



# The Daily Star

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## Transmission line restored but loadshedding continues

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Loadshedding in the capital continued yesterday although PDB restored the Haripur-Siddhirganj 132 kV power transmission line which was 'accidentally damaged' on Tuesday, destabilising power supply to Dhaka.

According to a (PDB press release, the transmission line was restored Tuesday night. There was a loadshedding of 361 MW in the country due to shortage of power generation. The peak demand yesterday was 2500 MW and the peak power generation was 2090 MW.

Besides, power supply was disrupted frequently in the city. Most of the areas in old Dhaka and in Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Dhannondi, Green Road, Elephant Road, Bangla Motor, Moghbazar, Malibagh, Shahjahanpur and other areas of the city experienced power failures more than three times, lasting for hours.

Meanwhile, in a bid to ensure smooth transmission of power through the Haripur-Siddhirganj line which supplies 40 per cent of the capital's total power needs, PDB is now replacing the age-old cable of the line with a new one. It is likely to be completed by the weekend.

Besides, PDB has decided to replace other age-old cables at Siddhirganj to minimise risk. Our Narayanjanj Correspondent

See Page 12 Col 2

## BUET under attack



The atmosphere at BUET seemed tense in the morning of April 26th. The previous night, a section of agitated students pelted at the different buildings of the university. The protests went on a massive rampage, far worse the second night, attacking the Academic Council Building, Civil Engineering Building, EME Building, Library, Central Auditorium, cafeteria, residential halls and also some university vehicles. But their appetite for destruction was not satisfied even after creating so much tension. What followed next was appalling. The rowdy students forcefully entered the residential quarters of the teachers and virtually unleashed a reign of terror on the teachers and their families.

Read the cover story in the Star Weekend Magazine on Friday.

## Inside Today Article

### The Crisis of the State

Column: Panorama by Dilara Choudhury Page 4

### Alternatives

Einstein was a refugee and so are Badu Mia and Sakeena... and Are Afghans refugee in Pakistan? Pages 6 & 7

### Business

Bumper boro harvest will help economy regain buoyancy: Kibria

WTO fails to unpick deadlocked leadership race between candidates

DSE, CSE price quotations Pages 8, 9 & 10

### Prayer Timings

May 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:30	4:35
Zohr	12:45	1:30
Asr	4:45	4:55
Maghrib	6:30	6:33
Esha	7:45	8:00

Source: Islamic Foundation

# SEC told to go all the way to stop manipulation

By M Shamsur Rahman

Amid widespread allegations of manipulation, the government yesterday directed the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to exercise its 'full authority' to deal with the crisis-ridden stock market, sources said.

"The government is convinced that some people are playing foul in the market," a source quoted the finance minister as telling a high-level meeting yesterday.

In an emergency meeting attended by Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, SEC chairman MA Syed, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Farashuddin and Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan, the minister said that the government would

back the SEC taking tough steps to stop manipulation. The SEC chairman proposed at the meeting that the present council of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) be dissolved and an independent committee be formed to probe into the alleged manipulation in the market, the sources said.

The chairman informed the meeting that the SEC was issuing an order directing the DSE to remove the "counter party identification" option from the computerised trading system, which leaves scope for manipulation by brokers' syndicates.

The meeting also discussed the possible budget incentives for the capital market, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the SEC has planned changes to settlement rules to prevent manipulation.

A number of influential brokers are believed to be engaged in manipulation, taking advantage of loopholes in the settlement regulations of the stock exchanges.

The DSE settlement regulation says that if a member fails to make payment within the settlement day the Exchange will "automatically square-up the unsettled transaction by buying-in or selling-out".

It also says: "If any cheque issued by a member is dishonoured, the defaulting member shall not be allowed to carry out trading on DSE until payment is made along with a fine of Tk

1,000 and interest at 1.5 per cent per month for the period of default."

According to sources, some members buy stocks in order to inflate prices. Then they default in paying the money to the clearing house by issuing cheques which would be dishonoured. This gives the defaulting brokers one to two days time.

They later sell the same stocks at a much higher price the very next day and pay off the clearing house keeping the profit margin. They sell the stocks through another broker.

"Cheques worth crores of taka bounce. And the DSE management fines them Tk See Page 12 Col 1

## HSC exams begin today Massive measures to stop unfair means

By Staff Correspondent

The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations under the five education boards in the country begin today amid massive measures to check adoption of unfair means.

Officials of the education ministry said the ministry has asked Deputy Commissioners to take necessary measures to maintain law and order at the centres and avert any untoward incident. Like examinees, actions will also be taken against invigilators found aiding students out of the way, the officials added.

This year, about 5.69 lakh candidates will sit for the examinations, 58,000 more than the previous year. Of the total, 1,70,000 examinees are appear-

ing at 263 centres under the Dhaka Board, 1,67,000 under Rajshahi Board, 1,20,000 under Jessore Board, over 88,000 under Comilla Board and 44,000 examinees under Chittagong Board. Besides, around 1,000 examinees will sit for the examinations at five overseas centres, the ministry officials said.

There will be separate question papers for the five education boards this time with alternative sets in case of question leakage. In the last couple of years, question papers were same for all boards.

Additional police force will be deployed at the examination centres to ensure a peaceful atmosphere. Examinees will be See Page 12 Col 2

## Let the good sense prevail

By DU Correspondent

Different student organisations yesterday called upon the examinees to refrain from adopting unfair means in the HSC examinations that begins today.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of the ruling Awami League yesterday urged the examinees not to adopt unfair means.

Terminology of unfair means is a national problem, they also urged different quarters to come forward to solve the problem. Otherwise, the future generation will have no morality, they warned.

At a press conference at Madhu's Canteen on Dhaka University campus in the afternoon, the BCL announced that it will launch a campaign to create mass awareness in this regard.

Reading out a statement at See Page 12 Col 4



Rains, in two short spells in the city yesterday, came to the relief of people weary of hot and humid weather. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Rains bring relief

By Special Correspondent

The city and other areas of the country experienced rains yesterday, bringing relief to people in the dry spell.

Further showers are likely with the Met Office forecasting "an increase in rainfall activity" during the next 48 hours from 6 pm today.

It was a welcome relief when the rains first came with gusty winds in the afternoon. Another burst followed in the late afternoon and early evening, which continued till 7:30 pm, making the day's total to 14 mm in the city.

The air was cool and trees appeared fresh after the rains that washed dust off their leaves.

Many people were seen getting a splash of the rains on their rooftops and in the streets. For street children, it was a day of fun.

In Sylhet, the rains totalled 37 mm, in Srimangal 5 mm, Feni 15 mm, Rangpur 4 mm, Dinajpur 2 mm and in Mymensingh 1 mm.

Rains had been elusive since November 29 last year. There had been only 2 mm of precipitation during December, March, resulting in a prolonged dry spell and a heat wave in the country.

Met Office said that rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary Kalbaishakhi gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places in Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places in Khulna, Dhaka, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6 pm today.

Slight fall in day temperature is likely across the country.

In a special forecast, the Met office also said that North or North-westerly Kalbaishakhi squall with a speed of 60-75 kph or more at places is likely in the regions of Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur, Faridpur, Dhaka, Tangail, Mymensingh and Sylhet during the 24 hours from 6 pm Wednesday.

## Fragile unity remains a concern for BNP, allies

By Nazmul Ashraf and Rezaul Karim

Desperate attempts are on to strengthen the fragile unity of the BNP-led opposition parties ahead of their planned street agitation "to unseat the Awami League government".

The alliance is now talking about a joint communiqué to be released from a meeting of their top leaders, opposition sources said.

The joint communiqué will try to make a public vow to maintain the opposition unity until the next general elections and contest the elections unitedly. A BNP representative on the four-party liaison committee hinted.

The idea of bringing the four leaders -- BNP chief Khaleda Zia, JP leader HM Ershad, Gollam Azam of Jamaat and Azzul Haq of IOJ -- across the table has been consented to by all the four.

But dispute is still there among the parties on the timing for such a summit. BNP prefers the planned meeting when the current agitation gets a momen-

tum while its partners, especially the JP, insists that the meeting be held immediately, liaison sources said.

The four-party unity was threatened on several occasions due to BNP-JP disputes on a number of issues including the nature and intensity of anti-government agitation. Furthermore, BNP is often blamed for ignoring its partners while chalking out fresh programmes.

Against this backdrop, the BNP chief yesterday appealed to the alliance partners to sink all differences for the sake of maintaining their unity.

"We've a common goal and we must remove all misunderstanding to reach the goal," she was quoted as telling a meeting of the liaison committee members at her Minto Road official residence last night.

The 90-minute closed-door meeting also discussed preparations for the May 11 hartals. The May 13 opposition MPs' de-

## AL designs its strategy

By Nazmul Ashraf and Reaz Ahmad

In the wake of the opposition threat to dislodge the government, the ruling Awami League has planned a massive campaign against the opposition movement to create an anarchic situation in the name of movement.

The planned AL campaign is likely to coincide with the countrywide programmes to celebrate the ruling party's 50th founding anniversary, party sources said.

The party's senior leaders are also likely to meet soon for evolving a strategy to combat the agitating opposition and hold the upazila parishad elections, the sources said.

Meanwhile, AL leaders from

all the districts in Dhaka Division are meeting today ahead of the opposition programmes including a nationwide hartal on May 11.

Other programmes announced by the BNP-led opposition alliance on Monday are: opposition MPs' demonstration in the capital on May 13 and separate road marches on May 16.

According to the sources, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to address public meetings in all the six divisional headquarters to mark the party's golden jubilee. The meetings have been scheduled for May 23 in Chittagong. May See Page 12 Col 4

## Take strong steps against unfair means:PM 'Education budget increased, but no desired result'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon teachers to give their best to elevate standard of education and eradicate illiteracy for economic development, report agencies.

"We have identified education as the main tool for alleviation of poverty and for economic emancipation," she said at the eighth National Conference of Bangladesh Shikshak Samity (teachers' association) at Mirpur Indoor Stadium.

Nearly 5,000 teachers of non-government schools, colleges and madrassahs are attending the two-day conference. The prime minister urged the teachers to give special attention to elevation of education standard. She said adopting unfair means in examinations is also a major problem.

A student who got certificate by adopting unfair means in an examination cannot compete anywhere for jobs. Ultimately they cannot get anything from education, she said asking the teachers to take a strong stand against this social vice.

Responding to the demands of the teachers, the prime minister said despite limited resources, her government would fulfil their legitimate demands in phases.

The prime minister said her government had been increasing budget allocation in the education sector every year. "But we are not getting the desired result from this sector," she added.

She called upon the teachers to render their service sincerely to raise the standard of education.

The government has included teachers and employees of non-government schools, colleges and madrassahs in the national pay scale before any movement. For this, Tk 227 crore was allocated in 1997-98, the premier said.

Now the teachers are getting 80 per cent of their salary from the government fund. She assured of consideration to provide 100 per cent salary from the government fund to the teachers who will show special performance and skill in their professions.

Hasina said the Non-government Educational Institute Teacher-Employees Welfare Trust was formed in 1990 but it was closed after six months during BNP's rule in 1991.

The present government re-

## Intern doctors at CMCH force suspension of outdoor services

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 5: The striking intern doctors at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital forced suspension of outdoor services from today to press home their demands.

Hundreds of poor patients who usually turn up at the hospital outdoor, were deprived of treatment, hospital sources said.

Besides, many patients were leaving the hospital, the sources added.

Earlier, the striking interns put the administrative offices at Chittagong Medical College hospital under lock and key.

The intern doctors at the hospital went on strike for an indefinite period from April 29 to realise their six-point demand that included increase of salary and other facilities.

## Airlines demand cut in fuel price

By Shehab Ahmed

The government is coming under intensive pressure from various airlines including Bangladesh Biman to reduce the domestic price of aviation fuel, which is one of the highest in the world, aviation sources said.

Domestic price of the fuel is 48 US cents per barrel and it is greatly raising biman's operational cost, taking off its competitive edge over foreign airlines in international routes.

The two private airlines operating in domestic sector, fly-

ing clubs, cargo operators, agriculture department and even the air force consider the local price aviation fuel too high compared to its global and regional price.

This is also discouraging foreign airlines to touch Dhaka for refuelling or open new services.

About a dozen foreign airlines currently operating their services to Dhaka are also quite unhappy about the high price, the sources said.

See Page 12 Col 8

## Rape, murder up despite combing operation

Star Report

Despite a countrywide combing operation by police, incidents of murder and rape increased sharply last month over that of the previous month.

Incidents of murder however declined in the city marginally. A total of 227 people were murdered in the country during April against 206 in the previous month, according to police and newspaper reports.

Ninety-eight women were violated in April against 62 in the previous month, according to the Institute of Democratic

Rights (IRD). In the city, incidents of murder came down to 28 during April from 33 in the previous month.

Thirty-four people were abducted in the country during April against 32 in the previous month.

The most sensational incident was slaughter of seven persons by terrorists of outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party at Bishunpur village under Daurmuhuda thana in Chuadanga district on April 24.

See Page 12 Col 2



No time to stand and stare! Doesn't look safe. Still, for a long time, it has failed to attract the authorities' attention despite many incidents in which people have hurt themselves and lost their luggage. As many as 200 motor vessels leave Sadarghat terminal everyday to destinations countrywide, carrying thousands. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## Aziz Bhai, Bunty and Nasima released

By Staff Correspondent

Business tycoon Aziz Mohammad Bhai and owner of Club Trumps Bunty Islam were released from the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

Meanwhile, Nasima who was arrested on April 25 for her alleged involvement in subversive activities against the state, was also released from the Dhaka jail yesterday.

All the three were released following court orders on Monday.

Aziz was arrested by Special Branch of police under Section 54 of the CrPC. He was an accused in the case lodged by a Joint Secretary of Information Ministry against his private satellite channel ATV. He was also a suspect in film actor Sohel Chowdhury murder case.

Bunty Islam was arrested as a suspect in the Sohel Chowdhury murder case. Besides, he was an accused in a case filed by Department of Narcotics Control.

Nasima was placed on a two-day remand after she was arrested. See Page 12 Col 6

## 2 killed as nor'wester hits Feni

FENI, May 5: Two people were killed as nor'wester lashed Fulgazi thana of the district today, reports UNB.

Many electric poles were uprooted in the storm that hit at about noon. Plunging the entire Fulgazi thana into darkness. Rickshawpuller Rafiq, 35, died at village South Anandapur after he was struck by lightning during the storm.

Saiful Islam, 14, was killed by lightning at Fatepur village at the same time.