

What's on today

Discussion meeting: Srot Abritee Sangsad will hold a discussion meeting followed by a cultural meeting on occasion of May Day. Venue: TSC premises. Time: 4:00 pm.

Satyajit Ray Retrospective: Mahanagar (The big city) will be screened. Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Rd No 2, Dharmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Discussion meeting: Amnesty International Bangladesh and Welfare Association of Bangladesh Employees (WARBE) will hold a discussion meeting on "Labour Rights are Human Rights". Venue: Sena Kalyan Bhaban auditorium, 195 Motijheel C/A.

..... and tomorrow

Discussion meeting: Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) will hold a meeting on the occasion of the launching of a book "Cooperation on the Eastern Himalayan Rivers: Challenges and Opportunities" published jointly by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), Dhaka, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi and Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), Kathmandu. Chief guest: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak. Venue: Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM), 63 New Eskaton. Time: 4:00 pm.

Satyajit Ray Retrospective: Protibandhi (The Adversary) will be screened. Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Rd No 2, Dharmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Weather

Temperature may rise

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at a few places over Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna division during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 35.2 degree Celsius at Chuadanga and the lowest 20.0 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.27 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.23 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.5	22.0	72	71
Chittagong	33.3	21.0	68	84
Rajshahi	34.7	22.4	79	-
Khulna	33.8	21.0	73	74
Barisal	34.0	21.5	66	-
Sylhet	29.8	21.5	82	77
Cox's Bazar	33.8	20.0	67	81

Hacked ISP changes

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An official of the ISP admitted that the system was severely hacked by someone but it was solved later by changing the domain address.

Such an action requires an administrator level, password to get access to ISP computers. Only ISP operators keep such password.

He however said that the company found phoney addresses of the 'hacker', which they could locate by tracking back the hacker's web-site.

"The hacker is Abu Naser of Elephant Road, with a phone number of old Dhaka," one Brac Bdmal official said requesting anonymity.

He also said that the 'hacker' changed the DNS 1 and 2 of the company (Domain Name Server).

The official also said that Brac Bdmal contacted the US based 'InterNIC' domain registration company which registers all the ISPs in Bangladesh to know further about the hacking.

"We are yet to get any response from them as it is week-end and also because of the ensuing May Day holiday," the official said.

He also said, till a response is available from the domain registration company, it will not be possible to ensure that such hacking will not take place in future.

"Some of the leading ISPs in the country were severely hacked once or twice in the past," a high official of an ISP said requesting anonymity. "But no company will ever admit such attack."

He said one leading ISP at Mirpur in the city came under



Muhaimin Saleh elected Dist Governor of Lions Club

By Staff Correspondent

Lion MA Muhaimin Saleh M.J.F. a renowned businessman has been elected District Governor of Lions District-315B1 at the 4th annual district convention of Lions Clubs International district held recently.

Ln Nishat Huq was elected chairman of the organising committee while Ln Nurul Islam Molla was elected as the Vice-District Governor. Ln Mujibul Haque Chunnun and Ln Kazi Kamal Ahmed were elected as the cabinet secretary and treasurer respectively.

Earlier, a seminar entitled "Quality and Dedicated Service" was organised on the second day of the district convention at a local hotel with District Governor Ln Rashed Maksud Khan in the chair.

Eminent economist and Chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Prof Rehman Sobhan, who was addressing the seminar as the chief guest stressed on overall quality and dedication needed for betterment of the society.

Ln Sheikh Kabir Hossain, Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, delivered a lecture on 'Quality in Service', Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star focused on 'Quality in Professionalism and Commitment', and Prof Daniel Huq of Jahangirnagar University spoke on 'Quality in Education'.

3250 expelled

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ers in Gaibandha, 100 students in Kurigram, 52 in Nilphamari, 26 in Lalmonirhat, 229 in Dinajpur, 151 in Thakurgaon, 79 in Panchagar, 247 in Sirajgonj and 47 in Bogra. Report was not available from Natore till filing this report.

Trees

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of the work. But he could not be reached for comment despite repeated attempts.

Later in the afternoon, residents and the local business community confronted the contractor, who produced a letter from the DUTP Director ordering him to immediately remove the trees located within the carriageway of the road (Kemal Ataturk Avenue) and/or which obstruct vehicular traffic on the road. The letter was dated April 28.

But Akku Chowdhury, a businessman of the area, said the trees being felled are not obstructing traffic but playing a vital role in maintaining environmental harmony in the area.

The residents also questioned the wisdom of the DUTP authorities in felling the trees and the foresight of the city planners. "Where were they when the avenue was constructed? What the planners were doing at that time?" asked a resident.

However, the contractor's men were preparing for a night operation to remove the trees.

Training on Risk Assessment Management held

Standard Chartered Bank organised a two-day training on Risk Assessment Management for its executive, on April 21 and 22, says a press release.

Latifur Rahman, President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, distributed certificates to the participants of the seminar in a ceremony held in Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on the concluding day.

Addressing the participants Latifur Rahman said that it is important to differentiate between loan default and fraudulence and that entrepreneurs facing a difficult time cannot be always blamed for having the intention for default. The banks can play a crucial role in helping distressed clients by understanding their problems.

Sethu Venkateswaran, Chief Executive Bangladesh of Standard Chartered Bank, said in his speech that Standard Chartered Bank was committed to contribute towards development of health, youth and education sectors of the country. He reminded the participants that as future bankers they had a responsibility to work for the wellbeing of their country.

Mohammad Hossain, former Managing Director of Sonali Bank, said that with the right resources and commitment it is possible to recover loans. He urged the participants that they should try to understand the business well and develop an attitude to help their clients.

Mamun Rashid, head of Corporate Banking and Group Special Asset Management of Standard Chartered Bank in Bangladesh, emphasised the significance of the training and reiterated the commitment of Standard Chartered Bank towards the development of the country.

Khairul Alam, Managing Director of Eastern Bank, SM Nurul Alam, Managing Director (Current Charge) of South East Bank and Muklesur Rahman, Deputy Managing Director of Dhaka Bank Ltd, also attended the certificate-giving ceremony.

RU JCD agitation programmes

RAJSHAHI, Apr 30: Rajshahi University Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) will launch a series of agitation programmes tomorrow to realise its 15-point demand, reports UNB.

JCD RU unit convenor Taful Islam TPU announced the programmes that include hartal, boycott of classes, stopping various transport and laying siege to the Administrative Building.

Newspapermen

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holiday for newspapermen, the rally warned against any ill-tempt by any quarters to curtail the existing 13 days yearly holiday in the industry.

It condemned the move by a section of newspaper owners to publish newspapers on public holiday and urged them to refrain from such unlawful activities.

The rally urged the government and the newspaper and news agency owners to accept the 9-point demand within month.

It called for forming action committees in all units as well as in all newspapers outside Dhaka to strengthen the 9-point movement of the community.

The rally emphasised on the unity of working journalists under the banner of single BFUJ and DUJ within a very short time to expedite the ongoing movement.

The speakers warned serious consequences against any move to jeopardize the unity process.

The rally warned against any repression on newspapermen, including termination, delay in payment of salary and harassment in other forms and called upon the newspaper owners and their "paid agents" to refrain from such a vicious move.

BFUJ leaders GM Yakub, MA Aziz and Akhter Ahmed Khan, DUJ leaders Alif Mahmud and Abu Saleh, Sangbadptra Press Sramik Federation President Mosharrif Hossain and Secretary General Mozammel Haq, Sangbadptra Karmachari Federation Acting President Afzaruddin Khan and Secretary General Motiur Rahman Talukder and Sangbadptra Hawkers' Welfare Multipurpose Cooperation Society Founding President Syed Mohammad Ismail and Secretary Nurul Huda Abdullah addressed the rally.

Chaired by BFUJ leader Amanullah Kabir, the rally was conducted by DUJ leader Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan.

African doomsday cult quits school, work

JOHANNESBURG, April 30: Members of a small doomsday cult in South Africa's rural Eastern Cape province have quit work and taken their children out of school to wait for Jesus, reports said Sunday, reports AFP.

The cult, which has no name, has between 70 and 100 members, most of whom live at their church, a tiny house in a squatter settlement outside the town of Umtata, the Sunday World and City Press newspapers reported.

It is headed by former nurse Nokulunga Fipaza, who preaches against education, sex, marriage, medicine and family bonds.

Police, mindful of the killing this year of nearly 1,000 members of the Ugandan Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments, said they were watching the religious group but had no reason to act against it.

At least 10 children belonging to cult members have been taken out of school and are forced to join their parents for prayers five times a day, the reports said.

The congregation survives on offerings placed in a wooden box. Some members have sold their assets and apparently given their money to the

Air Bus purchase

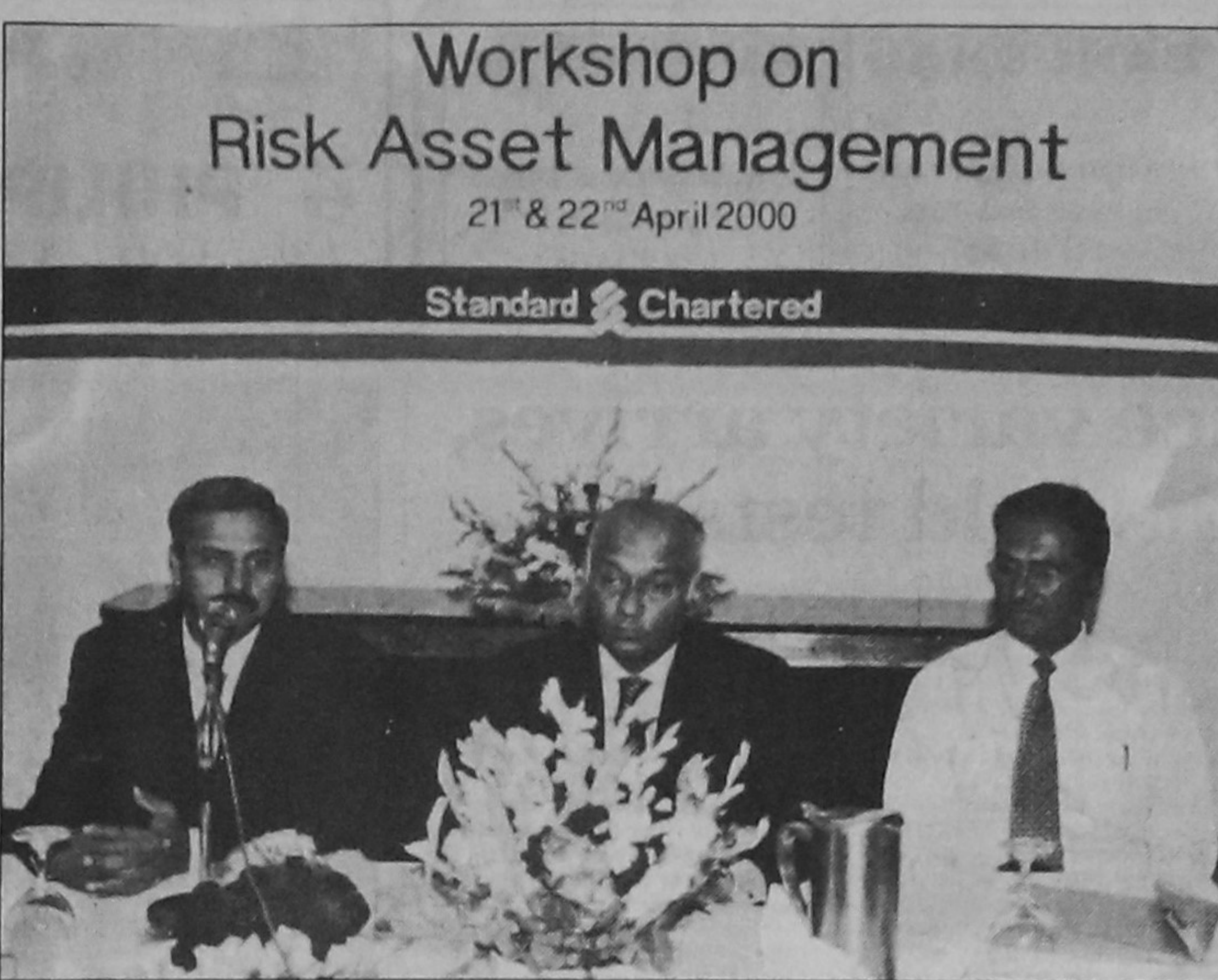
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connection with a corruption case lodged by the Bureau of Anti-Corruption, is bringing corruption charges against the present government.

Mosharrif said 20 million US dollars was misappropriated by escalating purchase rate and 15 million dollars by way of giving approval to purchasing "redundant" accessories of the two air buses in 1995.

Corruption cases were filed against her, former finance minister Salfur Rahman and former state minister for civil aviation and tourism Abdul Mannan for misappropriating the huge amount of public money, he said.

He said the main accused in a corruption case is making corruption charges against the government. But the people will not be misled by the falsehood spread by Khaleda, he said.



Latifur Rahman, President of MCCI, Sethu Venkateswaran, Chief Executive Bangladesh of Standard Chartered Bank and Mohammad Hossain, former Managing Director of Sonali Bank, at the certificate giving ceremony of a training programme on Risk Assessment Management organised by Standard Chartered Bank. The function was held at a city hotel recently.

US declares AIDS a security threat

WASHINGTON, April 30: The US government has formally designated AIDS as a security threat that could topple foreign governments, touch off ethnic wars and undo decades of work in building democracies abroad, the Washington Post reported Sunday, reports AFP.

The National Security Council, which has never before been involved in combating an infectious disease, is directing a rapid reassessment of the government's efforts, the Post reported.

Washington also has doubled -to 254 million dollars - funding dedicated to combatting AIDS overseas, although some senior US officials and several members of Congress contemplate much higher spending levels.

A White House working group has been asked to develop ways to bolster the international effort to eradicate the potentially deadly ailment, the daily said.

A National Intelligence Estimate prepared in January, representing consensus among government analysts, projected that a quarter of southern Africa's population is likely to die of AIDS and said the pandemic could follow a similarly disastrous course in south Asia and the former Soviet Union.

"At least some of the hardest-hit countries, initially in sub-Saharan Africa and later in other regions, will face a demographic catastrophe" over the next 20 years, the study said.

"This will further impoverish the poor and often the middle class and produce a huge and impoverished orphan cohort unable to cope and vulnerable to exploitation and radicalization," read the report, as quoted by the Post.

There is no recent precedent for treating disease as a security threat, according to the daily.

According to World Health Organization figures, 23 million people now are infected with AIDS or HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, with new infections coming at the rate of roughly 5,000 a day. Of 13 million deaths to date, 11 million have been in sub-Saharan Africa.

Peter Piot, a virologist who heads the United Nations AIDS efforts in Geneva, told the Post. "The good news is that the US government is mobilizing. The bad news is that it took so long."

"This is not a catastrophe that came out of the blue. It has been clearly coming for at least 10 years."

Five shot dead in Indonesia

JAKARTA, April 30: At least five people were shot dead when security forces attempted to disperse sectarian clashes in Ambon, the capital of riot-torn eastern Maluku, a report said Sunday, reports AFP.

The clash broke out in the border area between the Batu Merah and Mardikara areas in downtown Ambon on Sunday afternoon, the Antara news agency said.

At least five people were shot dead, mostly by the security forces, while two dozen people were injured, Antara said.



A function was held in the city to mark the Ovaltine Launch. From left are Khairul Anam, Business Dev Manager, Novartis Bangladesh Limited, Aziz Al Mahmood, Managing Director, Danish Distribution Network, A A Kaiser, Vice-Chairman, Partex Group, Gerhard G Doege, Managing Director, Novartis Bangladesh Limited, Abdul Mannan Secretary, Bangladesh National Nutrition Council and Shariful Islam, Brand Manager, Novartis Healthcare.

Multi-storied car parking lots in Motijheel CA suggested

By Staff Correspondent

The authorities should build multi-storied car parking lots on unused public plots in Motijheel and other commercial areas of the city to reduce traffic congestion, speakers at a workshop said on Saturday.

The workshop on "Traffic Problems in Dhaka City" was organised by The Daily Star in cooperation with the Bangladesh Scouts at the Scout Bhaban in the city.

Speakers said instead of selling public land, the government should plan to preserve those for future needs. They said as the city was growing fast, need for facilities such as parking, pump house, parks and police outposts was increasing. Of these public lands are sold to private owners, the future planners will have no option left for these facilities, they said.

They said the multi-storied car park could be turned into a profitable venture. The growth of vehicular traffic and lack of parking facilities in the city are reflecting on the carrying capacity of the carriageway. The situation is particularly bad in the commercial areas of the city as markets and offices have been allowed to grow without ensuring proper parking.

Rajuk Chairman M Azizul Haque said his office was planning to build a multi-storied car parking lot in Motijheel area.

IBAT admission test results

The Institute of Business Administration & Technology (IBAT), an affiliated Institute under the National University, published the results of admission test of first year BBA (Honours), Section-A for the session 1999-2000 yesterday, says a press release.

The students holding the following numbers have passed in the written test.

The numbers are B-101, B-102, B-104, B-105, B-107, B-109, B-110, B-111, B-112, B-113, B-114, B-115, B-116, B-118, B-119, B-120, B-123, B-124, B-125 and B-127.

The successful students are advised to complete their admission formalities within May 10.

Paribagh slum

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Most of the male members of the families were away for the day's work when bul dozers demolished the shanties, witnesses added.

Police batoncharged the women who protested the demolition. Police even did not allow them to take their belongings, it was alleged.

AL intra-party feuds

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Khan said he had already sent the schedule to the ministers and other leaders concerned and they confirmed their participation.

The planned visits are not for the next elections. "It's our routine programme", he said in reply to a question.

The frustrating outcome of the January move angered party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who later criticised her colleagues concerned.

Besides, the party had taken up twice meet-the-people (in fact, meet-the-party workers) programmes for the ministers to narrow down the gap with the workers. That also had frustrating results because of the ministers' reluctance in this regard.

Presidium members Amir Hossain and Zillur Rahman were among the few central leaders who used to spare time for party activities but they also got busy with ministerial jobs since they were taken in the cabinet in December last year.

As intra-party feuds continued to surface in many areas and the Opposition's pre-election campaign started getting momentum, Hasina asked her colleagues in the AL presidium to resolve those in order to effectively face the Opposition in the next polls.

Speaking at an AL presidium meet on April 3, the day before her latest trip to US, the PM assigned five influential ministers --Abdul Razzak, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Jalil and Mohammad Nasim-- to visit different districts, especially those where the party has weak base, and identify party candidates for the next polls.

She also assigned two of her senior colleagues -- Abdul Momin and Zillur Rahman -- to hear leaders of feuding groups in Sylhet and find out a solution to the long-standing crisis there.

The April 3 meet stressed gearing up party activities in 17 districts where it was in close contest with the winning parties there in the last elections and in other districts where intra-party feuds were persisting for since long. AL has such problems in some 30 districts, party sources said.

The PM returned from US 10 days ago but her senior colleagues are yet to complete the tasks they were assigned.

In fact, BNP pre-election campaign on March 31 prompted AL to plan a counter move, a party source said.

Khaleda, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, has already visited a number of districts in southern, south-western and northern regions as part of the campaign.

Jatiya Party chief H M Ershad also visited some northern districts and later joined the Opposition Leader in her campaign in Chittagong, Rajshahi and Dhaka. Jamaat-e-Islami and JOJ also joined the programmes.

Khalid Murder Case

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Special Court.

The same court, on February 20 this year, sentenced Ershad Shikdar and Jamal Faruque to death and Liaquat Lashkar life term in the Zainal Khan Murder Case.

Jubo League leader Khalid Hossain was brutally murdered by the accused on the night of May 16 last year at the Skid Ghat.

The murder of Khalid led to the collapse of Shikdar's empire at the Skid Ghat where at least 60 people were allegedly murdered and their bodies dumped into the river.

Ershad Shikdar was arrested on August 11, 1999. His chief bodyguard Noor-e-Alam gave judicial statement under 164 narrating how and where these murders were committed.

Noor-e-Alam was arrested on August 30. The court acquitted him of the charge in Jaimal Murder Case as he helped the police and the court as government approver. Earlier, he was acquitted in Zainal Khan Murder Case.

Tight security measures were taken in around the Special Court today during the delivery of judgement in Khalid Murder Case.

BDR, armed police battalion and riot police were deployed there to face any untoward incident.

Metal detectors were used for checking 'vulnerable points' of the entire court building. None was allowed to enter into the court area through the strong security ring without satisfactory identification.

Forty policemen wearing bullet-proof jackets were assigned to guard the Special Court.

The judgement in the case

Left leaders

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the anti-liberation and fundamentalist forces.

UNB adds Hasina sought support from pro-liberation and democratic forces for thwarting an evil design of the opposition backed by anti-liberation forces to oust her government by unconstitutional means.

Instead of going through constitutional process, BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat are threatening to remove the government by extraneous course," she said.

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Rashed Khan Menon, Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Ajoy Roy and Dilip Barua were, among others, present on behalf of the alliance.

In an oblique reference to BNP politics, she said the party that was born in cantonment, after the martyrdom of Bangabandhu, has hardly any genuine love for the people and the country.

"After arduous struggle for the past two decades against military dictators, autocrats and anti-liberation forces, Awami League came back to power with people's electoral mandate."

The Prime Minister said her government initiated a large number of programmes in social sector for the welfare of commonman.

"We have provided poor people with shelter and livelihood," she said, adding that literacy rate has increased to 60 per cent from 47 per cent.

CU VC's office

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university under the banner of different forums have been agitating for over a month demanding reopening of the university.

The university authorities also held a meeting with the teachers yesterday to find out a solution to the crisis. But the meeting ended inconclusively, campus sources said.

Home Minister

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basis of the allegation," the Home Minister said at a press briefing at his office.

He said police would complete the investigation as soon as possible and take steps as per law.

Nasim said, some pro-BNP lawyers brought the charge purely with a political motive. "Police acceptance of such a charge is unprecedented not only in the country but also elsewhere in the world."

"Normally, the question of police acceptance of such a charge does not arise... But we allowed it for our respect for law," the Home Minister said, hinting at action under PSA if the charge is found baseless.

Denying the charge against him and the other ministers, Nasim said, "The (April 18) procession of city Awami League was very peaceful and, in no way, it terrorised the people". He referred to press reports on the procession.

About the alleged threat to judges, Nasim said, his party spoke against the "conspirators trying to delay trial of Bangabandhu murder case and not against honourable judges".

He said, "It was a political programme. Holding of such programme is a constitutional right... If case is filed for statements in a political programme, such cases can be filed everyday against opposition leaders."

The four other ministers are Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Choudhury, Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Choudhury Maya.

May Day

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National newspapers will carry supplements while betar and television will put up special programmes highlighting the significance of the day.

The day's programmes begin with a discussion and cultural function at Osmani Memorial Hall. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the function as chief guest and Labour Minister MA Mannan as special guest.

Amnesty International Bangladesh and Bangladesh Employees' Welfare Association will jointly hold a discussion on "Labour Rights Are Human Rights" at Sena Kalyan Bhaban auditorium. State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain will attend the function as chief guest.

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation will organise a discussion and a street drama at the Central Shaheed Minar premises. Theatre groups of Jahangirnagar University will stage the drama on the occasion.

Besides, Sattik, Dristipat, Natyadhara, Universal Theatre and Molloy will stage dramas at Satrastra crossing in Tejgaon while Bangladesh Art Theatre, Mohakal, Podatik, Dhaka Podatik, Bangladesh Theatre and Dhaka Theatre will stage their dramas in Gullistan, Lok Natyadal (TSC) and Bangladesh Theatre will stage dramas at Demra Bawani Dute Mills.