Rafique-ul-Huq

From page 1

pointed out that Barrister Hug

was a legal adviser to AB Bank.

making it a clear case of con-

Bank notice served on four of

its directors - Salman F Rah-

man, Sohel F Rahman, MA

Quashem and Iqbal Ahmed of

Beximco Group. The Bank had

told them to repay their overdue loans or else they would lose

their seats on the Board. The AB

Bank had acted according to in-

structions from the central

role, and requested him not to

appear against the bank in this

case. The legal counsel refused

to listen to the plea. Instead, he

chided the MD for issuing the

notices violating his advice not

that you are appearing as the

senior counsel in a writ petition

filed by Messrs A S F Rahman,

Salman F Rahman, Iqbal

Ahmed and M A Quashem chal-

lenging the legality of our no-

tices to them under Section 17 of the Bank Company Act," AB

Bank managing director A

Rahim Chowdhury said in a let-

ter to Huq on February 15 last

lawyer since inception. You

were our director till Bangla-

desh Bank made laws baring

legal adviser to be a director. It

is very natural that you will

represent us in any legal

proceeding including defending

any notice under Section 17 lof

the bank Companies Act) as

issued by us. We are very much

perturbed by the information.

We request you to please refrain

from appearing against us in

the said writ petition chal-

with divulging certain informa-

tion to which he had had access

as the legal counsel to the bank.

"We also understand that the

petitioners may have annexed a

letter dated 4.2.98 of Bangla-

desh Bank addressed to us

which was not copied to anyone

else. We gave you a copy of this

letter to you as our retained

legal adviser, and it forms part

of our legal professional com-

munication with you. We trust

and expect that the copy so an-

nexed was not obtained from

In a stunning rebuttal of the

AB Bank CEO's letter. Barrister

Huq even scolded the MD for

appointing a lawyer to defend

But he defended his own ac-

tion. "I can definitely defend

the Directors of the (AB) Bank,

who are shareholders and

sponsors of the Bank and own

ministry gave clear guidelines

about appointments of legal

counsels by banks after

"noticing that lawyers ap-

pointed by certain banks and

financial institutions were de-

On June 25 1996, the then

fending the defaulters of those

Banking Division at the fi-

nance ministry asked the

banks "to cancel the appoint-

ments of such lawyers immedi-

ately and to notify the

Bangladesh Bar Council and the

ministry of such develop-

ministry notification and

found no basis for such instruc-

tions when the Bank drew his

no jurisdiction to give any in-

struction about appointment or

terms and conditions of legal

adviser in a private bank. The

Board of Directors of the respec-

tive banks know their respon-

sibility and that they shall do

the needful," Huq said in a let-

ter to the AB Bank secretary on

that a retained lawyer or a

panel of lawyers of bank cannot

appear against that Bank or in

any case where that Bank's in-

terest is involved. Please note

that Ministry of Finance has no

power under any law to give any

such direction/instruction," he

"This is a basic principle

Barrister Huq ignored the

"The ministry of finance has

banks in the courts."

Three years ago, the finance

the bank.

the Bank.'

ments.

attention to it.

August 10 1996.

The MD also charged Huq

lenging our notice.

"You have been our retained

"We are surprised to learn

AB Bank protested Hug's

flict of interest.

bank.

to do so.

The defence lawyers had also

Huq was challenging an AB

President, PM greet Assad

President Justice Sahabuddin Ahmed has felicitated President Hafez Al-Assad of Syria on the occasion of its National Day, reports UNB.

In a message yesterday, the President hoped that the existing bonds of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries would be further developed and strengthened in the days to

President Shahabuddin wished good health, well-being and long life of President Assac and continued peace and

progress of the Syrian people. In a separate message to President Assad, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed his confidence that the excellent friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries would be further consolidated in the years ahead.

She also wished good health, happiness and long life of the Syrian President and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Syria.

AL leader assaulted in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, Apr 16: Unidentified armed men beat up a local leader of ruling Awami League at the party's district unit office this morning, reports UNB.

Sources said a group of about-seven youths attacked Syed Kabirul Alam Mao, convenor of district Krishak league, with hockey sticks and sharp weapons when he came to the party office on thana road to aftend an extended meeting of Krishak League.

He was admitted to the general Hospital with multiple injury. Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf, DC and SP visited him at the hospital.

A case was filed with the local police against seven people. including Bipul Ghosh, a former leader of Awami League and Krishok League.

Human chain in protest against bomb blast in Jessore

JHALAKATI, Apr 16: People from different walks of life put up a human chain in front of local press club on Wednesday in protest against the recent fatal bomb blast in Jessore at the national conference of Udichi. which took a toll of over a dozen lives, reports APB.

Members of different sociocultural organisations, teachers, journalists and other professionals took part in the demonstration organised by the local unit of Udichi.

Speaking on the occasion, local leaders of Udichi and other organisations urged the cultural activists to remain united and guard against communalism.

Former vice-president of local Shilpakala Academy Monwar Hossain Khan and vicepresident of Udichi's local unit Bimal Kumar Shaha, among others, addressed the rally that preceded the long human chain.

WARBE's resolution

By Staff Correspondent Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees (WARBE) has demanded transparency in the account of the Wage Earners' Welfare Fund, says a press release. WARBE, an apex body of

repatriated foreign wage earners in a resolution on the occasion of 'Pahela Baishakh' said that over the last two decades some 25 lakh Bangladeshi migrant workers sent remittance worth Tk 60,000 crore. While celebrating the Ben-

gali new year at city's Suhrawardy Uddyan, members of WARBE demanded of the government to make public the account of projects implemented by the Wage Earners' Welfare

Other demands of WARBE included ensuring rights of migrant workers, lifting the ban on foreign employment for women, and providing returnees with 'Green Channel' facilities at the airport.

Syed Saiful Haq Asif, vice chairman of WARBE, read out the resolution while its chairman SM Morshed and secretary general AR Khan also spoke.

Death anniversary

The 3rd death anniversary of Quazi Nuruzzaman, 1st VP of Saadat University College, Koratia, Tangail; Audit & Accounts Officer of Commercial Audit Department and also exmember of Dhaka Bar Council will be observed tomorrow. Doa will be held at Baitul

Aman Jame Mosque, Motijheel after Asr prayers. Relatives and well-wishers

are requested to attend and pray for the salvation of the departed

Oulkhwani

Ms. Kanij Fatema Kamal (Lucy), the eldest daughter of SM Kamaluddin, died of cancer in a hospital of New York on April 11 at 10:50 pm of Bangladesh time. She was buried at Azimpur graveyard on April 15, says a press release.

Late Kanij Kamal Lucy was a 3rd year student of Sir Salimullah Medical College and as an active member of Sandhani, she used to take part in various social activities. As a student of Viqarunnisa Noon School & College she did brilliant result in her SSC and HSC examinations.

Her qulkhwani will be held on April 19 at her parent's residence in Kamal Building 357/A/8/1 Modhubag, Mogbazar after Asr prayers,

Friends, relatives and wellwishers are requested to attend.

Probe into Air Parabat crash incident demanded

By DU Correspondent Eminent personalities yesterday demanded proper investigation into the crash of Air Parabat in which Fareea Lara and her co-pilot Rafiqul Islam Suman died on September 27

They also demanded immediate release of the report of the probe body formed to investigate into the crash incident.

They were speaking the inauguration of "Fareea Lara Foundation" at the National Museum auditorium. Renowned Poet Sufia Kamal opened the plaque of the foundation. The speakers expressed their

resentment over the statement of some persons who believe that women are incapable of any challenging profession like a pilot.

They alleged that people of our country were still trying to confine the women within houses.

Yesterday was the 29th birth anniversary of Fareea Lara. The day was observed with holding various programmes. including discussions, painting competition and placing of floral wreaths at the grave of Lara.

The painting competition was held at the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University at 9 am. Some 227 children took part at the competition in three separate groups.

A discussion meeting on "the crash of Cessna-150 in the eyes of Civil Society" was held at the National Museum auditorium in the afternoon.

Lecturer of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University, Rubaiyet Ferdaos submitted the key-note paper while editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, captain A Mozaffar and Sultan Hossain Belal took part at the discussion.

Another discussion was also arranged at the same venue marking the opening of memorial series of Fareea Lara with Prof Syed Modasser Ali in the chair.

Among others, poet Asad Chowdhury, Artist Hashem Khan, editor of Dainik Prothom Alo Motiur Rahman and Prof Mustafa Noor-Ul-Islam were the discussants.

Earlier in the morning, wreaths were placed at the grave of Lara at the martyrs intellectual graveyard at Mirpur.

Farid Hossain new chief of AP Dhaka Bureau

Farid Hossain, correspondent of The Associated Press (AP), has succeeded Hasan Saeed as the chief of Dhaka Bureau of the AP, one of the world's largest news agencies. reports UNB.

Farid Hossain, who began his journalism career with now-defunct Eastern News Agency in 1976, joined the Dhaka Bureau of AP in 1986. He also worked as Chief of Correspondent of United News of Bangladesh (UNB), the country's first computerized independent news agency.

Hasan Saeed retired from the AP this month after working more than 25 years for the international wire service.

Hartal

From page 1

first since the February 23-25 municipal polls that took place amid a 66-hour hartal, called by the opposition parties which boycotted it. BNP sources said the opposi-

tion parties have already chalked out the next action programme which will be announced on Sunday.

The Liaison Committee of the alliance, which is scheduled sit at 8 pm today at 29 Minto Road, will finalise the programme, BNP leader Anwar Zahid said

Other party sources said, senior BNP leaders including Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, M Shamsul Islam, Anwar Zahid and Sadek Hossain Khoka discussed the programme with party Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia at her Minto Road office yesterday evening.

Meanwhile. Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia in a statement yesterday called upon the people to make tomorrow's hartal a complete success.

"This hartal has been called to compel the government to ensure regular supply of water, gas and electricity, reduce prices of essentials and to stop terrorism, corruption, killing and extortion," she said. Begum Zia said the country

is facing a serious crisis due to "failures, incompetence and misrule" of the Awami League government.

Low income groups like workers and farmers are in a miserable condition due to limitless price hike of essentials and agri-inputs, she said. Deterioration of law and order, murder, extortion, repression on women and children, rape, snatching, dacoity and other criminal activities have made life of people insecure, she said.

"There is no alternative to launching a vigorous movement against the government to get rid from this suffocating situation" she said

In separate statement, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan asked party leaders and activists to bring out torch processions in all cities, district towns, pourashabas and thanas in support of tomorrow's hartal.

A BNP press release said last night that hospital, ambulance, medicine shop, fire brigade, vehicles of newspapers and emer-gency services like water, power and gas, police and other law enforcers will remain out of the purview of the hartal.



Left Democratic Front brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding of the government to solve the water and power crises immediately. -Star photo



Demra and Shyampur thana unit of BNP demonstrating in the city yesterday in protest against the shortage of water and power supply and terrorism.

China looks into clues of Korean Air cargo jet crash

SHANGHAI, Apr 16: Investigators searched demolished shanty housing and a debrisstrewn industrial park Friday for clues in the crash of a Korean Air cargo jet as the official death toll rose to nine, reports

Two people injured on the ground in Thursday's crash died at hospitals Friday, said Wan Mingming, a spokeswoman for the Shanghai city government. She said 33 others were injured. six seriously.

The dead included the threemember Korean crew of the

Two minutes after leaving Shanghai's busy Honggiao airport, the plane climbed to 1,000 meters (3,300 feet) and in its last communication with the control tower was told to bank left and rise to 1.500 meters (5,000 feet), the South Korean Ministry of Construction and Transportation said.

In its final seconds, the Mc-Donnell Douglas MD-11 just missed a seven-story housing block and then slammed into a construction site and its makeshift housing for migrant workers 10 kilometers (6 miles)

south of the airport. The impact left a crater 20 meters (65 feet) long and nearly 8 meters (26 feet) deep, the Shanghai News

One engine turbine and the plane's tail section lay on a nearby street, which like others in the neighbourhood of apartments, building sites and farm fields was covered with bits of metal, paper and fabric. Windows were shattered 200 meters (yards) away. Some had fistsized holes in them from flying.

Witnesses saw the plane making a slow, loud descent but said there were no visible signs

"There was no fire or explosion. It came down" gradually, said a construction foreman, who only gave is surname.

Investigators from China's Civil Aviation Administration were still searching for the plane's flight data recorders. according to Wan, the city spokeswoman.

The cockpit is buried in mud and must be dug out before the recorders or the bodies of the crew can be recovered. Shanghai television reported, citing city construction officials. Specialists from Korean Air

and US aircraft maker Boeing.

which owns McDonnell Douglas, arrived Friday to take part in the investigation. The 7-year-old cargo plane was headed for the South Korean capital of Seoul, carrying 68 tons of mushrooms, machine

parts and other cargo, Korean Air executives said. Korean Air, South Korea's premier commercial airline. suggested terrorism may have been involved. At a news conference in Seoul late Thursday, Korean Air vice president Shim E-tack called it a "high possibil ity" that explosives destroyed

the plane. Korean Air has been the target of a previous terrorist attack by agents under orders from South Korea's communist rival. North Korea.

In 1987, a man and a woman planted a bomb on board a Korean Air Boeing 707 that then exploded over the Andaman Sea, killing all 115 people on board. The woman, captured alive, confessed to being a North Korean spy.

Need for self-flourishment of professionals stressed

Dhaka University Proctor Prof Nur-un-Nabi Chowdhury yesterday emphasised the need for self-flourishment of professionals to change the whole landscape of social net to achieve sustainable development, reports BSS.

Dr Nabi Chowdhury was delivering his lecture on "Selfflourishing is the Precondition to Ensure Accountability and Meet Commitment" at the 22nd Council Lecture Session marking the National Conference '99 of the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDE,B) on its premise here.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury presided over the session which was also addressed by IDE,B General Secretary AKM Abdul Hamid.

Calling aspiration of a professional as the basic instinct. Prof Nabi Chowdhury said it has an enormous positive impact on the self-flourish of a human being to help change the gear of the wheel of develop-

He said the aspiration of a professional should be seen in a positive way and there should be a healthy competition among the professionals to raise their quality, expand the horizon of their knowledge and capacity of making judgement and taking decisions.

He said there should be a social pressure to ensure accountability and raise the level of commitment among the professionals to help advance the nation along the highway of development.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury called upon the diploma engineers to improve the lot of the commonman by ensuring a better delivery of services.

He said diploma engineers can play a vital role in creating a congenial social environ-

IDE,B General Secretary Abdul Hamid underscored the need for empowering the professionals to achieve growth.

What's on today

Award ceremony: The award giving ceremony of the 'War of Liberation' competition will be held. Teenage Awareness Group has organised the competition in cooperation with The Daily Star, Venue : Liberation War Museum. Time : 4

Later, another programme to transfer the copyright of a video cassette will be held at the same venue of 6:30 pm. The video programme titled 'Muktijuddher Gaan, directed by Shahriar Kabir, is a production of Impress Telefilm. The cassette will be available at the Liberation War Museum

Loko Natyadal award ceremony: Loko Natyadal will hand over the Natyakarmi Padak '98 to three drama

personalities - Sara Zaker, Suborna Mustafa and Shimul Yusuf. A reception ceremony and discussion will be held on the occasion. A drama will also be staged. Chief guest: Poet Shamsur Rahman. Venue: Mahila Samity auditorium. Time: 6:30 pm. Inaugural ceremony: The inaugural ceremony of the

SAARC Diploma Engineers Forum Head Office will be held. Chief guest: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. Special guest: State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir. Venue: IDEB premises. Time: 5:00 pm. Strategic planning meet: The coordinating council for Human Rights in Bangladesh will hold the meeting. Venue:

Gano Unnayan Granthagar auditorium. Time: 9:30 am.

JP council session: Jatiya Party will hold its central council session. Party chairman H M Ershad will preside. Venue: The Institution of Engineers. Time: 10 am

Healthcare facilities

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Some of the respondents also said that they were dissatisfied over the type of facilities available at the health centres. Nearly all service buyers are asked to purchase medicines from private pharmacies.

The survey report said, 34 per cent of the households interviewed said they found the services bad. 63 pc said there were lack of medicines. 21 pc said there were shortage of doctors, nurses and specialists, 18 pc said the health workers did not behave decently, 11 pc said they had to make extra payments to obtain services, eight pc said there were no doctors available and eight pc reported shortage of beds.

The households also gave suggestions for what improvements they would like to see in government healthcare facili-

Of the total family units interviewed, 35 pc suggested better service, 64 pc quality medicines. 24 pc proper equipment. 20 pc fixed price of drugs, 14 pc decent behavior of hospital staff and 11 pc suggested more arranging beds.

The report noted that not all the suggested improvements would necessarily be expensive to implement. Some would require provision for more facilities. Others are more to do with better management and staff training.

"Still a great many women population particularly in the rural areas had little or no knowledge of services provided by government health facilities," it said.

A UN official working in Bangladesh, on condition of anonymity, said "In the past 25 years or so, resources have been wasted ignoring the needs of the poor and the most vulnerable. This is clearly an example of lack of good governance and commitment. For far too long, the country is in a system that lacks transparency and accountability. When the bill to clean up the financial disasters caused due to years of corruption is presented, the poor have to pay the price through cuts in spending on health."

Gold worth Tk 17 lakh seized at ZIA

The Customs Surveillance team at Zia International Airport has seized gold and gold ornaments worth about Tk 17 lakh from two Dhaka-bound Pakistani passengers in the early hours yesterday, reports

Customs sources said, they intercepted two Pakistani citizens. Chowdhury Naosab Hossain and Mohammad Sabbir Alam who arrived at the airport from Singapore by a Biman Bangladesh Airliner last night. The Surveillance team

istani passengers to the arrival lounge and searched their bod-Sabbir Alam confessed that he had 688 grams of gold ornaments worth Taka six lakh with him but Naosab Hossain

members took the two Pak-

denied having any gold with Later, the Customs officials checked him through the metal dictator and found 13 gold bars weighing 130 grams in his pos-

Two departmental cases were registered with the Customs Department

session.

had decided to support Vajpayee government. Singh expressed the confidence that the BJP-led government would be voted out tomorrow and "all the fears voiced regarding success of the effort of the opposition are misplaced

From page 1

and misconceived. AP adds: Sonia Gandhi emerged today as the likely candidate to replace Vajpayee if the government loses a confi dence motion.

Jayalalitha reportedly agreed at a crucial meeting Thursday that Sonia would lead the next government. Parliament concludes its

three-day debate on the confidence motion tomorrow, and the result was still in doubt. If Vajpayee loses, he must resign, If no party can assemble a new coalition, India will go to the polls for the third time in four years. Jayalalitha met for 75 min

utes Thursday with Sonia. leader of the Congress Party, to discuss the broad framework of an alternative government. The Indian Express newspa-

per reported Jayalalitha agreed to a new Congress-led government with Sonia as the only prime ministerial nominee.

CDP urges nat'l consensus on curbing terrorism By DU Correspondent Centre for Democracy Practice (CDP) yesterday called for a national consensus on the is-

sues like stopping hartals and curbing terrorism. The CDP call came from a rally at the Paltan Maidan yesterday. Later, they brought out a silent procession which ended

at the Central Shaheed Minar. At a gathering at the Shaheed Minar, the CDP leaders said that they would launch a massive movement along with other democratic forces if a national consensus was not

reached within three mont Earlier, speakers at the . altan Maidan rally stressed that the two major political parties must pursue fair and people-

oriented politics. Emphasising an understanding between the ruling Awami League and the main opposition BNP, the CDP leaders said a democratic polity would not develop if there is no tolerance and mutual co-operation among the political par-

Urging the political parties not to call hartal, CDP convenor Mahbubur Rab Sadi said hartals obstruct economic progress and discourage foreign investors.

Among others, Sheikh Md Akhtarul Islam, Nazmul Islam, Abul Hossain and Khandaker

Md Jashim addressed the rally.

"Hartal may be a democratic right, but nobody has the right to create panic and terror or damage national property in the name of hartal," he said. Sahidullah, Shafiuddin Molla, Humayun Kabir Bachchu, Jainal Abedin, Sheikh

New Year celebrations mark final collapse of Khmer Rouge movement

PHNOM PENH. Apr 16: Cambodians concluded their first Buddhist New Year celebrations at peace in three decades Friday, a milestone underscoring the final collapse of the murderous Khmer Rouge revolutionary movement, re-

ports AP. Citizens of Phnom Penh confidently walked through the capital's streets with a relaxed air, a stark contrast to the terror April 17, 1975 - nearly 24 years ago to the day - when the Khmer Rouge captured the capital and forced the country into a genocidal nightmare.

"This year, the celebrations are more important. We have peace," said Tunch Pot Theang, 38. a hired-car driver enjoying a concert with his family. Tunch Pot Theang was 14 when the Khmer Rouge Army, victors of a five-year civil war

against a US-backed regime, en-

tered Phnom Penh. They blew

up banks and forced every man,

woman and child - including hospital patients - onto the They were herded into rural slave labour camps, where the

Maoist-inspired revolutionar-

Registration of

pvt schools

mandatory

yesterday said registration of

all private schools, including

the English medium ones, is

"According to government

rules, registration of all private

schools in the country is com-

pulsory," an official handout

said yesterday pointing out that

many private English medium

schools were functioning with-

out any government registra-

The handout cautioned that

such academic activities with-

out prior registration is 'con-

trary to the laws of the land and

vised the administrators of the

unregistered academic institu-

tions to obtain registrations

from the concerned authorities.

The Education Ministry ad-

a punishable offence.

mandatory, reports BSS.

The Education Ministry

ies hoped to create a radical communist utopia. As many as 2 million Cambodians died from overwork, disease, starvation and systematic executions.

"I left with 21 relatives. Only four came back." Tunch Pot Theang said. "I lived through this horrible period. But now we are moving away from it."

The regime was toppled by a Vietnamese invasion in 1979, but guerillas fought from the jungles for years, even after Vietnam's decade-long occupation ended. The group began to collapse

in 1996 with mass defections. Longtime leader Pol Pot was purged in 1997 and died under house arrest by his former comrades last year. The last hardline leader. Ta Mok, was captured in March. In recent decades, the New

Year period was marked by dry-

season offensive against the

Khmer Rouge. But in his New

Year message this week, Prime

Minister Hun Sen was able to

note that the country has

achieved complete peace for the

formed

Tens of thousands of people

first time in a generation.

this week left the capital to celebrate in traditional ways visiting relatives in the provinces, sunning at the beach, touring the fabled Angkor monuments. An unheard-of three-hour traffic jam trapped city

dwellers leaving town for the holidays Tuesday. In the two major destinations. Sihanoukville, a southern seaside resort, and Siem Reap, the town near the Angkor temples, hotels and guest

houses could not accommodate all the visitors. In Phnom Penh, thousands enjoyed concerts, plays and games organized by a national committee. Youngsters danced the nights away and enthusiastically sprayed baby powder

and water at each other. "This is the first time I come out to enjoy New Year," said Niet Orn, 52. "Before, I was worried about safety."

"Only today I can be happy again," she said. "I lived in the Khmer Rouge regime and during the war and instability that followed. Only this year I can feel serene and peaceful."

BCU Rokeya Hall unit of DU A 19-member committee of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCŬ), Rokeya Hall unit of Dhaka University, was formed yesterday with Geeta Odhikari as president and Shoma Dutta ·as general secretary, reports

Dhaka University campus at

A discussion was held on the occasion where Communist Party leader Hena Das, Drama personality Mamunur Rashid and BCU president Hasan Hafizur Rahman Sohel ad-

The committee was formed after holding the hall conference and fresher reception of BCU at the hall premises. Earlier, a colourfull procession was brought out on the

dressed. Later, a cultural programme was held in the evening.



A procession of Centre for Democracy Practice in the city yesterday called for a national consensus on curbing terrorism. -Star photo