



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

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...

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...

The driver and the assistant of the truck fled away soon after the accident. A case has been registered with port police in this connection.

Int'l poster contest Award distribution tomorrow

The prize giving ceremony of international poster contest 1998 will be held at Shishu Academy auditorium in the city tomorrow, reports UNB.

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 will be held on May 9 at 11 am at the Lecture Gallery-1 of the college, reports BSS.

Re-publication of Daily Eishan demanded

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

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.

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.



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 by the present law of the land, reports BSS.

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.

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.



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

A student of Dhaka University was arrested by plain-clothes men from the F Rahman Hall in the early hours of yesterday on charge of staying 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 20 of the F Rahman Hall. He came to the hall at around 10:30 pm on Sunday.

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 authority.

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.

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 Army and will witness different activities 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 rallies on the Dhaka University campus and brought out a procession in protest. The BCF leaders urged the government to select another site for the conference centre.

Addressing the rally, its president Zonaid 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, Firoyz Ahmed, Yasin Muzil, Abeda Gulrukh and Ifekha Al-Jubad 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 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 construction 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 Pirali Siddiqua Senior Madrasah.

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 dated from 1923 to 1991.

The seminar was organised by Committee to Protect Journalists, Bangladesh, at the Jaitiya 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.

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 freedom.

During the period of present government, he said no directives 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 government.

He observed that conflict and division in the journalists union were the cause for the present state of journalism and stressed there need for broad-based unity among the journalists for ensuring freedom of press.

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-

ment of journalists."

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

"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 freedom 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 journalist 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 journalists.

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



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 Freedom Day. — Star photo

Two big parks to be constructed in Ctg soon

Two big parks will be constructed in Chittagong city soon, reports BSS.

Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism and Works Engineer Mosharrar Hossain said this while exchanging views at a function at a hotel in the city on Sunday.

Engineer Mosharrar Hossain said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given special attention to accelerate the development of this commercial capital of the country. He called upon all to come forward for the development of every parts of the country including the commercially important Chittagong city.

Organised by Chittagong Samity in Dhaka the function was presided over by Engineer Afsar Uddin. Former deputy prime minister Jamaluddin, National Professor Nurul Islam, M. Morshed Khan, MP, Abul Quasem Master, MP, former Minister L.K. Siddiqui and general secretary of Chittagong Samity Rezaul Haq Chowdhury among others, were present on the occasion.

Meeting in Barisal to hold HSC exam peacefully

BARISAL, May 3: A general meeting of the principals, professors and TNOs of the district was held here at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner of the district yesterday for holding the coming HSC examinations peacefully this year, reports BSS.

The meeting unanimously resolved to hold this examination properly and students will not be allowed to adopt unfair means in any centres of the district.

All preparations have already been completed in the district for holding this examinations scheduled to begin on May 6. About 12,000 students will appear at the examination under 27 centres this year.



Islamic 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

Body to probe postal corruption

The government has formed a four-member inquiry committee to probe. The alleged mismanagement and corruption 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 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 pm.

According to a university press release the classes of the Chittagong University will remain suspended tomorrow on account of the admission test.

The CU authority has banned procession, meeting, rally and slogans or any political provocation at the campus on the day.

Jatlyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has withdrawn the suspension of its three leaders at Chittagong University unit after one year yesterday.

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

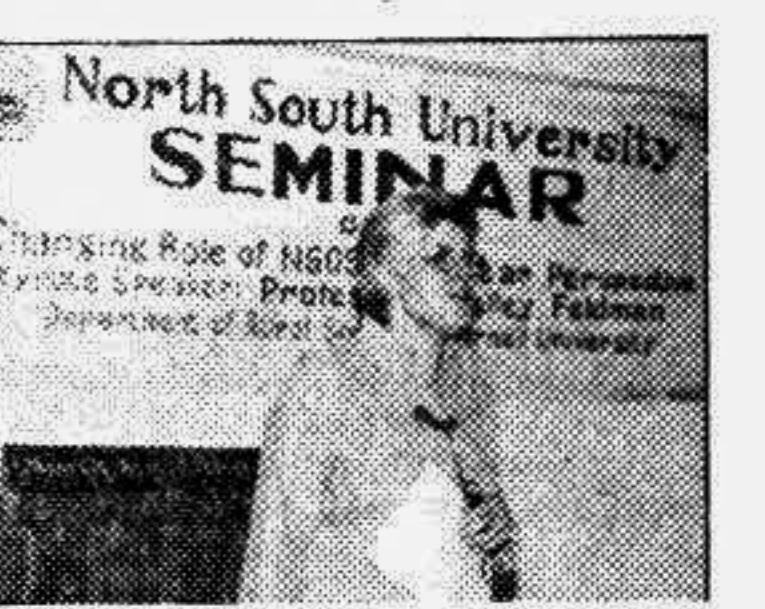
SIDA donation for Proshika

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

An agreement to this effect was signed yesterday at the auditorium of Proshika Bhaban.

Enders Johnson, Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh and Dr Kazi Faruk Ahmed, president of Proshika signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

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



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

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 Cornell 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 Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam left Sunday night on official visit 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 Singapore visit, the Chief of Naval 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 Leekpai. On the last leg of his visit Admiral Islam will go to South 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 May 14.