

Kim lashes out at Korean Air over plane crash

SEOUL, Apr 20: Sparing the airline was giving the nation a bad name, President Kim Dae-jung on Tuesday urged "fundamental" changes in the management of accident-prone Korean Air, reports AP.

"Korean Air must have professional managers," Kim told a cabinet meeting. "The issue of Korean Air is not a matter of an individual company but a matter of the whole country. Our country's credibility is at stake."

The president's comments came five days after a Korean Air cargo jet crashed shortly after takeoff from Shanghai's Hongqiao airport Thursday, killing its three crewmen and six people on the ground.

It was the latest in a series of accidents that have given Korean Air one of the worst safety records in commercial aviation. More than 700 people have died in Korean Air accidents in the past 20 years, including 228 in the 1997 crash of a Boeing 747 on Guam.

After the Shanghai crash, Delta Air Lines dropped its code-sharing flight partnership with Korean Air, saying that it would not do business with any carrier it did not believe to be safe. Air Canada followed suit.

Kim blamed Korean Air's

safety problems on a family-run management that put rapid expansion and profits ahead of safety.

Korean Air is a private company. But through tax audits and its control of most banks, the government can wield enormous influence on management of private businesses.

"Korea Air is a typical case of management gone wrong with family members in its top managerial posts," Kim said.

"These accidents happen because Korean Air never tried enough to secure good pilots and technicians but instead devoted all its energy to expanding flight routes and making more money."

Besides the pressure to change its management, Korean Air could face other penalties, said officials at the Ministry of Construction and Transportation.

"From the very high echelons of the government, some serious consultations are taking place," said Lee Woo-chung, a ministry official in charge of aircraft safety supervision.

Lee said a major problem involving Korean Air is its heavy dependence on retired military pilots to fill the cockpits.

That creates a "command-and-compliance environment

that hampers open discussion and abilities to deal with emergencies," he said.

"This, in part, is rooted in a culture in which juniors are forced to defer to their seniors," Lee said.

Korean Air, formerly Korean Airlines, was founded 30 years ago by Cho Joong-hoon, 79, with eight planes flying local routes. The airline has since grown into the world's 13th largest carrier.

Cho's 50-year-old son, Cho Yang-ho, took over Korean Air in 1992.

The younger Cho's three brothers each head the airline's subsidiaries. Korean Air has been plagued by disasters since 1983 when one of its Boeing 747s from New York to Seoul was shot down after straying into Soviet air space. All 269 people on board were killed.

In 1987, a bomb planted by North Korean agents exploded on a Korean Air Boeing 707 near Burma, killing all 115 people on board.

After a series of accidents last year, the government ordered the carrier to cut back domestic flights by 15 per cent for six months. The restriction is to end April 25.

Journalists meet Begum Zia

Leaders of the three unions of journalists called on Begum Zia at her 29 Minto Road official residence yesterday evening, reports UNB.

The leaders of BFUJ, DUJ and National Press Club discussed with Begum Zia about the freedom of newspaper and problem of journalists and newspapers.

Reazuddin Ahmed, Amanullah Kabir, Khondoker Monirul Alam, Zahurul Huq, Abdul Baten, Ruhul Amin Gazi and Abdul Aziz were among others who met her.

Meanwhile, Niaz Ahmed, brother-in-law of Sazal Chowdhury, recently released from jail called on Begum Khaleda Zia.

Sazal Chowdhury, a city JCD leader, was shot dead in the capital during a hartal in last February.

BNP chief visits injured lawyer

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia visited an injured leader of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum at a city hospital yesterday evening, reports UNB.

She passed some times beside the lawyer, Sakatullah Khan Anu, and inquired about his treatment.

Anu was injured by police action during Sunday's countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal, the party sources said.

Barrister Nazmul Huda, Advocate Saidur Rahman and Joyntal Abedin accompanied Begum Zia during the visit.

Nirmul Committee executives named

By DU Correspondent

A 28-member new central executive committee of Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee (GDNOC) was announced yesterday with Poet Shamsur Rahman and Kazi Mukul as president and general secretary respectively.

It was announced by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury at the concluding ceremony of its two day-long Fifth National Council, held at the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) auditorium of Dhaka University.

A discussion meeting was also held on the 35 district reports of GDNOC, submitted by the representatives from different districts.

The GDNOC reports said that presently the organisation has been boosted up a notch.

Discussions at the programme pointed out that a good number of *rajakars* have somehow managed to forge certificates of freedom fighters with this label, these anti-liberation people are creating anarchy in the society.

They also urged the pro-liberation forces to be united to root out the religious fanatics from the country.

Salma Haq presided over the programme while, among others, Shahriar Kabir, Shamim Akhter, Kazi Mukul, Hasan Arif, Sadikur Rahman Parag discussed the reports.

The programme was followed by a cultural function in the evening. Noted cultural personalities, singers, and organisations took part in the programme.

The other members of the GDNOC committee are — Shahriar Kabir, Prof Muntasir Mamun, Dr Anwara Syed Haq, Shamoly Nasrin Chowdhury and Shamsul Arefeen (Vice President), Sadikur Rahman Parag (Convener), Salma Haq (Finance Secretary), Julfikar Ali Manik (Information and Research Secretary), Fathur Rahman (Publication Secretary), Amal Das (Publicity Secretary) and Artist Hashem Khan, Architect Rabiul Husain, Rafiq-Un-Nabi, Prof Mahfuza Khanam, Advocate Sultana Kamal, Abul Barak Alvee, Shamim Akhter, Arma Goon, Sherin Banu Mital, Hasan Arif, Sherin Mostofa, Zahid Newaj Jewel, Advocate Mijanur Rahman, Mehedi Hasan, Ajjal Hossain and Khaled Khan (member).

150,000 die annually 50pc of cancer cases result of smoking

At least 1,50,000 people die of cancer annually in Bangladesh with two lakh new cases every year, reports BSS.

This was informed at a meeting of the National Council for Cancer Control (NCCC) held yesterday at the conference room of the Health Ministry with Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf in the chair.

The meeting emphasised the need for prevention and early detection of cancer and suggested creation of public awareness against smoking.

The meeting was informed that 50 per cent of all cancer cases occur due to smoking.

The meeting reconstituted the NCCC comprising 36 members with the health minister as its chairman.

Health secretary M M Reza, Vice-president of NCCC Prof Syed Fazlul Haq, member of the council and former cabinet secretary M Mahub-uz-Zaman, Director General of Health Services Prof AKM Nurul Anwar and concerned officials were present.

5-day workshop on CRP begins

A five-day workshop on Contract Research Projects (CRP) began yesterday at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) for research of agricultural scientists.

Contract research programme of BARC is a mechanism for awarding grants to conduct specific research by the scientists of different agricultural research institutes on projects which are identified by BARC as urgently needed to support to national development goals, said a press release yesterday.

The CRP focuses efforts on areas of immediate concern to seek ways of increasing agricultural productivity in Bangladesh.

A total of 138 contract research projects will be reviewed during the deliberations, the release added.

A total of five hundred agricultural scientists, principal investigators of the projects and experts from different agricultural research institutes, non-government organisations (NGO), universities and extension agencies like DAE, DLS, DOF, BSFIC and local World Bank representative are also taking part in the workshop.

Executive Chairman of BARC Dr Zahurul Karim inaugurated the workshop.

Israeli occupation of Lebanese village Monitors fail to settle dispute

TYRE, Lebanon, Apr 20: A group of international monitors failed to agree Tuesday on whether Israel's occupation of a Lebanese village last week constituted a violation of a 1996 ceasefire agreement, a statement said, reports AP.

The five-nation panel of military experts said the group "noted the serious concerns" surrounding the Israeli action, but called on Lebanon and Israel to seek a solution through bilateral channels.

Israel's soldiers and allied militiamen seized control of Arnoun on Thursday, setting up a barbed-wire fence and effectively annexing the village to an Israeli-occupied border enclave in southern Lebanon.

Israel said the measures, which followed two guerrilla bombings near Arnoun in which one Israeli soldier was killed, were aimed at thwarting the storage of guerrilla arms and ammunition in the village.

Lebanon complained to the monitoring committee, which includes representatives of the United States, France, Israel, Syria and Lebanon, and demanded that Israel immediately relinquish the village.

The committee was created as part of a US-brokered ceasefire in April 1996 after a 16-day

Rival clash 2 killed, 20 hurt in Pabna

PABNA, Apr 20: Two persons were killed and 20 others, including two police constables, injured in a clash between rival groups of villagers of Thanapara and Khagbari villages here this morning, reports AP.

The clash ensued when one Asadul Haq, 20, of Thanapara village stabbed Osman Goni, 22, of Khagbari village following a dispute over watching a cultural function at Faridpur thana on Monday night.

The deceased were identified as Abdur Rashid, 25, son of Rajab Ali and Hossain Ali, 31, son of Omar Ali of Khagbari village.

They succumbed to their injuries at Pabna General Hospital (PGH).

Both the groups used lethal weapons during the three-hour clash. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Three critically injured — Abdus Sattar, 35, Yabub Ali, 55 and Chand Ali, 25, were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Obituary

By Staff Correspondent

Begum Fajilatunnesa, the founder of Gajarja Foundation and mother of Awami League's Joint Publicity and Publication Secretary Nurul Faisal Bulbul, died at the Renal Centre in the city on Monday. She was 65.

The *Qulqhwani* of late Fajilatunnesa will be held on April 23 at 22/1, KM Das Lane, Tikatuli. Relatives and well wishers of the deceased have been requested to attend the programme.

Meanwhile, LGED Minister and AL general secretary Zillur Rahman condoled the death of Fajilatunnesa and expressed deep sorrow.

16.5 cr poultry, dairy vaccines produced till Mar

Some 16.5 crore poultry and dairy vaccines were produced in Mohakhali and Comilla vaccine centres till March of the current fiscal, reports UNB.

Of the vaccines, about 15 crore were distributed during the period, a workshop was told yesterday.

A total of 13 types of vaccines are produced in the two centres to check different poultry and dairy diseases.

This was disclosed at a workshop on "Review of poultry vaccines and artificial reproduction programme in Bangladesh," Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute and BRAC jointly organised the workshop at LGED Bhaban.

The workshop pointed out the weaknesses of the programme and put forward recommendations to remove those.

Speaking on the occasion, Fisheries and Livestock Minister ASM Abdur Rab called for making the people familiar with the know-how of modern poultry and dairy farming procedures.

He said preventive medicines and vaccines, and modern techniques should timely be reached to the poultry and dairy farmers.

Earth Day '99 tomorrow

Earth Day 1999 will be observed in the country tomorrow in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Marking the day, Forum of Environment Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) will bring out a rally from in front of the National Press Club at 8.30 am on the day.

FEJB will also organise a discussion session on the theme of the day "Conserve the Nature, Save Our Earth" at 9.30 am at the National Press Club VIP Lounge.

Environment and Forest Secretary Syed Marghub Mureshed will be the chief guest at the discussion while FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury will chair the session.

Bangladeshi team meets Russian lawmakers

Visiting Parliamentary delegation from Bangladesh led by Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury called on first Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Gustav Anatolovich at the Prime Minister's office in Moscow on Monday, a release of Jatiya Sangsad said yesterday, reports BSS.

The visiting delegation also met Duma's (Russian Parliament) Chief of the International Affairs Committee M P Lukin.

Chief whip of Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasanat Abdullah and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister George Karasin and other officials were present.

During the meetings, they stressed the need for enhancing bilateral exchange between the Jatiya Sangsad of Bangladesh and the Duma.

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'Sovereignty of country at stake'

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal organised an open discussion on "Endangered Humanity, Destroyed Nativeland" at Engineers' Institute in city yesterday.

Speakers said the independence and sovereignty of the country is now at stake due to subservient policy of the present government. They said now, human rights are being violated frequently, democracy is in exile and economy of the country is on the verge of ruin.

They said resignation of the "incompetent, failure and corrupt" government and mid-term national elections are the only way to protect the country and its people from destruction.

Reception accorded to CPC team

The visiting delegation from Calcutta Press Club (CPC) was accorded a reception on Monday by M H Chowdhury, former chief executive of the Sangbad Ltd, at a local hotel in the city, reports BSS.

Co-host of the reception Sarwar Hassan Chowdhury, journalist of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), welcomed the visiting journalists at Hotel Swiss Garden in Mahubul Plaza at Topkhana road here.

Members of the delegation led by President of CPC Sunil Das expressed hope that frequent visits of mediemen would enhance the existing friendly ties between people of two countries.



Children's painting competition at Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises yesterday commemorating Masterda Surya Sen. — Star photo

What's on today...

- Meeting:** A day long meeting on World Conference on Science will be held. Organisers: NAM S & T Centre in association with Ministry of Science and Technology. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Rd. Time: 9.00 am.
- Discussion meeting:** Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILLA) will hold a discussion meeting on "Indo-Bangladesh Cooperation in Protection of Human Rights". Venue: Seminar room of BILLA, House No 22, Rd No 7, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 11.00 am.
- Meeting:** The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 5.30 pm.
- Meeting:** The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Three nurses of BIRDEM will be awarded the Rotary Vocational Award for their outstanding commitment to serve ailing patients. The meeting will be followed by a fellowship dinner hosted by Rtn PP Aminul Islam and R-Ann Nazma Islam. Venue: Dhaka Club Ltd. Time: 7.30 pm.

Fall of AL govt imminent, says B Chowdhury

BNP senior vice president and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the "corrupt" government would have to be removed for the sake of democracy, reports UNB.

"Fall of the government is inevitable. People are now united to topple the government," he said addressing a function to accord reception to some leaders of Zia Academy, released from jail recently.

Shahed Zia Research Council organised the function at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium in the afternoon to accord the reception to the leaders, including Zahurul Islam Tupa.

The BNP leader alleged that the Awami League government, since assuming power, has become involved with all round corruption.

"An anarchic situation is prevailing in all fronts with the alarming deterioration of law and order... there is no rule of law in the country," he said.

About economy, B Chowdhury said the country's economic structure has been shattered and the GDP is declining.

He said: "Awami League has failed to ensure economic growth even though they claim to have more knowledge in this field. They (Awami League) begged our Finance Minister Saifur Rahman to join the government, but he (Rahman) did not respond."

About abstention from the Prime Minister's question hour in Parliament, the deputy opposition leader said: "We are boycotting the PM's question hour as she is prone to abusing and making false statements about BNP founder Ziaur Rahman and Begum Khaleda Zia to undermine the image of the party."

She asked Hasina to refrain from such attempts to malign the opposition leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, BNP vice-president Barrister Nazmul Huda said Awami League knows well that they have become isolated from the people and will not return to power if election is held under caretaker government.

"The days of this government are running out," he said and urged the people "not to obey its rule."



Students union of Sir Salimullah Medical College (SSMC) held a condolence meeting in memory of Kanij Fatema Kamal (Lucy) yesterday. The annual milad mahfil '99 was also held.

Int'l Parliamentary Experts team meets Khasru

The International Parliamentary Experts delegation led by Martinez Soliman yesterday called on Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru and discussed with him strengthening the democratic process in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

They also discussed matters relating to the holding of the forthcoming International Conference on Parliamentary Committee System in Dhaka on May 26-27.

Members of the parliament belonging to the ruling and the opposition parties from home and abroad are expected to participate in the conference.

The project on the "Strengthening of the Parliament" funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Jatiya Sangsad will be launched at the conference.

Move to resume production in MJM

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Jute Ministry at a meeting yesterday formed a four-member sub-committee with Jalal Uddin Talukdar as its convener to resume production in Mymensingh Jute Mills (MJM) by removing hindrances, reports UNB.

The sub-committee, headed by Jalal Uddin Talukdar as convener, includes Dr SM Mukhlesur Rahman, M Mujibur Rahman and Adv Goutom Chakrabarti, according to a press release of Parliament Secretariat.

The meeting also reviewed budgetary allocation for repair and maintenance of infrastructure and machinery of the jute mills set up under BJMC.

It suggested transfer of Jute Ministry to Agriculture Ministry.

Weather

Dry weather expected

Rain or thundershowers with temporary squally or squally wind likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Kishunia, Noakhali and Comilla till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period, Met Office said, adding that no appreciable change in day temperature is expected.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 38.6 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 22 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.22 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.33 am.

Maximum and minimum 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	35.5	26.4	71	58
Chittagong	34.3	26.5	72	71
Rajshahi	36.8	25.8	76	64
Khulna	36.4	26.4	74	52
Barisal	35.8	25.5	88	69
Sylhet	29.2	22.0	93	73
Cox's Bazar	35.5	25.0	64	72

72-hr shutdown enters 3rd day JU Officers Samity withdraws support for employees' strike

By JU Correspondent

Jahangirnagar University (JU) Officers Samity withdrew its support from the 72-hour strike started yesterday at the university following difference in opinion with the accompanying employees protesting the authority's decision concerning admission of wards of the university officers and employees.

The 72-hour strike called by Employees' Union and Employees Samity of JU entered the second consecutive day today. All offices were vacant of employees. Some employees came to campus and left it after holding a procession and rally to press their demand home.

Employees of the university called the strike in protest of the authorities' new rules for admission of wards of the officers and employees. Employees demanded a separate liberal rule convenient to their wards.

The authority recently fixed pass marks which require seven out of 20 (35 pc) in compulsory section and 28 out of 80 (35 pc) in the optional section. The authority also allocated total three seats in each department for their wards. But the employees demand that the pass marks to be fixed at 30 — six out of 20 (30pc) in the compulsory section and 24 out of 80 (30pc) in the optional section. They also demanded that all the wards who secure this pass marks must be allowed to get admission to their wards.

Officers Samity of JU withdrew their support from the movement following the employees' refusal to go on with their programmes. Officers Samity went to the authority Monday and demanded 10 seats in each of 24 departments for the wards of officers and employees. But, employees did not agree with a written copy from the authority requesting them to withdraw the strike saying it will recommend a proposal to the Central Admission Committee for allocation of five seats for their wards in each department.

At a rally in front of the Registrar Building yesterday, the leaders of employees threatened dire consequences if authorities do not withdraw the new rules immediately. They are likely to declare fresh programmes after the 72-hour strike.

New 100-bed hospital set up in Mirpur CU admission tests begin tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

A 100-bed hospital at Mirpur has been set up by Fuad Al-Khatib foundation in memory of the first Saudi Arabian ambassador to Bangladesh and joint-secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

The hospital would cater to low-income people and is the need of modernized with latest technology and equipment. Mir Kashem Ali, Director of Rabat Al Alam Al-Islami, Bangladesh who is a member-administrator of the hospital told reporters yesterday.

People would pay Tk 150-Tk 400 for a bed, he said adding that poor patients unable to pay for their treatment would be taken care by the Foundation.

A similar hospital is already functioning in Cox's Bazar and Rangamati. Chairman of Islamic Bank Commodore (rtd) Aatur Rahman, Professor Ata Elahi Khan, a consultant, Advocate Mujibur Rahman, Financial Express editor Reazuddin Ahmed and Jatiya Press Club president Khandaker Manirul Alam also spoke at a ceremony to mark the launching of the hospital.

Local fashion house Karuj is organising the exclusive show in cooperation with AICI, the producers of Angelic soap, and Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

A key specialty of Sharbari Datta, daughter of celebrated post-Tagorean poet Ajit Datta, is that she makes dresses only for men.

"I tried to return back heritage of the East, especially Indian sub-continent, in my design," she told newsmen at a press conference yesterday.

Calling Western clothes very smart as business attire, the leading Indian fashion designer said: "We like those under colonial influence."

Condolence meet held at SSMC

The students union of Sir Salimullah Medical College (SSMC) held a condolence meeting yesterday in memory of Kanij Fatema Kamal (Lucy), a 3rd year student of the college who died of cancer in New York recently, says a press release.

The annual milad mahfil of the college was also held. State Minister for Religious Affairs Moutanab Md Nurul Islam attended the function as the chief guest.

100 candidates recommended against 16 posts

MAGURA, Apr 20: There were 16 posts. But recommendations were for 100 candidates from ministers, MPs, political leaders of different parties, secretaries and high police officials, reports UNB.

But all the hundred recommended for a job as police constable were nipped.

"Sixteen were recruited, but none from those recommended," said Magura Police Super Akbar Ali.

Woman gangraped in city

By Staff Correspondent

A housewife was gangraped by local hoodlums in the city's Shyampur area in the early hours of yesterday.

Police so far arrested one person — identified as Pappu — for his alleged involvement in the incident.

The 26-year-old victim along with her husband was staying at one of her relatives' residence at Natun Shyampur since Monday last, police said.

The gang of four, including Pappu, forcibly got inside the residence at about 3 am yesterday and tied up the inmates of the house, including her husband.

The miscreants then dragged her into a room of the same house and raped.

Moroccan envoy calls on Ershad

Moroccan Charge d'Affaires to Bangladesh Abdel Illah Marzil made a courtesy call on Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

During the meeting, the Moroccan envoy underscored the need for developing trade relations between the two countries.

Referring to the huge demand for Bangladeshi commodities in Morocco, the envoy said Bangladesh could further extend trade relations between the two countries by exporting leather and tea to Morocco extensively.