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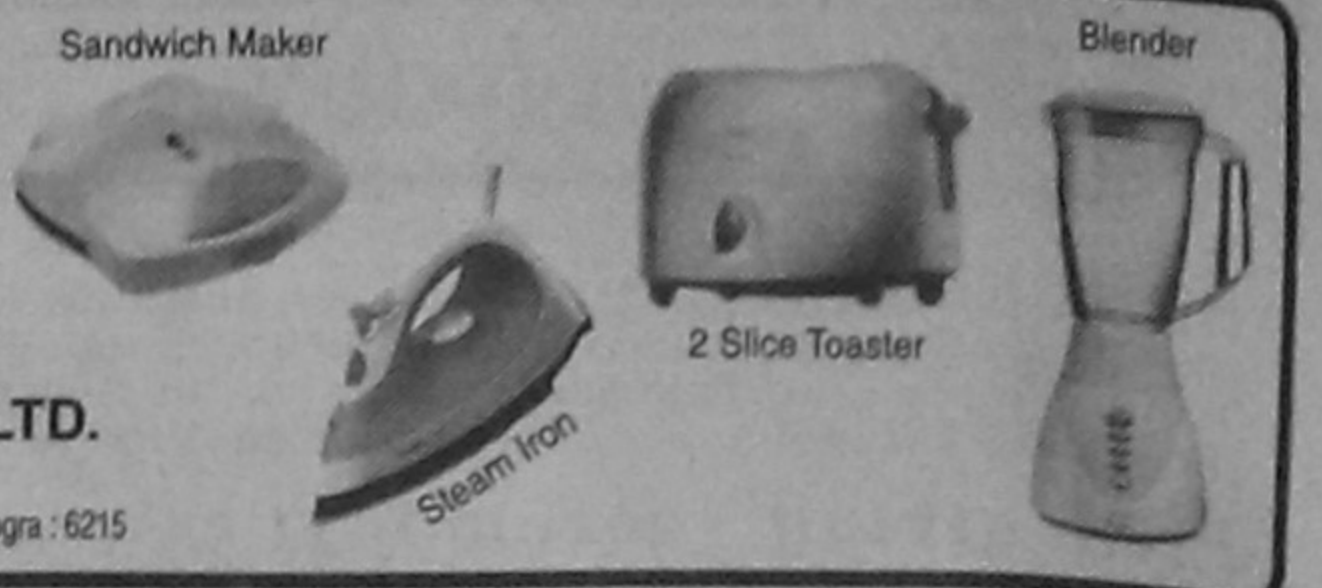


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# Govt blamed for failing to tame fundamentalism

By Staff Correspondent

The government is to blame for its failure to check rise of fundamentalism in the country, speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday said.

The pro-liberation Awami League government has totally failed to deal with terrorist activities that are destabilising peaceful atmosphere in the country, they alleged.

The speakers observed an alarming increase in criminal activities during the tenure of this government than the previous one.

The discussion on *Grass-roots Organisation Versus Fundamentalism: Perspective, Brahmanbaria* was chaired by director general of Bangla Academy Dr. Syed Anwar Hossain while national professor Kabir Chowdhury was the chief guest.

Organised by Centre for Bangladesh Studies (CBS), the seminar was also addressed by ADAB chairperson Khushi Kabir, journalist Abed Khan and Proshika chairman Dr.

Kazi Faruque Ahmed. Convener of the CBS Dr. Sukumar Biswas presented a report on the incident of Brahmanbaria on November 7 and 8 in 1998.

Referring to various terrorist activities by the religious radicals in Brahmanbaria and Sylhet, the speakers condemned the ruling Awami League for its failure to curb fundamentalism.

They said a mass movement involving all conscious and pro-liberation people is immediately needed to root out fundamentalism from the country.

Kazi Faruque Ahmed who witnessed the Brahmanbaria incident said such incident was unbelievable after 29 years of the War of Liberation. "One hardly expects that the anti-liberation forces will continue attacking us and the government won't act against them."

He said that in the government and pro-liberation forces for the rise of fundamentalism and said instead of resisting them, we are allowing

them to be stronger.

Kabir Chowdhury said that there are some people in the administration who are responsible for the rise of fundamentalism. "The government cannot take action against the fundamentalists due to the influential administrators."

Khushi Kabir said the religious radicals and their collaborators will grab power in near future if they are not put in check. She demanded that the report of the judicial probe body on the Brahmanbaria incident be published immediately.

Sukumar Biswas held local administration responsible for the attack on NGO activists in Brahmanbaria. The local administration in most cases helped the fundamentalists to attack people and damage property instead of resisting them.

Anwar Hossain called upon all progressive forces in the country to launch a concerted movement against the religious radicals.



BNP staged a rally at Muktaganj in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## BNP to protest alleged attack on Khaleda's motorcade today

By Staff Correspondent

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday strongly protested attack on party chairperson Khaleda Zia's motorcade as she was on the way to Chokoria from Cox's Bazar and blamed the 'miscreants' of the ruling Awami League for the attack.

He said the 'terrorists' suddenly attacked the motorcade and damaged some vehicles, but the BNP chairperson was unhurt and reached Chokoria, where she addressed a mammoth public meeting.

Addressing a big rally at Muktaganj organised by the city BNP, Bhuiyan said the motive of the 'miscreants' was to attack Khaleda Zia, but she escaped. He demanded immediate arrest and trial of the attackers and warned of dreadful consequences if such an incident occurred again.

To protest this attack, he announced a countrywide demonstration today and called upon the party leaders and activists to launch a massive movement against the 'unholy' activities of the AL government.

As part of the countrywide 'Prisoners Release Day' the BNP-led opposition alliance organised protest rallies and brought out processions in all cities, districts and thanas.

The BNP secretary general said the jails in Bangladesh are crammed with thousands of BNP and its front organisations' leaders and activists and the opposition activists are living inside the prisons in inhuman condition.

## Admission fee hike Over 100 RU students begin fast-unto-death

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Apr 9: Over a hundred students began fast-unto-death on the Rajshahi University campus today demanding withdrawal of enhanced admission fees.

Vice-Chancellor Saidur Rahman Khan and Proctor Azizul Islam visited the striking students belonging to 14 student bodies and urged them to call off the strike.

## Loadshedding continues

By Staff Correspondent

The city and its suburbs suffered over 200 megawatts of load shedding, low voltage and frequent power disruptions due to "line over loading" yesterday.

Power Development Board allocated 900 megawatts to DESA areas, falling short of the 1,000-megawatt requirement.

Khilgaon, Kamalapur, Dhanmondi, Lalbagh, Gulshan, Postogola, Kakrail and Tejgaon were the hardest hit by the power failures, which affected the entire city.

Kamalapur, Khilgaon, Kakrail, Paribagh and Tejgaon have experience routine load shedding since one of Ulon 132 KV grid station's three transformers has been out of order for two months.

Load shedding across the country totalled 116 megawatts. The board generated 2,544 megawatts against its 2,675-megawatt requirement.

Eleven of the country's 63 power plants were shut down yesterday, including Ashuganj Gas Turbine-2, Sylhet Gas, Shahjibazar-3, Shahjibazar-6, Fenchuganj Gas Turbine-2, Fenchuganj Gas Turbine-1, Fenchuganj Steam, Khulna Barge mounted plant-1, Barisal-2, Baghabari Gas Turbine and Ghorasal-4.

## 5-day talks begin today Dhaka to ask Delhi to ratify Mujib-Indira border treaty

Bangladesh will ask India to ratify the 1974 Mujib-Indira border treaty when five days of talk between border forces of the two countries begin in New Delhi today, reports BSS.

"Ratification is the main issue on our agenda. We are optimistic we will get a concrete decision and a time-frame from the Indian side," said Major General A L M Fazlur Rahman, director general of Bangladesh Rifles.

Rahman said other issues to be raised during the talks include the construction of an over pass or underpass at the check-post at the Tin-Bigha Corridor (Dohagram-Angarapota enclave) and the exchange of enclaves and adversely possessed lands, along with the routine issues such as cross border crime.

Rahman will lead an 18-member Bangladesh delegation while E N Rammoan, Border Security Force chief, will lead the 15-member Indian side.

Bangladesh ratified the 1974 treaty, which was signed by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the then Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi. New Delhi hasn't ratified the

accord, despite repeated requests from Dhaka, which said the treaty would help resolve border problems.

During last year's BDR-BSF conference in Dhaka, the Indian side said they had "decided" to "consider" the ratification issue, said BDR officials.

BDR sources said the BSF was likely to raise some specific border incidents, along with trans-border crimes, activities of Indian insurgents and trespassing.

Bangladesh and India share a 4,143-kilometre border.

The BDR chief said that, although India was yet to ratify the Mujib-Indira treaty, the two countries have demarcated 481.5 kilometers of undemarcated land based on the treaty. Only 6.5 kilometres of land in Lalitla-Dopara along the Sylhet frontier, Mulbarichar, which borders the Indian state of Assam, and Berubari in Rangpur remain to be demarcated.

"We have almost finished demarcating border areas in a friendly manner and setting up permanent pillars, replacing the bamboo packs there," said Fazlur Rahman.

## Reconciliation, dialogue

From Page 1

nouncing theory of non-violence, he said that it became very clear that both Gandhi and Bose couldn't remain together in the same Congress.

"It was the question of democracy. I'm not telling you that Gandhi was correct, or Bose."

"I'm delighted to see that like many other places Bangladesh is a champion for supporters of Subhas Bose."

Rajmohan said many at that time didn't believe in Gandhi's edict of non-violence to achieve independence. "But they supported him for practical and strategic reasons."

He said Gandhi was not opposed to self-defence. "Self-defence is not a violence," he said, adding that the Mahatma never did discourage self-defence during his visit to the riot-prone areas in late 1946 and early 1947.

Accompanied by his wife Usha Gandhi, Rajmohan goes to Noakhali today.

The sociopolitical thinker said with many successes Mahatma Gandhi had some failures, too. "Undoubtedly, the partition of India was a defeat. Issues relating to settling differences between Hindus and Muslims and the untouchables have not succeeded," he said.

He, however, said independence of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh was a great success for which Mahatma Gandhi and others fought for years. "The independence is a joint achievement of people," said Rajmohan.

Replying to a question from Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam on representation of Gandhi's legacy by modern India, Rajmohan Gandhi said the picture is very much mixed.

"There are intolerant groups, modern television networks became highly commercialised."

"However, there are many positive sides... Many volunteer groups are active for establishing rights of women, tribal and minority people. There is free speech on media. Even Indian government had to amend constitution for self-dependency of the villages."

Again, the scholar said that many Indians and Indian groups rejected Mahatma Gandhi by violating his ideology. "Even the biggest secular party couldn't ensure a corruption-free government," said Rajmohan Gandhi.

When Anam asked whether the influence of Gandhi in modern India is more or less, he said Mahatma Gandhi is very

much alive. "Every day the newspapers carry articles on him... It proves he is still alive."

Rajmohan Gandhi termed the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi as outcome of a fight between ideologies and said it couldn't stop march towards the right way. "Rather the ideology of secularism is strengthened. Jawaharlal Nehru could establish more dominance in the fight for secularism."

He dismissed the idea that Lord Wavell didn't want partition of India. "It is absolutely a wrong idea that Wavell had wanted to keep one India," he said, adding Gandhi's desire to prevent India from the partition was tamed.

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cate Sultana F. Nahar and Shamsyara Brance, a minor boy, contending that hazardous air pollution caused by the motor vehicles was endangering health of the citizens in Dhaka.

Secretaries of the ministries of environment and forest, health and family welfare, communications, home affairs, energy and mineral resources; the director general of the Department of Environment; Bangladesh Auto-rickshaw Business Owners' Association; Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, the Dhaka City Corporation, the inspector general of police and the deputy commissioner of Dhaka are made respondents in the writ petition.

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tive Director for Bangladesh to the World Bank Syed Ahmed, Bangladesh Ambassador to Paris Syed Moazzem Ali, Additional Secretary of ERD Khondakdar Tajuddin Ahmed, Joint Chief of Planning Commission K M S A Kaiser and Deputy Chief of ERD Fakrul Ahsan.

The agenda of the meeting will be discussed in five sessions. The first session includes Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Second session's agenda item is Governance and Institutional Capacity: Building Strong Institutions while third session's is Governance and Institutional Capacity: Accountability and Transparency.

In the fourth session discussion will take place on Infrastructure Constraints on Investment and Growth: Issues in the Energy and Transport Sector and fifth session's topic is Trends and Modalities of Development Assistance.

## Khaleda tells Chokoria rally AL wants to perpetuate power thru' conspiracy

CHOKORIA, Cox's Bazar, Apr 9: Opposition leader Khaleda Zia said yesterday the people oppressed by misrule and corruption will not allow the Awami League to stay in power, reports UNB.

"Once people of this country dislodged the Awami League from power. But the party returned to power after a long time by resorting to unfair means. They now want to perpetuate power through conspiracy but we shall not allow them to implement its blue print, declared the opposition leader while addressing a huge public meeting.

Khaleda stated her firm stand against anarchy and terrorism that was let loose by the ruling party, causing distress and misery among the people.

She said there is no security of life, and girls and women are subject to harassment by ruling party goons.

Khaleda said prices of essentials have increased, farmers do not get a fair price for their products. Unemployment is

soaring and social tension is increasing.

"People are frustrated with the misrule and corruption of the oppressive government. It is clear now the government has to be dislodged to save the nation from the clutches of inefficient government, said Zia.

Criticising the government for its failure to resolve the power crisis Zia said it is out to destroy the country's mills and factories.

She called upon the people to raise their voice against the misdeeds and misrule of the government and join the anti-government movement.

Presided over by Abu Taher, Chokoria thana BNP president, the meeting was addressed by Khondoker Mosharrar Hossain, retired colonel, Oli Ahmed, Abdulla Al Noman, Mirza Abbas and Salahuddin Ahmed, among others.

Zia is scheduled to address public meetings at Molekshali Gorakghata High School at 11 am and Ramu High School at 3 pm.

## 60 pc DA, 2-day weekly holiday for newspapermen demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The Journalists-Workers-Employees Unity Council has demanded 60 per cent dearness allowance for those working in the newspaper industry, and called for formulating a national policy for the industry upholding freedom of the Press, reports BSS.

The demand for DA was made in a 9-point charter of demands chalked out at a meeting of the Council at the National Press Club yesterday with Amanullah Kabir in the chair, a press release of the Council said.

The meeting was addressed by among others, G M Yakub, Akhter Ahmed Khan and M A Aziz of BFJU, Afzaruddin Khan and Muttur Rahman Talukder of Bangladesh Newspaper Employees Federation, Haji Mosharrar Hussain and Mohammad Mozammel Huiq of Bangladesh Press Workers Federation and Altaf Mahmood, Abu Saleh and Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan of DUJ.

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## JCD calls strike in educational instts today

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) student wing of the main opposition BNP will observe strike in all the educational institutions in the country today demanding immediate release of its leaders and activists including its president and general secretary.

Habibul-Nabi Sobel and Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, president and general secretary respectively of JCD central executive committee were arrested from a procession in front of BNP office in the city on December 17.

The JCD brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus in support of the strike yesterday.

Meanwhile, in observance of the Freedom of Prisoners Day, JCD held a rally at the main gate of Arts Building yesterday.

The speakers at the rally threatened to launch tougher movement if their leaders and activists were not released immediately.

Presided over by Manir Hossain, the rally was addressed by Monwar Hossain Rana, S M Nuruzzaman, A B M Mosharrar Hossain, Sultan Salaududdin Tuku, Ruhul Amin Akil, Azizul Hakim Arju, Abdul Bari Dani, Mostafizul Islam Mamun, Shamsuzzaman Mehedi and Azaduzzaman Asad.

## Motorcade

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ing them and injuring people in the motorcade.

The situation was brought under control by police and Zia reached Chokoria. She returned to Cox's Bazar after the public meeting.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who was in Dhaka, accused government backed terrorists of the attack.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has condemned the government for not providing car and other facilities for the leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at Chitagong Airport in violation of protocol.

In a statement yesterday, Bhuiyan said it was a 'pre-planned act'.

Khaleda Zia was on way to Cox's Bazar on a three-day organisational tour.

## Guardians

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AMM Talibur Rahman stated in his complaint that Abdul Mannan received money from 132 students for registration for the 1998-1999 school year during his tenure.

All 132 students paid their dues and registration fees to sit for the forthcoming HSC examination, it said. However, the 132 students of the humanities were not registered.

The complaint said the incident hampered the reputation of the institution and spoiled the future of the students.

The students went to the college and found a notice stating the college was closed due to unavoidable circumstances. Police were deployed out in front and masts were inside the college.

The students found out Thursday they would not be able to sit for the forthcoming HSC examination. Then they started ransacking the office rooms of the college.

## Body to save Dhaka from environmental hazards

A high level expert committee with State Minister for Environment HN Ashiqur Rahman was formed yesterday to recommend measures in two months to save Dhaka from environmental disaster, an official handout said in the city, reports BSS.

The committee was formed at a meeting of the National Environment Committee particularly to formulate government policies on high rise commercial and residential buildings in Dhaka in the backdrop of growing concern about unplanned infrastructural development of the city.

Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Saieda Chowdhury chaired the meeting, while water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, Works Minister Mosharrar Hossain, State Minister for Forest and Environment Ashiqur Rahman, and concerned secretaries, senior officials of Dhaka City Corporation, RAJUK and other agencies were present.

Ashiqur Rahman will head

the committee comprising environmental experts and city planners who have been asked to submit their report in two months for government decision.

The expert committee will also review the environmental court act, and laws and submit their report to the National Environment Committee before its next meeting.

The meeting also discussed the issues of the River Buriganga, problems caused by the tannery units, air pollution and disposal of municipal and clinical wastes.

## Charmonai Peer's supporters go on rampage in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 9: Six people were injured when supporters of the Peer of Charmonai went on rampage and looted two cloth stores at Friend's Market near the Deputy Commissioner's office here today, reports BSS.

Police and witnesses said, the incident occurred when agitated supporters of Charmonai led by Moulana Abdul Awal, imam of DIT Mosque, went to submit a memorandum to the DC demanding arrest of the Peer of Dewanbagh for some of his objectionable publications on religion.

The supporters of Charmonai Peer wanted to take rest at the cloth stores but the owners refused to allow that. At this, they got agitated and looted the stores and injured six people. The injured were treated, sources said.

They also branded the shop owners as supporters of Dewanbagh Peer, witnesses said.

## Dhanmondi lake

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was seen that along the lake, between Road-32 bridge and Road-27, several structures were still blocking the space for the walkway component. The authorities are yet to decide what to do to recover about 2.5 bighas of lakeside public land illegally occupied by a section of PWD and WSA officials.

Official sources said that the Housing and Public Works Ministry and relevant departments will shortly assess the situation. If necessary, the demolition drive will be resumed.

## Shibir

From Page 1

unit also brought out a procession and held a rally on the Zila Parishad premises this afternoon demanding re-opening the CU immediately.

Presided over by Ahsan Kabir Bengal, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), CU unit, speakers at the rally urged the university authority to restore academic atmosphere on the campus.

On the other hand, APSA continued its strike on CU campus for 69th day today. Classes and scheduled examinations were not held but offices at the administrative building remained open during the strike.

No teachers bus or university shuttle train plied between Chittagong city and the campus. APSA began strike at CU for an indefinite period on February 1 to press home its demands including removal of the VC, Pro-VC, Proctor and provosts of the university and arrest of the persons responsible for the December 19 killings.

Two Shibir activists were killed in a gunfight on the campus on December 19 last year.

## Two held in Pakistan for alleged links with Laden

ISLAMABAD, Apr 9: Police raided an apartment in north-eastern Pakistan, recovered several forged passports and arrested two men, an Egyptian and Algerian, on suspicion of having links with suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden, the authorities said today, reports AP.

They said they recovered several forged passports, visa stamps and 35,000 dollars from an apartment in the Spina Wari neighborhood of Peshawar, located at the foot of the famed Khyber Pass that links Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Egyptian, identified as Abdul Mohsin, apparently spent three months in jail in Canada on suspicion of involvement with bin Laden's group, Al-Qaida, according to an associate of his who did not want to be identified by name.

Pakistani intelligence said they conducted the raid earlier

this week after receiving information that bin Laden's son was living in the apartment along with the two men.

The Algerian, who was arrested along with Mohsin, was identified only as Somir. Police were further investigating his identity.

It wasn't immediately known how many forged passports were recovered and for what countries.

An investigation that has crisscrossed the globe has led investigators to believe that bin Laden's Al Qaida group is behind two foiled bomb plots - one in the United States, that involved arrests in the US and Canada and one in Jordan, that involved arrests in Jordan and Pakistan.

Last year 14 men were arrested in Jordan on suspicion that they planned to bomb US targets in that country over the Christmas and New Year's holi-

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