur, Acting Director of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur, Dr SN Kaul, Prof SM Rao of IIS, Bangalore and Dr Aftab Alam Khan of the Department of Geology, Dhaka University, presented research papers.

New member of BWDB

Engineer Md Lutfor Rahman Mian has recently joined as Member (Operation & Maintenance) of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), says a press release.

Prior to this posting he was Member (Planning) and Chief Engineer central zone in BWDB. He also served in various capacities during his long carrier in BWDB.

Military govt to rule Niger

NIAMEY (Niger), Apr 12: Opening the way for at least nine months of military rule, the head of the presidential guard unit that witnesses say assassinated Niger's former president has been named the new leader of this West African nation, reports AP.

Commandant Daouda Malam Wanke will head the military government that is to lead Niger to civilian elections at the end of a nine-month transition period, military spokesman Capt Hamidou Djibrila said in a Sunday night broadcast on state radio and television.

"The armed forces of Niger understand the gravity of the situation and decided to put to rest the institutional void created by the sudden death of Gen. Bare," Djibrila said.

The announcement came two days after Bare was gunned down by members of his Presidential Guard on the tarmac of Niamey's airport.

Despite widespread knowledge of the assassination of President Ibrahim Bare Mainassara, state radio continued to insist that he died in an "unfortunate accident."

Djibrila said that Wanke, a man largely unknown outside of the military, will become Niger's new president as well as the head of the National Council for Reconciliation, the military body that will lead Niger during the transition.

There are few indications, though, whether the military government would eventually allow democratic elections. Bare also seized power promising polls; he was confirmed as president a few months later in elections widely seen as fraudulent.

Although the exact motives for Bare's death remain unclear he was not a popular figure. The army coup he led three years ago ousted Niger's first democratically elected government.

Bare's mismanagement, nepotism and failure to pay salaries to soldiers and bureaucrats had alienated him from Niger's civilians and its military.

Later, he faced down repeated military mutinies and protests by students and civil servants, and earned the wrath of the opposition by imprisoning some of its leaders.

Death anniversary

The 38th death anniversary of Khan Bahadur Badi Ahmed Chowdhury, Ex-MLC & MLA will be observed today, says a press release.

In the connection, a *Qurankhwani* will be held at Uttara House-24, Road-1, Sector-9. Discussion meetings will also be held at Chittagong city and Banskhali.

AGM of monthly Swasthakatha held

By Staff Correspondent

The annual general meeting (AGM) of monthly *Swasthakatha* was held at the BIRDEM hospital auditorium yesterday.

Noted child specialist and chief advisor of the monthly Prof Dr M R Khan presided over the AGM while Dr Nazma Yasmeen, the Editor, read out the key notes.

Among others, Prof A K Azad Khan, Prof. Hazera Mahatab, Dr A H Syedur Rahman, Prof A Bayes Bhuiyan and Dr Nazrul Islam were present and gave their valuable suggestions during the AGM.

Doctors observe token strike in Tangail

TANGAIL, Apr 12: Doctors in government hospitals and private clinics in the district started abstaining from duty for two hours from today protesting harassment and repression by the administration, reports UNB.

BMA district unit has accused the deputy commissioner of harassing the doctors by instituting false and motivated cases against them. General Secretary Dr Syed Ibne Sayeed is one of the victims of harassment.

Ganges water treaty

Bangladesh getting more than due share of water

Bangladesh received 35,376 cusec water at Hardinge Bridge Point during April 1-10 against the 35,000 cusec specified as Bangladesh's share in the Ganges Water sharing treaty, reports BSS.

As per the treaty the Bangladesh's share of the ganges flows on 10-day basis, received at Hardinge Bridge Point during the period from 1st January to 10 April 1999 has shown a trend of increased quantity, said a press release of Joint Rivers Commission.

According to the guaranteed share for Bangladesh mentioned in the treaty on sharing of the ganges waters signed between Bangladesh and India on December 12, 1996, Bangladesh shall receive guaranteed 35,000 cusec during March 11-20, April 1-10 and April 21-30, India shall receive guaranteed 35,000 cusec during March 21-31, April 11-20 and May 1-10.

Bangladesh received 41,600 cusec of water against the share of 35,000 during March 1-10, 35,683 cusec against 35,000 cusec during March 11-20 and 33,892 cusec against 29,688 during March 21-31 said the press release.

Hartal called in weekly market in Lalmonirhat all Wednesdays

LALMONIRHAT, Apr 12: Hartal in Barabari *haat*, the biggest weekly market of the district, has been called on all Wednesdays for a year beginning the Bengali New Year's Day to protest 'illegal award' of lease of the market, reports UNB.

The hartal was announced at a big public meeting by district BNP president Asadul Habib Dulu who said the lease was awarded to ruling party's Ilyas Hossain without inviting tender. Dulu was holder of the lease.

Ilyas, the district Awami League president, has been mobilising his strength to foil the hartal and collect tolls from the market.

The confrontation between the two leaders has created tension in the area. Worried at the developments, the administration has deployed additional police to avert trouble.

Bhurungamari sub-station opens

Some 4,356 consumers of four remote thanas of Kurigram were given power connection on Sunday with the formal energisation of the Bhurungamari sub-station under Kurigram-Lalmonirhat Palli Biddut Samity (PBS), reports BSS.

Built at a cost of Taka one crore, the 33/11 KV Rural Electrification Board (REB) sub-station has started serving 4,356 consumers including 26 irrigation connections in Bhurungamari, Nageswari, Phulbari and Kurigram sadar thanas. State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir inaugurated the sub-station as the chief guest. Chairman of the REB Brig M A Malek and member (eng.) of REB M A Samad spoke on the occasion. Member (PBS) of the REB Mohammad Touhidul Islam was present.

Addressing on the occasion, Dr Alamgir said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the farsighted statesman who for the first time felt the necessity of reaching electricity to the remote villages of the country. The present government is pledge-bound to ensure electricity to 88,500 villages of the country.

He said 25,000 villages have already been covered by the rural electrification network. On an average six villages are coming under the REB network every day, while a 30-km distribution line is being built daily for the purpose.

REB chairman Brig M A Malek said 23 lakh consumers in 25,000 villages of the country are getting the Palli Biddut through 67 Palli Biddut Samities so far. The Board has built a total one lakh KM distribution line to serve its consumers.

Share scam

From page 1

not maintainable".

He also said that the proceedings of the court was "an abuse of the process of the court because the ingredients of offence charged as enumerated in Section 17 (e) (ii) and 17 (e) (v) of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969 are conspicuously absent as much as the petion of complaint based on enquiry report merely expressed the suspicion about scope of manipulation."

In her petition, Runa Alam of SES company said that the lower court illegally rejected the discharge applications as there was no *prima facie* case. She also said the judge did not apply "his judicial mind" while rejecting the discharge applications.

"Impugned criminal proceedings commenced by the complainant on the basis of report submitted by the committee whose report is admittedly based on incomplete information and data and in such a situation the framing of charge on the basis of incomplete and inadequate information and data is illegal and liable to be set aside," the petition pointed out.

MKM Mohiuddin in his petition said that the court charged him for committing offences as a director of the company during the July to December 1996 period although he was not a director of the company during the said period.

Agreement signed

Dhaka to get $0.25m aid for health sector

Bangladesh will receive 0.25 million US dollars (equivalent to Tk 13.15 million) technical assistance from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for strengthening communication on reproductive health in Bangladesh under a three-year programme beginning early 1999, reports BSS.

An agreement to this effect was signed yesterday by economic relations division secretary Dr A K M Mashiur Rahman and UNFPA representative Alain P Mouchiroud on behalf of their respective sides.

Mouchiroud said the Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) and UNFPA are the executing agencies of the project while VHSS will be the implementing agency.

Dr Mashiur Rahman said field personnel of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are the target group of the project which aims at strengthening the communication activities between service providers and service recipients through effective and appropriate materials for Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) to ensure a better health service delivery.

They said the project will mainly focus on the BCC activities on reproductive health to ensure quality of care in reproductive health services and to increase knowledge. This should result in change in reproductive health related practices and work positively on reproductive health care utilisation rate and nature.

Dhaka, Beijing pledge

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Hasina mentioned that she visited India and Pakistan after the two countries detonated nuclear devices and that the tension was defused.

The Chinese leader appreciated Bangladesh's role in this regard.

Li Peng noted that both the countries witnessed devastating floods at different times and said Chinese people admired the manner in which Bangladesh tackled natural disasters.

The Chinese leader expressed the belief that despite having different political and economic systems, the countries of the world can work together for peace and progress.

Sheikh Hasina said that in the present day world no country can live in isolation and pledged to work for peace, security and economic development. She also mentioned that after assuming office in 1996, she first visited China and recollected the fruitful discussions she had with Chinese leaders including Li Peng who was prime minister then.

Li Peng dwelt at length on the concept of human rights and its practice in different countries. The Chinese leader said, "The Western concept of human rights is different from ours (developing countries.) "

"Human rights in our context means economic development and economic emancipation for each individual."

Sheikh Hasina mentioned about Chinese cooperation and assistance to Bangladesh in different fields. She particularly referred to Chinese assistance in building bridges and for the planned NAM Conference Centre in Dhaka .

She also sought continued support and further cooperation in different fields. She mentioned the enormous damage caused to the country's infra-structure and the economy by last year's devastating floods and said their recovery will take at least two to three years more.

The Bangladesh premier mentioned the efforts being made by her government for poverty alleviation, expansion of micro-credit and improvement of the living condition of the people.

The Chinese side at the talks included Chairmen of some Parliamentary Committees. The Bangladesh side included Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary Shafi Sami, Press Secretary to PM Jawadul Karim, Principal Secretary to PM Dr S. A. Samad, and Director General of Far East Desk Dr M. A Samad.

Motijheel OC suspended

The Officer-in-Charge of Motijheel thana in the city has been suspended sources said, reports UNB.

The OC, Lutfar Rahman was suspended yesterday for violating service rules, sources added.

Another in coma

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tried to reach his address.

At home, Munmun thought Zahed was spending the night with his mother while at Bashabo his mother went to bed without the slightest idea about what had happened to her son.

Sub-inspector Mannan placed Zahed's unconscious body at the back of his van and drove to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where Zahed was admitted in Ward-30 as an unidentified patient. Mannan's job ended with taking the broken motorbike under the thana custody and filing a GD accusing 'a ghost driver' under Section 279/ 338(ka)/427 of the Penal Code.

Other patients in Ward-30 later told this correspondent that seeing blood-soaked Zahed groaning in pain, they raised money to buy a saline and an 'injection' for him as prescribed by a male nurse. None of the on-duty doctors could comment on the incident.

Next day, when Munmun went to her mother-in-law at Bashabo, the alarm was raised. The family immediately launched a search at police stations and hospitals throughout the city. At around 7 pm, nearly twenty hours after the incident, Zahed was found at the DMCH Ward-30 on a saline.

His dried blood-soaked clothes were glued to his skin and his relatives had to cut those to remove from his body.

During the vital twenty hours after the accident, none of the hospital staff cared to see him. Other patients at the Ward said Zahed's persistent groans made them call the nurse and enquire about him. They quoted the hospital authorities as saying, "Nothing can be done until his relatives arrive."

The accident broke all his ribs, shattered the collar bone and caused deep injuries in the head.

Two days later, DMCH authorities referred a comatose Zahed to the Neurology Department of the BSMMU. Doctors now say he has a fifty-fifty chance to survive.

Marketing-in-Charge of a company, Syed Hasan Zahed was loved by his neighbours, friends and particularly children in his neighbourhood.

Obituary

By Staff Correspondent

Mazidunnesa, mother of Additional Foreign Secretary Mahbub Alam, died of old age complications at a city clinic at the early hours yesterday. She was 72.

She had been suffering from paralysis.

She left behind her husband, four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death. Her body was laid for the eternal rest at Banani graveyard.

The *qulkhwani* of the deceased will be held on Thursday after *Asr* prayers at the deceased's residence at 66/5, Razabazar in the city.

NBL directors

From page 1

spondents to be represented by their lawyers.

Barrister Rafique-Ul-Huq appearing as defence lawyer also pleaded for staying the earlier rule which barred Mintoo to act as NBL director. The court is expected to begin hearing on the petition today.

The court on March 16, 1999 issued rule after a petition by a depositor, M Munshi. The other accused are present NBL chairman M Nurul Islam, managing director Rafiqul Islam Khan and director Abdul Awal Mintoo and, Bangladesh Bank executive director Ziaul Hassan Siddiqui and general manager Yeasin Ali.

The two central bank officers have been accused of helping Mintoo continue as a director and chairman of NBL. Mintoo, now FBCCI president, ended his term as NBL chairman recently.

In 1995, the central bank served notices on defaulting directors of different banks asking them to repay their overdue loans, failing which they would lose their directorship in the boards of the banks.

Twelve of them including Mintoo went to High Court to challenge the Bangladesh Bank order, but the court dismissed their petitions on July 1 1997. Eight of them excluding Mintoo appealed to the Supreme Court which also dismissed the cases.

In the latest case, petitioner pointed to these developments and accused Mintoo and others of violating the 1997 High court order which was later upheld by the Supreme Court.

"And the managing director and the chairman was a party to it without which Mintoo could not have violated and disobeyed the judgement. Therefore they are also liable for committing contempt of court making them liable for punishment," the petition said.

Li: ICC

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The prime minister said that the decision to host the NAM Summit in Dhaka was a testimony to recognition of Bangladesh's dynamic role in the Non-Aligned Movement and other international forums.

Referring to Bangladesh-China ties, she said, "This relationship is increasing day by day. China is one of our major partners in the development process."

Li Peng, who had been prime minister for nine years, appreciated Bangladesh's role in the strengthening the non-aligned movement and in global peace and security. The speech of the Chinese leader spoke in Chinese.

New KU treasurer appointed

The President has appointed Abdur Razzaque Sardar as the Honorary Treasurer of Khulna University (KU) for a two-year term, reports APB.

The President, who is also the Chancellor of the university made the appointment under the power vested in him by KU Act-1990.

Defer hartal

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Donors have recently met the Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia at her invitation and urged her not to call any more strikes. Later they also met with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as part of the diplomatic move.

The business community reiterated that they were deeply concerned at another hartal call for April 18 that is "most regrettable" while they have been pointing out deteriorating business conditions in the country.

"Hartals, we repeat, will only aggravate these problems and dislocate the economy worsening the sufferings of the people."

As far as the business community is concerned, the statement noted, another hartal will add to the problems of all business enterprises — big, small and medium — who are fighting for survival against the given odds.

Hot spell

From page 1

on power front was reported. Nor did the weathermen predict any relief within the next few days.

Power crisis turned serious in the city yesterday as supply of electricity fell further. The situation may worsen today, PDB sources said.

Rains on Friday and Saturday broke the four-month-long dry spell with nor'westers lashing most parts of the country, leaving at least 10 people dead and scores wounded. Hopes have now brightened for more shower.

But clouds did not translate into rains despite appearances on Sunday and yesterday in most places. A few places were fortunate to experience light shower.

The Met Office says there are chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally winds at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere. Day temperature may rise slightly across the country.

In its outlook for the next 48 hours beginning at 6 pm yesterday, the Met Office forecast improved weather but it might deteriorate keeping the following five days largely dry.

Haripur

From page 1

project without showing to the lenders that the land was under its possession as per the Land Lease Agreement.

In addition, AES argued, many of the 'consents' and 'permits' that were to be given by the government have been delayed much. 'Consents' have been delayed by 90 days for which AES can claim extension, the sources said .

However, AES gave a letter to the Power Cell a month back stating its intention to sign the Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract and start work.

AES was reported to be ready to issue Notice to Proceed to its EPC Contractor to start work on April 15, irrespective of completion of financial closing procedures. If work does not start immediately, the project will be delayed much by the monsoon, it said.

But the Power Cell sent a letter to AES last week warning of "punitive action" and encashment of bid bond if financial closing procedure is delayed, without acknowledging the causes for the delay.

"The project is likely to be delayed by few months even if the land dispute is settled because other unsettled issues have also affected the work," said a source.

Parvez

From page 1

gans started failing since Sunday."

A senior anaesthesiologist at ICU explained that Parvez had been seriously ill ever since he was sent from the neurosurgery ward. "We could do very little to save Parvez. All his vital organs failed to function but we provided him with all the support we could," the doctor said.

Hit in the head by a sharp-edged brick hurled by pickets on the opposition-called hartal day, young Parvez, an apprentice in a motor garage at Saidabad in the city and not a political activist, lay unconscious in the inhospitable environment of DMCH ever since his admission there.

Almost tied to his bed, his mother Rokeya Begum waited in vigil for her son to wake up. But he never did.

She repeatedly requested the doctors to take 'good' care of her son but later complained that the doctors had never even talked to her decently.

During two lengthy operations the doctors removed 'foreign particles' from Parvez's grievously injured head but some clots still obstructed blood flow to the vitally important brain cells.

A modern technology — CT scan imaging — revealed that Parvez suffered blood clots and edema (water in between the brain cells) in the front portion of the head that houses the vital brain cells. "Some cells may have already died due to lack of oxygen supply and the process continued which could be one of the major reasons for Parvez's death," a neurosurgeon said.