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**'People's protest against wilful delay'**  
By Staff Correspondent  
Prime Minister and ruling Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday termed her party's street agitation against some higher court judges as "people's resentment against wilful delay" in the process of trial of the Bangabandhu murder case.

"Can you blame the people for their protests or becoming sentimental when they find the court delaying the trial by repeatedly refusing to hear the death reference or making such delay wilfully?" she told a press conference at the Gana Bhaban. She returned home Thursday after a 16-day tour of USA.

"Everybody has the right to protest," Hasina said.

She said delay in the trial is encouraging opposition parties whose current agitation is "mainly to protect the killers of Bangabandhu."

The Prime Minister said judges are pledge-bound to brave any threat or intimidation and keep themselves above everything while dispensing justice.

"The people in power stalled the trial of Bangabandhu's killers for so many years. They not only protected but also rewarded the killers.... Whom should you blame if killing continues in the society," she said replying to a question on law and order. "Murder or any other act of terrorism will not stop in the country unless the killers of

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## Complete trial for the sake of justice

This is people's expectation, says PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday people want the trial of Bangabandhu's killers to take its normal course and be completed for the sake of justice, reports BSS.

"The lower court has given its verdict on the Bangabandhu murder case as the law has taken its own course. Now it is the people's expectation that the killers will be punished for the sake of the rule of law," she told the "Advocates Conference 2000" of the Bangladesh Bar Council in the city.

The Prime Minister said she believed those who deliver justice will live up to the expectations.

Chief Justice Latifur Rahman, Supreme Court judges, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru and diplomats joined some 800 lawyers in the national conference.

Hasina's comments came amidst a controversy and demand for expediting the Bangabandhu murder trial process currently pending before the High Court for review and appeal hearing.

Sheikh Hasina said the judiciary was enjoying maximum independence during the tenure of the current government which has triggered an increased people's expectation from the court.

She said for more than two decades the killers of Bangabandhu were provided state protection and awarded with overseas postings to represent the country abroad despite their "proud self-confessions."

Terrorism and murders cannot be removed from society, if the killers of a president, children and pregnant women cannot be brought to justice," she said.

"Moreover, if a quarters becomes active to protect the killers, how can you protect the people and save the society," she questioned.

"The killers and terrorists

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## Hasina welcomes Opposition's 'politics of polls'

By Staff Correspondent  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday welcomed opposition parties' move towards 'politics of elections, shunning the path of conspiracy for ousting government through unconstitutional means'.

"Of late, they have redirected their politics towards election. I must say good sense has prevailed upon them," she said at a press conference at the Gana Bhaban. But she rejected the opposition demand for early general election.

Replying to a question on the opposition's pre-election campaign, the Prime Minister also thanked her political opponents for shifting from their practice of 'monthly threat' to overthrow her government.

The Leader of the House once again invited the opposition to join the parliament session as they have already launched election campaign. "Come to the House, we will ventilate your views to the electorate by broadcasting live the parliamentary proceedings you will participate."

The ruling Awami League chief said her party will also prepare for the next polls. "Tenure of my government will expire in July next year. The next election will take place in

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## Nor'wester in Netrokona, Rangpur kills 17

By Staff Correspondent  
At least 17 people were killed, over 300 injured as nor'wester lashed different areas in Netrokona and Rangpur districts on Thursday night.

The storm left about 7000 houses and crops in vast areas damaged.

Our Netrokona Correspondent reports: At least 12 people including two women and five children were killed and over 100 injured as a nor'wester swept four upazilas of the district.

Of those killed, 10 were identified as Phool Banu, 35, and her two minor children Abdur Rouf, 12, and Motalab, 10, Shirin, 4, Maju, 30, Sahar Ali, 50, Selina, 35, Kawser's mother, 70, Uzzal, 12, and Rob.

20 Two others - a minor boy and an old man - were unidentified.

All of them were killed in house collapse, official sources said.

According to the district administration, the storm caused widespread damage in Netrokona Sadar, Purbadhala, Atapur and Madan upazilas.

The nor'wester with a speed of around 120 km per hour and accompanied by hail continued for about 45 minutes from 1-15 am, flattening at least 2000 thatched and tin-shed houses.

Over a dozen educational institutions were also damaged in the storm. Hundreds of trees were uprooted and electric and telephone poles damaged.

The Deputy Commissioner visited the storm-hit areas and distributed Tk 22,000 among the affected people. Ten tonnes of food items were also sent as emergency relief.

"We need more relief materials for the worst affected people," an official said.

Our Rangpur Correspondent adds: At least five persons were killed, over 200 injured, about 5000 kutcha houses were raged to the ground and crops in vast areas damaged when a nor'wester hit parts of Rangpur Sadar, Gangachhara, Pirgachha and Taraganj upazilas and Rangpur paurasabha areas.

The dead were identified as Rahnuma Begum Tuni, 13, of

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April	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
22	-	6-23pm
23	5-31am	-

**Prayer Timings**  
April 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-15
Zohr	1-00	1-30
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-25	6-30
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a conference of the Bangladesh Bar Council at the Institution of Engineers in the city yesterday. - PID photo

## If politics enters court, judges of all levels will feel embarrassed

CJ's call to keep court above politics

Chief Justice Latifur Rahman urged the lawyers yesterday to help keep the court out of politics, failing which may erode confidence in judiciary, reports BSS.

"If politics moves its way into the court, justice will be hampered, dignity of court will be affected and people will lose their faith in the judiciary," he said, while speaking at the Bangladesh Bar Council conference.

"If politics enters the court, the judges of all level will feel embarrassed, the chief justice said.

The chief justice also urged the judges to maintain their dignity since losing the people's confidence would mean collapse of the judicial system.

"The honesty of a judge is not enough, court officials and lawyers would also have to be honest as the judges depend on their honesty."

Attorney General and ex-officio chairman of the Bar Council Mahmudul Islam chaired the function.

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru and Vice-president of the Bar Barister Amirul Islam also addressed the meet.

The chief justice said a sense of insecurity prevails in society affecting the process of justice. It's become very difficult to curb crimes, he said.

"The situation has now reached such a level that many do not dare to become witnesses despite watching it all happen."

Justice Rahman urged the administration to take these issues into consideration and initiate necessary actions to expedite the implementation of court orders for quick and effective delivery of justice.

The chief justice admitted that the judicial across the world suffered tainted a image recently.

Experts blame the corrupt judicial system for it.

Internationally, lawyers are instrumental in the corruption of judges through court clerks and other staff.

The chief justice said a judge was a more responsible person than any other man in society and primarily accountable to his own conscience "despite the fact that all consciences are not above any guilt."

"Therefore, the judges should be accountable to the constitution, which in fact, is the accountability towards public opinion," he said.

He added: "The absolute authority and unaccountability of the higher judiciary also can

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## Govt undecided on appointment of adjudicator for Grameen Court

By Staff Correspondent  
The government is yet to decide on appointment of the adjudicator for Grameen Court to replace the village courts established in 1976.

Sources said that the Grameen Court project undertaken by the government with UNDP finance to the tune of Tk 5 crore, so far failed to come up with a viable alternative of the village court headed by the chairman of the Union Council.

A draft bill proposed by the law ministry and placed in the cabinet recently suggested to review whether a senior assistant judge should be appointed the presiding judge of the Grameen Court instead of the chairman of the union council, sources said.

But the draft bill was sent back to the law ministry of 'further thinking'. Earlier, another draft bill on Grameen Court had proposed appointment of retired magistrate as its presiding judge.

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## E-com seminar in Ctg today

By Staff Correspondent  
A seminar on e-commerce jointly organised by The Daily Star and Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) will be held today at 3:00 pm at Hotel Agrabad in Chittagong.

Experts on Information Technology (IT) will speak at the seminar while business persons, executives, students are expected to attend the seminar.

## AL vs AL in Rajshahi

Opposition to boycott today's bypolls

From Abdul Wadood  
RAJSHAHI, Apr 21: Parliamentary by-election in Rajshahi-5 constituency comprising Chorghat and Bagha thanas is going to be held tomorrow amid a tense situation.

The BNP-led local All Party Action Committee earlier called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the constituency on the polling day. Opposition BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami are boycotting the by-election, making it virtually a race between two local leaders of ruling Awami League - one nominated by the party and the other contesting as an independent candidate. Nurul Islam Thandu is contesting as AL nominee and Raihanul Haque Raihan as an independent candidate.

All the 72 polling centres are 'risky' and out of the total, 52 have been identified as 'very risky'. Returning Officer and

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Nurul Islam  
Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi AKM Shamsuddin Ahmed said.



Raihanul Haque  
question of rigging of votes or media coup, he added responding to a question from this correspondent.

## Men of Charmonai peer, police clash: One killed, over 200 injured

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 21: One person was killed and over 200 were injured, 20 by bullet, in a fierce clash between the supporters of Charmonai Peer and police in Dewanbagh area here today, reports UNB.

Officials and witnesses said the enraged Charmonai supporters, who are waging a campaign against the rival peer of Dewanbagh, also ransacked and set fire to four police camps.

Over 20 vehicles were damaged on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway during the clash that halted traffic on the busy route for over three hours from 5 pm.

Forty bullets were looted during the three-hour-long clash during which police fired a salvo of over 450 gunshots and 30 teargas shells.

The dead was identified as Amirul Islam, 20, son of Deen Mohammad of Kalabari area in Bandar thana. He was shot in his buttock and died on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses said the clash ensued at Kanchipur at about 4:45pm when police tried to refrain supporters of Charmonai Peer from attending a meeting at Dewanbagh in the Sadar thana. Later, the protesters broke the police barricades and proceeded.

About 20,000 supporters of Charmonai Peer assembled near Dewanbagh Darbar Sharif

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## Mary Ann to succeed Holzman

By Diplomatic Correspondent  
Mary Ann Peters, a career diplomat, would succeed the outgoing US Ambassador to Bangladesh John C Holzman, who is to go on retirement.

The incoming envoy is now posted as Deputy Chief of US mission in Ottawa.

Mary Ann would be second woman ambassador of the United States to be assigned to Bangladesh. Earlier Jane Abel Cohn was the first US woman diplomat to head her country's mission abroad in the early eighties.

Holzman's high point of career was marked by the recent visit to Bangladesh by the US President Bill Clinton. He also worked to expand US-Bangladesh business ties and the volume of Dhaka's exports rose from a meagre 25 million dollars to 750 million dollars

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
National Board of Revenue  
Dhaka

প্রদেয় আয়কর পরিশোধ করুন এবং  
 দেশের অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে আপনার অবদান রাখুন

### Notice Regarding Spot Assessment

This is for information of all concerned that provision to realise income tax through spot assessment has been introduced in Finance Act 1999. Deputy Commissioners of Taxes concerned have already started spot assessment activities in their areas under jurisdiction. Its salient features are:-

- This provision is an easy method to settle on the spot tax cases and payment of tax liability for those persons (except company) who have no income tax file although they have income from business.
- Tax officials will help tax-payers in filling up return.
- The concerned tax-payers after being agreed to pay tax on the prescribed rate deposits the tax in Bangladesh Bank/Sonali Bank, the receipt of deposit will be considered as the evidence of completion of assessment of tax.
- Tax fixed in such a way will remain unchanged for the next two tax years also for the concerned tax-payers.
- Rate of tax in case of spot assessment:

Serial no	Location of firm	Amount of capital (in taka)	Amount of tax (in taka)
(1)	Within the area of city corporation.	Up to maximum 5,00,000/-	2,500/-
(2)	Within the area of city corporation.	Above 5,00,000 taka but up to maximum 10,00,000/-	3,500/-
(3)	Within divisional or municipal area in town.	Up to maximum 5,00,000/-	1,500/-
(4)	Within divisional or municipal area in town.	Above 5,00,000/- but up to maximum 10,00,000/-	2,500/-

- If the tax-payer concerned does not agree to pay tax in the specific rate during the period of spot assessment activities, then completion of assessment of his tax will be done as per normal law within the shortest possible time.
- Deputy Commissioners of Taxes will inform the office-bearers of the Traders Association concerned before going to spot assessment in business establishments and will conduct the spot assessment activities in presence of their nominated representatives.
- All including the Traders Association concerned are requested to cooperate in the spot assessment activities.

DFP-8961-17/4  
G-719

National Board of Revenue

## Free electoral process from money and muscle power

Menon tells The Daily Star

By Nurul Kabir

Left Democratic Front leader Rashed Khan Menon thinks that the nation's future largely depends on streamlining the country's electoral process, democratising the political parties and making those accountable to the people.

"If we fail to free the electoral process from the influence of black money and muscle, if we fail to introduce democratic practices inside political parties and make those accountable to the electorate, the nation would be nowhere in the near future," the LDF leader observed. "It's high time for us to address the problems."

He made the observations in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star last week.

**Strengthening the EC**  
Menon asserted that the Election Commission (EC) is not 'independent enough' to ensure a free and fair general election and it is one of the most important political tasks of the nation to address the problem.

"Free and fair election is an essential pre-requisite for democratic governance but our Election Commission is not independent enough to ensure this," said Menon. "To become independent, the Commission must have its own cadre of staff so that it can exercise required control over the electoral process across the country."

He said, "It is mainly the administrative cadre of the state which controls the electoral process at the field level. The Deputy Commissioners play the role of Returning Officers in the polls while the Election Commission does not have permanent control over them. The EC must have its own officials as Returning Officers, who are permanently accountable to it."

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ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন  
নগর ভবন, ঢাকা

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন  
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

### ৭ম জাতীয় টিকা দিবস ২৩ এপ্রিল, ২০০০ইং (১ম পর্ব)

প্রিয় নগরবাসী,  
আসসালামু আলাইকুম।

আপনারা জানেন যে, পোলিও একটি মারাত্মক সংক্রামক ব্যাধি। এই মারাত্মক ব্যাধির কারণে শিশুদের পঙ্কত্বের অভিশাপ থেকে বাঁচতে ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের কম বয়সী সকল শিশুকে আগামী ২৩ এপ্রিল, ২০০০ইং বোজ রবিবার ৭ম জাতীয় টিকা দিবসের ১ম পর্বে 'পোলিও টিকা' খাওয়াতবে উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে।

২৩ এপ্রিল, ২০০০ইং রবিবার আপনার ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের কম বয়সী সকল শিশুকে ২ ফোটা 'পোলিও টিকা' খাওয়াতে টিকাদান কেন্দ্রে (সকাল ৮টা থেকে বিকাল ৫টা পর্যন্ত) আনার জন্য অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি।

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আপ্না আপনারদের সহায় ইউন।

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মেয়র  
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।

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