

A PNP mass procession demanding smooth supply of power, water and gas in the city - Star photo yesterday.

Govt utterly failed in running country: Jamaat

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Prof Golam Azam said the people no longer want this government in power as it failed to meet their basic requirements, including security of life and property, reports UNB.

"There is no water, power, peace or stability while killing and terrorism are going on unabated," he said addressing a rally at Muktangon in the city prior to a mass procession.

The Jamaat leader said everybody is saying the government has utterly failed in running the country. Sounding a note of warning, he demanded immediate resignation of the government and rejected any election under the Awami League government.

He said: "We won't take part in any election under this government. First we want national election under caretaker government, and after that other elections, including Zila Parishad polls, be held."

Asking the government to accept his demand, Golam Azam announced the party's next programmes that include countrywide half-day hartal on May 11, joint procession of opposition MPs in Dhaka on May 13 and road march on May 16.

Navy officer killed in Ctg road accident

CHITTAGONG, May 3: A petty-officer of Bangladesh Navy was killed and one of his colleagues was critically injured when a speeding truck hit the autorickshaw they were riding on at Barik Building Square under port police station here today, reports BSS.

Police said when the autorickshaw carrying the two navy personnel reached Barik Building Square on way to Patenga, the truck hit it from behind, killing the petty-officer on the spot.

The injured personnel was admitted to the Navy hospital

The driver and the assistant of the truck fled away soon after the accident.

A case has been registered with port police in this connec-

Int'l poster contest Award distribution

The prize giving ceremony of international poster contest 1998 will be held at Shishu Academy auditorium in the city

tomorrow

tomorrow, reports UNB. Deputy Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid will distribute prizes among the winners. The contest was organised by the United Nations Population Fund to mark the World Population Day.

Over 2000 children and adolescents took part in the contest held on August 14 last year at the Fine Arts Institute premises of Dhaka University.

Orientation class for MBBS students of FMC May 9

The orientation class for the first year students of the MBBS course for the session 1998-'99 of Faridpur Medical College will be held on May 9 at 11 am at the Lecture Gallery-1 of the college, reports BSS.

All students of the session had been asked to attend the class on time. The guardians of the students have also been requested to attend the function.

Re-publication of Daily Eishan demanded

CHITTAGONG, May 3: A rally of the journalists and employees of Dainik Eishan today demanded immediate resumption of the publication of the daily and payment of all arrears salary, reports BSS.

The meeting held at the local press club under the auspices of the joint action committee of the Eishan journalists and employees was presided over by committee convener Muhammad Shahidullah.

Among others, Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) general secretary Nurul Amin, joint secretary Asif Seraj and Babul Chowdhury addressed the

rally. Publication of Dainik Eishan was suspended recently following a dispute among its owners.

DU medicare system in deplorable condition

The prevailing medicare system of Dhaka University, the country's highest educational institution, is in a deplorable condition, reports APB.

There are only 17 doctors for a staggering number of 62,000 students, teachers and officials. The ratio boils down to one doctor for every 4,000 family members of DU, campus sources

Doctors are also reported to be negligent to their patients. They allegedly prescribe without conducting proper diagnosis. It is mainly due to limited number of doctors, consequent pressure on them and paucity of medicine and equipment.

There is nominally a department for pathology, dental, eye and X-ray with no specialist. X-ray and pathology reports delivered by the authorities are not reliable as very often they defer with the reports of other

private hospitals and clinics in the city.

Services and facilities available at the 25-bed unit of the medical centre have not improved much during the last one decade. This has resulted in the premature death of some 10 students in the post-liberation

Though the medical centre has two ambulances, none of them is, however, used for actual purposes. One is allegedly used as a private car for the doctors and the other for the armed

cadres of various student wings. When contacted DU chief physician Ketab Uddin refused to make any comment on the allegations.

Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury told APB that the medical centre is being modernised into a 50-bed fullfledged unit with all modern amenities and equipment.



The 10th annual general meeting (AGM) of UCEP-Bangladesh was held recently. The meeting was presided over by Col. (Rtd). Mujib-Ur-Rahman Khan, Chairman of UCEP board of governors.

Terrorism Resistance Committee to be formed in all DCC wards soon'

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Muhammad Hanif yesterday stressed the need for amendment to the century-old laws saying terrorism cannot be curbed with the present law of the land, reports BSS.

"We can't allow the ten thousand terrorists to take the Dhaka city dwellers as hostage. Terrorism Resistance Committee will be formed immediately in every wards of the City Corporation," he said.

The Mayor was speaking as the chief guest at a citizens rally on curbing terrorism at the Avoy Das Lane in the city Monday evening.

Presided over by Mainul Haque Manju, Commissioner of Ward number 75, the rally was addressed by assistant publicity secretary of the central committee of Bangladesh Awami League Nurul Fazal Bulbul, local Awami League and Jubo League leaders and local elite.

Nasim condoles death of police officer

Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday deeply condoled the death of Faiz Ahmed, Commandant of the Barisal Range Reserve Force, reports BSS.

In a condolence message, the Minister said Ahmed was a skilled police officer. He prayed for the peace of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved

Urging the city dwellers to build a social resistance against the terrorists, the Mayor said terrorists have no party affiliation and they change their allegiance to different political parties in power for their benefits.

SWID nat'l executive committee

Dr M Lutfar Rahman and M A Baten have been elected President and General Secretary of the society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled (SWID, Bangladesh) respectively, says a press release.

The election of the National Executive Committee of SWID for the year 1999-2001 was held in the city on April 30.

The other office-bearers are: Vice-presidents — Jowaherul Islam Mamun, Md Moslem, and Mian Lutfar Rahman; joint secretary general - Sajida H Kabir and A K M Shamsul Haque; treasurer - Lt Col (Retd) Golam Mohiuddin; organizing secretary - G W H Chowdhury; publicity & cultural secretary -Salma Hoque; welfare & rehabilitation secretary Md Enamul Hoque Faroque; and members — Shahar Banu Salam, Mohd Shah Alam, A J M Hamed Hossain, D P Barua, and Dr AM Nuruzzaman.

The divisional members are: Abduhu Shafi Mahmud Faroque (Dhaka), Samir Chandra Kar (Chittagong), Md Badiul Alam Patwary (Rajshahi), Mir Showkat Ali Badesha (Khulna). and Shahidullah Khan (Barisal).



Members of Professional Secretaries Welfare Association (PSWA) attended a lunch at Hotel Sheraton on the Occasion of International Secretaries' Day on Saturday.

DU student arrested from F Rahman Hall

By DU Correspondent A student of Dhaka University was arrested by plain-clothes men from the Sir A F Rahman Hall in the early hours of yesterday on charge of stay-ing at the hall illegally.

According to sources, Idris Mohammad Asif, a resident student of the Hazi Mohammad Mohsin Hall, was driven out by his rivals some days ago. Then he took shelter at the Zahurul Haq Hall. But after being driven out from there, he started staying at Room No 520 of the AF Rahman Hall. He came to the hall at around 10:30 pm on

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Provost Prof Harunor-Rashid said that he informed the police about the stu-dent. A couple of weeks ago, the hall authorities put up a notice regarding illegal staying at the

"The hall is now almost free from the outsiders. If we find anybody staying at the hall illegally, we will take action immediately," he said.

A case has been lodged with Ramna Thana under Section 54 and the arrested was produced before the court yesterday.

Meanwhile, the university authority has announced that no outsiders will be allowed to stay at any of the university dormitories and law enforcing agency personnel could arrest them without permission of the

Army chief leaves for China

Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman left Dhaka yesterday on a 10-day goodwill visit to China, reports APB.

He is leading a six-member delegation of Bangladesh Army including Adjutant General Major General Muhammad Masudur Rahman, said a press release of the Ministry of Defence

During the visit, the Chief of Army Staff will visit the Chinese Defence Ministry, National Defence University, Xian Electronic Research Institute. Oriental Pearl TV Tower, the Head Office and Arms Exhibition Hall of China North Industries Corporation and other important civil and military installations. Lt General Mustafiz will also

pay a courtesy call on Chinese Defence Minister General Chi Haotian, the Chief of Army Staff of Chinese People's Liberation Army General Fu Quanyang, the Deputy Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Kui Fu Lin and other high civil and military officials.

He is also scheduled to visit

the headquarters of the Plan and will witness different active ities including the military demonstration there.

BCF slams effort to construct int'l confce centre at Osmani Uddyan

By DU Correspondent Bangladesh Chhatra Federation (BCF), a left-leaning student organization, yesterday criticised the government initiative to build an international conference centre at the Osmani Uddyan, saying that it would hurt the ecological balance as hundreds of trees there would have to be removed for the construction.

The BCF held a series of ral lies on the Dhaka University campus and brought out a procession in protest.

The BCF leaders urged the government to select other site for the conference centre.

Addressing the rally, its president Zonaed Saki said, "environment pollution across the country including Dhaka has already reached an alarming stage. And this initiative of government will make the situation worse.

Among others, Uzzal Balo, Nasiruddin, Barkatullah Maruf, Firoz Ahmed, Yasin Mukul, Abeda Gulrukh and Iftekher Aiub also addressed the rallies.

'Govt to fulfil all political commitments'

KHULNA, May 3: Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salauddin Yusuf said here yesterday that the government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to fulfilling its political commitment in phases, reports BSS.

The minister said the government was doing everything through executing various development and welfare oriented programmes aimed at alleviating poverty and illiteracy from the society and thereby establishing a real Sonar Bangla. The health minister was

speaking at a rally while visiting an under construction health and family welfare centre at Magurghona union of Phultala thana under Khulna district.

The project was being implemented at a cost of Taka forty lakh and is expected to be completed by June this year. The minister urged the local leaders to extend cooperation and also oversee the construc-

tion work of the project. Earlier, Salauddin Yusuf visited the health and family welfare centre at Keshabpur thana under Jessore district and advised the doctors and staff to work sincerely so that the people could get timely

medicare service. The minister also visited the Jamira bazar Piprali Siddiquia Senior Madrasha.

Seminar on Press Freedom

Call for scrapping black laws

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for scrapping the black laws and said restrictive laws governing the media can't ensure free press, reports UNB.

Presenting the keynote paper in the seminar on "Press Freedom in Bangladesh," veteran journalist Hasan Saeed said that Bangladesh press is governed by at least 25 restrictive media laws, which were dates from 1923 to 1991. The seminar was organised

by Committee to Protect Journalists, Bangladesh, at the Jatiya Press Club marking the World Press Freedom Day. With the existence of restrictive laws governing the media it

is difficult to state that press is free, Saeed said and observed that though some of the laws relating to media are not enforced or exercised, the black laws remain undeterred.

He said despite electoral promises and the declaration jointly signed in 1991 by mainstream political parties Awami League, BNP and Left Democratic Front to scrap restrictive laws related to freedom of press, these still remain effective.

Giving a gloomy picture of press freedom. Saleem Samad said in 1998 two journalists were killed, five journalists were imprisoned and 12 others arrested. Most of the journalists were arrested under the Special Powers Act of 1974 and dreaded Official Secrecy Act of 1980.

Freedom Day.

soon, reports BSS.

Chittagong city.

the occasion.

her death.

Road, Chittagong.

Sunday.

Two big parks to

be constructed

in Ctg soon

structed in Chittagong city

Tourism and Works Engineer

Mosharraf Hossain said this

while exchanging views at a

function at a hotel in the city on

said Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina has given special

attention to accelerate the

development of this commer-

cial capital of the country. He

called upon all to come forward

for the development of every

parts of the country including

the commercially important

Samity in Dhaka the function

was presided over by Engineer

Afsar Uddin. Former deputy

prime minister Jamaluddin,

National Professor Nurul Is-

lam, M. Morshed Khan, MP.

Abul Quasem Master, MP, for

mer Minister L.K. Siddiqui and

general secretary of Chittagong

Samity Rezaul Hug Chowdhury

among others, were present on

Obituary

She left behind four sons,

Qulkhwani of Amberunnesa

three daughters and a host of re-

lations and admirers to mourn

will be held on Thursday after

Asr prayers at Taj House, 9

Panchlaish R/A, OR Nizam

Begum Ambe

runnesa, mo

ther of MA Ha-

shem, chair

man of the City

Bank Limited

died yesterday

She was 97

says a press re-

morning

Chittagong.

Organised by Chittagong

Engineer Mosharraf Hossain

Minister for Civil Aviation,

New York based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and Paris based Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) in their 1999 reports published separately on 3 May (today) wrote. "Bangladeshi journalists face considerable risk in practising their profession."

"Bangladesh is still a violent place for journalists. Violent attacks have become disturbingly common, and death threats almost routine," the reports said.

However, refuting some of the observation of the keynote paper, ruling party MP Abul Kalam Azad said press in Bangladesh is enjoying utmost During the period of present government, he said no direc-

tives were sent from the PID to newspapers, as was done during the regimes of Ziaur Rahman and HM Ershad and no newspaper was banned by this govern-He observed that conflict

and division in the journalists union were the cause for the present state of journalism and stressed there need for broadbased unity among the journalists for ensuring freedom of

MK Anwar, MP (BNP), said he did not see any legal restriction curbing freedom of the press. "But there are plenty of instances of intended harass-

Committee to Protect Journalists, Bangladesh held a seminar on "Press Freedom in

Bangladesh" at the National Press Club in the city yesterday marking the World Press

Two big parks will be con- life has been disrupted due to 35,000 hectares would be badly

severe hot spell that is prevail-

ing in Rajshahi region for the

that due to alarming fall of wa-

ter level in different parts of Ra-

ishahi district, supply of pure

drinking water has been badly

affected. Over seven thousand

become inoperative in Durga-

pur. Bagmara and Godagari

thanas of the district as water

level has gone down to 75 feet

fice sources said that diarrhoeal

disease has broken out in

different parts of the district. In

April, 4469 people were at-

tacked with the disease of

whom three died. The sources

added that 173 persons were at-

tacked with Diarrhoea during

the last two days in the district.

partment sources said due to

scanty rainfall in the district

Meeting in Barisal

to hold HSC exam

peacefully

meeting of the principals, pro-

fessors and TNOs of the district

was held here at the conference

room of the Deputy Commis-

sioner of the district yesterday

for holding the coming HSC ex-

aminations peacefully this

resolved to hold this examina-

tion properly and students will

not be allowed to adopt unfair

means in any centres of the

ready been completed in the dis-

trict for holding this examina-

tions scheduled to begin on May

6. About 12,000 students wil

appear at the examination un-

der 27 centres this year.

All preparations have al-

The meeting unanimously

year, reports BSS.

district.

BARISAL, May 3: A general

Agriculture Extension De-

Rajshahi Civil Surgeon of-

shallow tubewells have already

Official sources told BSS

last two months.

the sources added.

Severe hot spell disrupts

normal life in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, May 3: Normal sowing of Aus and jute on over

ment of journalists." Holiday Editor Enayetullah Khan said although no newspaper was banned, but the journalists were passing days in

"We can't expect freedom of press considering in totality the situation of the country, where state sponsored terrorism is

haunting the people," he said. Veteran journalist Ataus Samad taking part in the discussion said state of press free-dom would further deteriorate if the political parties do not become more courteous.

Prof Golam Rahman of Journalism Department of Dhaka University said press freedom depends on the development of democratic culture. Another veteran journalists

ABM Musa recalling his fifty years of professional life said the journalism went through repression and restriction. But in the last decade the situation was comparatively better. He stressed the need for forming press code and said there is no necessity of press council.

Prof Anisur Rahman, who was the moderator in the seminar, citing examples said there is co-existence of responsible and irresponsible journalism.

Saleh Chowdhury, Ahmed Nur-e-Alam, Mohammad Jahangir and Chinmoy Muschuddi also took part in the discussion.

According to a university

account of the admission test. rally and slogans or any political provocation at the campus

ter one year yesterday.

man Shahid, joint secretary at CU unit Mossarraf Hossain, research and information secretary of CU unit Mir Naser Parvez, executive member at the CU unit on June 18 last year.

SIDA donation for Proshika

Swedish International De-

An agreement to this effect was signed yesterday at the au-

Ambassador to Bangladesh and Dr Kazi Faruk Ahmed, president of Proshika signed the agreement on behalf of their re-

The grant will be utilised for rehabilitation of some 30,000 schemes of Proshika, a leading non governmental organisation in the country.



(NSU) held a seminar on 'Changing role of NGOs - A 20-year perspective in the city on Sunday.

treme hot spell. Projonmo '71 concerned

- Star photo

Projonmo '71 has expressed deep concern over the report of harassing the family members of martyred freedom fighter Naik Subedar Kazi Alauddin. reports UNB.

Official sources said that

ponds, wells and other water

bodies are drying up due to

scorching heat of the sun. How-

ever, the water level in River

Padma has substantially in-

creased during the dry season in

Rajshahi after the signing of

weather is causing untold suf-

ferings to the people and the

manual workers, particularly

rickshaw pullers and day

labourers are worst hit by the

hot temperature. City dwellers

are being forced to stay indoors

during day time to avoid the ex-

The prolonged sultry

Water Treaty with India.

In a statement yesterday, Projonmo '71, an organisation of the children of the martyrs of the Liberation War, said a quarter is plotting to evict the helpless family from their residence violating a court order.

It demanded of the Works Ministry, RAJUK and police administration to take immediate steps to stop the attempts of evicting the martyred family members from their residence.

Secretary General of Singapore-based Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) Bijoy Menon yesterday visited the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), reports

Secy Gen of AMIC visits PIB

Islami Oikya Jote (IJO) brought out a procession as part of 4-party called Mass Procession programme demanding smooth supply of electricity, gas and water in the city yesterday. — Star photo | May 14.

Body to probe postal corruption The government has formed

a four-member inquiry com-mittee to probe. The alleged mismanagement and corrup-tion at the foreign branch of Bangladesh Post Office which was published in a section of newspapers.

A deputy secretary of the concerned ministry will head the committee, an official handout said here.

Police stations at both end of

Jamuna Bridge soon SIRAJGANJ, May 3: The two police outposts on both sides of the Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge will be upgraded to police stations soon, official sources said today, reports APB.

Necessary infrastructural facilities are being built and each of the police stations will be manned by one Inspector, three SIs and 36 constables, the sources said.

CU Gha unit admission test today From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 3: The admission test of the 'Gha' unit (combined groups) of the Chittagong University (CU) will be held tomorrow from 10 am to 1

press release the classes of the Chittagong University will remain suspended tomorrow on The CU authority has banned procession, meeting,

on the day. Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has withdrawn the suspension of its three leaders at Chittagong University unit af-

JCD suspended Shafiquzza-

velopment Agency (SIDA) has donated Tk 15 crore to Proshika to help carry out the post flood rehabilitation programme, reports UNB.

ditorium of Proshika Bhaban. Enders Johnson, Swedish

spective sides.

North South University

Seminar on role of NGOs held at NSU

A seminar on 'Changing roles of NGOs - a 20-year perspective' was held at the North South University (NSU) in the city on Sunday. NSU has organised the seminar, says a press release.

Introducing the keynote speaker to the audience, Professor Hafiz GA Siddiqi, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of NSU said that Dr Shelley Feldman, a Professor of Cornel University, has a long research career. Dr Siddiqi highlighted the need for a change in the commonly perceived roles of NGOs.

The seminar was followed by a question and answer session. Paolo Craviolatti of European Union, Dr Salahuddin Ahmed of BRAC. Professor Hashmi of Independent University, Bangladesh and Dr Masoom of UCEP participated in the session.

Navy chief leaves

for Singapore Chief of the Naval Staff Re

Admiral Mohammad Nurul . lam left Sunday night on official visits to Singapore, Thailand and South Korea, an ISPR press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The navy chief is leading a three-member delegation. During his stay in Singapore, Admiral Islam will discuss matters of mutual interest with Minister of Defence and Chief of Singapore Navy. He will also attend the International Maritime Defence Exhibition (IMDEX-99). After concluding his Singa-

Staff will proceed to Bangkok on a two-day visit at the invitation of the Thai Navy Chief. He is expected to meet the Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Thailand Chuan Leek Pai. On the last leg of his visit Admiral Islam will go to South

pore visit, the Chief of Naval

Korea. He will discuss matters of mutual interest with the Minister of National Defence and Chief of Korean navy. He is scheduled to return home on