

DHAKA MONDAY MAY 24, 2004

Ensure food, nutrition security of growing **Asian population**

MK Anwar at the ACD workshop on agriculture development in Beijing

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh called for harmonising agricultural research and development activities in Asia to ensure food and nutrition security of the growing

population of the continent. Agriculture Minister MK Anwar made the call when he was delivering his speech at a two-day continental workshop on agriculture development that began in Beijing on Saturday, according to a message received here vesterday

He said food production needs to be doubled in the next 20-25 years to maintain even its present level of food consumption in the region. "concerted

blast at shrine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anwar Choudhury injured.

sible for the bomb blast.

their ill political intention.

the image of the country.

Correction

they added.

Mansur.

A total of 160 teachers of Dhaka

University yesterday condemned

the bomb blast at Hazrat Shahjalal

Shrine in Sylhet on Friday in which

three people were killed and about

70 others including British High

Commissioner to Bangladesh

judicial inquiry into the attack and

punishment to the persons respon-

digging out the actual clues to the

blast the government is as usual

trying to divert the incident to fulfill

launch such attack again and again

It encourages the miscreants to

They said lack of proper investi-

The signatories to the statement

gations of such deadly incidents by

the government is also tarnishing

include Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique,

Prof Harun-ur- Rashid, Prof AK

Azad Chowdhury, Prof S M Emamul

Hag and Porf Mohammad Hossain

political organisations have contin-

In a news story headlined 'Star

Search contest launched' published

in The Daily Star on May 22, the

designation of Mahmudur Rahman

Meanwhile, different social and

In a statement they demanded

The teachers said instead of

DU teachers condemn

blast

attack

demned the blast.

and coordinated efforts of all the stakeholders could only face the great challenge. Chaired by Chinese Agriculture

Minister Du Qinglin, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) workshop, first of its kind, was also addressed by the relevant ministers from the Asian countries.

Appreciating Thailand for initiating the concept of ACD and shaping its formation, Anwar said, "Unless there be effective steps taken for reducing hunger, the developing countries would be overcrowded, which by itself might be a great threat to world peace.

He said formation of the ACD and

close cooperation among the member countries could avert such threats and help achieve the millennium development doals.

He proposed a number of areas for Asian cooperation. The areas are zoning of land resources of the country for optimum land use, use of geographical information system and remote sensing, weather forecasting and early warning systems for natural calamity, phytosanitary and animal and plant quarantine, bio-technology and genetic engineering, mechanisation of agriculture and human resource development.

Meanwhile, the host China has proposed to establish a platform to promote effective cooperation among the ACD countries to enhance shared development in agriculture, upgrade knowledge and technological levels, intensify exchanges in agricultural high-tech for gradual raising of productivity, strengthen agriculture-related information and agricultural institution

and enterprise-level cooperation. ued their condemnation of the bomb Extending support to China's proposal Anwar said it would bring Sylhet Division Development positive changes in the agriculture Action Council yesterday formed a sector of the region.

human chain demanding arrest of "Sharing of experiences among the miscreants responsible for the the member countries would help improve their national agriculture National Federation of Youth research and development systems Organisations in Bangladesh and as a whole." he told the ministerial Jatiya Juba Sanghati also conmeet on Asia's agriculture. Urging united efforts to face exter-

nal challenges also, he noted that the developed countries protected their agriculture heavily by providing huge support to the growers, maintaining subsidy to export and imposing high import tariff walls. "In spite of their agreement to cut down the support. subsidy and tariffs, they are maintaining the support bypassing the rules, he said.

Highlighting the progress made by Bangladesh in food production and availability in the last three decades. he said Bangladesh increased rice producing from 9.5 million tons in 1971-72 to over 25 million tons in 2002-03 cultivating almost same area ofland.

Wheat production increased to 1.5 million tons from 0.06 million tons during the period, he apprised the meet.

He said Bangladesh, through various developments and transformation from local to modern varieties, improved management and several policy reforms helped achieve self sufficiency in cereal production.

Death anniversary

Today is the 21 st

death anniver-

sary of former

awmaker

Barrister Sayed

Quamrul Islam

Mohammed

Saleh Uddin.

says a press

On the occasion,

Qulkhwani of

Nazera Begum,

wife of engineer

ARM Inamul

Haque, will be

held at her

Dhanmondi

residence

House No-50,

Road-2/A in the

release.

a Qurankhwani will be held at his

residence at House No-60-A, Road

No-16 at Banani in the city.

Qulkhwani

Installation

ceremony

office secretary.

(Kusum)

The directors are Delwar

Hossain, Md Yasin (Mayna), Md

Anwar Hossain and Delwar Hossain

Ln. Rukshana Nazir is the first lady governor of District 315 B3. Anwar said that Asia, particularly, She is a teacher of Green Herald South Asian region, including International School. Ln KM Bangladesh, is facing pressure of population that has serious impact on land and natural resources He mentioned that per-capita arable land in this region declined from 0.23 hectare in 1980 to 0.18 in 1995 and is projected to be only 0.11 hectare in 2025.

brick field owner

said.

nesses

2002.

working days.

technologies in future.

sector

arrest or surrender, the judgement

defence completed their arguments

and the court recorded statements

of 21 out of 28 prosecution wit-

Hizla under Savar Upazila in Dhaka

district, was knifed to death by a gang

of miscreants at his brick field at

about 6:00pm on January 21 in 2001.

Mohammad filed a murder case with

Savar Police Station accusing

Bhasani and four others the same

day. The investigation officer of the

case pressed charges against

Bhasani and fours on April 30 in

against them on January 26 this

year and trial was completed in 107

The court framed charges

Inaugurating the workshop,

Mirza Fakhrul hoped that the work-

shop would help in understanding

the rice based farming technologies

developed by PETRRA partners

from national and international

research institutes, NGOs, universi-

ties of home and abroad and private

able progress towards the develop-

ment of technologies that are

diverse in nature and suitable for

both male and female resource-

poor farmers applicable in different

IRRI Representative Dr. Noel P.

Magor, BRRI Director General Dr.

M. Mahiul Haque and Director

Research of BRRI Dr. A. R.

Dr. Mahiul said establishment of

BRKB is a significant initiative of

PETRRA project. It is a unique

innovation because it ensures

access to the knowledge system to

Thereby, the time gap between the

development of technology and its

dissemination will be greatly

National Coordinators of the

PETRRA Technology Development

sub-projects will present research

findings, farmer responses and

recommendations in the two-day

Principal Investigators and

the public immediately, he said

parts of the country, he added.

Gomosta also spoke

reduced, he added.

workshop

held

UNB, Dhaka

PETRRA has made consider-

The victim's elder brother Deen

Earlier, the prosecution and the

Saleh,48, a brick field owner of

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court on Saturday sentenced four persons to life term for killing one Saleh Mohammad on January 22 in 2001 at Savar Upazila in Dhaka district

The convicts are Bhasani Savem alias Shamim.Mohammad Israfil and Mustaquin. All the convicts except Mustaquin were present in the court during the pronouncement of the judgement. Mustaquin is absconding since the incident

Judge AR Masud of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 gave the verdict at a jam-packed courtroom.

The court also fined them TK 10.000 each. They will suffer another one year in jail if they fail to pay the fine.

The punishment of the fugitive will be effective from the date of his

Rice Knowledge Bank launched at BRRI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Rice Knowledge Bank (BRKB) (www.brkb.org), a web based tool to make up-to-date rice related information available online and in CD-ROM, was launched on the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) campus yesterday.

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir inaugurated BRKB, first of its kind in the country, on the sideline of a two-day workshop on 'Technology Development' jointly organised by the Poverty Elimination Through Rice Research Institute (PETRRA) project of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and BRRI.

Rice Knowledge Bank, highly relevant to Bangladeshi farmers and GO-NGO field-level extension workers, is a treasure of rice knowledge. This is a dynamic source of knowledge that will be updated regularly to keep consistency with the latest innovations and users' feedback.

The Bank contains rice knowledge to address the regional as well as national issues associated with rice production and training. It started with rice but extends promise to be expanded to non-rice

BRDB driver stabbed to

death

Md Danesh Ali, driver of the Rural Development Board, succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College College Hospital early hours of Saturday, says a press

release

4 get life for killing |7 dead, 240 missing

FROM PAGE 1

Ananda Bazar of Chandpur at about 3:15am, our Comilla correspondent reports from Chandpur.

Another double-decker launch, MV Digonto, with 40 passengers aboard, and a cement-loaded cargo vessel capsized after being hit by a twister on the Meghna between Ekhlaspur and Kanudi near Chandpur, 169 kilometres east of Dhaka

At least 20 passengers were reported missing from MV Digonto. The launch was carrying more than 200 passengers but most of them disembarked in Chandpur, according to our Barisal correspondent.

Villagers and fishermen on engine boats cut the hull of the upturned MV Lighting Sun and pulled another seven alive. They are Jahanara, 38, Nurunnahar, 8, Mansura, 8, Rosy, 8, Ahidul Islam, 15, Ajhar Bepari, 70, and Mintu, 25.

Chandpur district administration officials fear that some passengers are still trapped inside the launch and that strong currents of the mighty Meghna might have swept many downstream, which may push the number of casualties.

The survivors, who were admitted to Chandpur Hospital, said many of their relatives were missing. The bodies retrieved could not be identified immediately, an official said, adding that two women and one elderly man were among the dead so far

Police said the launch sailed from Madaripur at 7:00pm on Saturday. It ran into a violent storm about a kilometre north of Chandpur launch terminal and sank into the river near Ananda Bazar.

Local administration and police joined villagers and fishermen in the salvage operation on the stroke of daybreak but gusty wind and fierce rain were keeping them at bay. The partly submerged launch was floating close to the shore.

Most of the passengers were asleep when the launch capsized and could be trapped inside, Ajhar Bepari, one of the survivors, said.

A number of survivors told The Daily Star that just after the storm had started blowing, the launch crew tried to moor the vessel on the riverbank, but panicked passengers moved disorderly, sending the launch in a lurch.

Helal Uddin Dhali, another passenger who swam for about one and a half hours to safety after the accident, said about 70-80 passengers jumped into the river as the launch was sinking.

In the morning, Deputy Commissioner Abdur Rab Hawlader and Superintendent of Police Mokhlesur Rahman rushed to the spot and recovered seven bodies.

A medical team led by Civil Surgeon Syed Monwar Ali treated the injured on the shores. **MV DIGANTA**

CAPSIZE

MV Digonto left Torki of Gournadi upazila of Barisal district for Narayanganj at 3.30pm Saturday afternoon with more than 200 passengers and goods. Most of its passengers were small traders of Torki, Gournadi and Vurghata areas, according to reports received from Torki, Narayanganj and

Rescue ship MV Rustam, meanwhile, reached the scene from Narayanganj at 3:45pm and started a full-scale rescue operation, reports our staff correspondent.

The shipping minister and officials of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) reached the spot at 4:00pm. Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain operations said they had taken precautions to resist launch capsize on Meghna near Chandpur.

He claimed that it was an unusual incident and they could not help it. "We do not know as yet whether they (MV Lighting Sun and MV Digonto) have legal route permit and fitness certificate. We have to look into it after salvaging the launches," he said.

"Before retrieving all the bodies we cannot say anything about the number of the dead," he said. "It will take two to three more days to get the accurate casualty figure," he added.

He however said the families of the dead and the injured will be compensated, but would not say anything about those missing. "If we want to offer compensation

to the missing persons, their number will reach 14 crore," he said wearing a smile. "Everyone will demand compensation," he added.

"There was a little bit of oxygen in the launch that helped some survive," said BIWTA diver Abdur Razzak, who along with Sabir Sarkar, were helping out rescue

FERRY OPERATIONS DISRUPTED

Ferry and launch movement on Paturia-Daulatdia route remained suspended for two hours as a wister lashed the area capsizing at least two moored launches, six motor boats and a ferry pontoon at Paturia Ghat early yesterday. No casualties were immediately

reported Officials of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Paturia said ferry movement was disrupted from 2:00am to 4:00am early yesterday due to heavy storm. The BIWTC's floating workshop was driven two kilometres downstream from Paturia Ghat. The two launches that sank at the Ghat are MVAmanat and MVAnika.



was inadvertently mentioned as head of BATB (British American Tobacco Bangladesh) but, in fact, he is the head of Corporate and Regulatory Affairs of BATB.

Akhtaruzzaman MJF is the Managing Director of Akhtar Furnishers Ltd and the chairman of Bangladesh Furniture Industries Association.

Lions Clubs Int'l.

Ln. Rukshana Nazir and Ln KM

Akhtaruzzaman MJF have been

elected District Governor and Vice

District Governor of Lions Clubs

International, District 315 B3

Bangladesh for 2004 2005 at its

annual convention on May 20 and

21 at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, says a

District 315 B3

executives

press release.

Danesh, 50, was stabbed by the local hoodlums in front of his residence at Pagla in Narayanganj on Friday He left behind his wife and six

Police arrested 1,526 people from different parts of the country on various charges in the last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

1526 more

During the drive, they also recov-ered three firearms and five bullets and filed three cases against four people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong and r Khulna and Barisal divisions

aree Celsius over the country,

elsius was recorded yesterday elsius at Comilla.

3:39pm today and rises at

d humidity recorded in some

own Temperature		Humidity in		
		in Celsius	percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Eveni
a	25.9	20.2	89	
gong	26.0	24.8	89	
ahi	28.8	21.5	94	
а	26.4	22.5	98	1
al	27.6	23.0	96	

Sylhet divisions and at a fe	w places over
till 6.00pm today.	
Day temperature may r	ise by 1-2 deg
Met Office said.	
Highest temperature 32	2.6 degree Cel
at Teknaf and the lowest 18	3.8 degree Cel
The sun sets in the	capital at 6
5:12am tomorrow.	
Highest and lowest ter	nperature and
major cities and towns yes	terday were:
City/Town Temperature	Humidity in
	in Celsius
Mox	Min

City/ IOWIT temperature		питницу п		
		in Celsius	percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.9	20.2	89	77
Chittagong	26.0	24.8	89	86
Rajshahi	28.8	21.5	94	75
Khulna	26.4	22.5	98	84
Barisal	27.6	23.0	96	79
Sylhet	26.0	21.9	95	84
Cox's Bazar	28.5	22.0	98	80



The installation ceremony of newly elected executive committee of Karwan Bazar No. 2 Group Kancha Maler Arat Malik Baybsayee Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity was held in the city on Saturday.

Chandnur

Mahadev Saha. Torki Ghat manager of the vessel, Jamal Mia, its lessee, and Amrita Lal, a businessman of Torki, confirmed that MV Digonto anchored at Chandpur at about 1.30am and left for next stoppage at Mohanpur at about 2.30am.

Launch operation on all routes from Barisal remained suspended from 12 to 3:00PM yesterday after the capsize but resumed in the afternoon.

RESCUE STARTS IN FULL SWING

Proshika chief

from page 12 organisation for his son Enavet Karim to study in an Australian university

Poverty alleviation aid was spent, shown an operational cost and then turned into general fund.

Tk 2 lakh was provided from the Proshika general fund to the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh showing mass contact fund against BNP government in 1996.

Tk 50,000 was taken by Faruque as loan against provident fund showing 'false' deposit statement. Mahbubul in collusion with Faruque 'misappropriated' Tk 23.80 lakh.

Faruque and his wife Shahana Ahmed visited a hospital in Singapore for treatment without doctors' advice.

Faruque, Mahbubul and another Vice President David William Biswas misused their power as Proshika executives to upgrade their salary scale.

Faruque, Mahbubul and David 'misappropriated' office money by paying taxes from Proshika funds.

Faruge embezzled Proshika money to maintain dog for personal security, beautify his house and pay utility bills.

Faruque caused financial loss to the government by appointing 12 foreign consultants without inviting tender notices.

He dodged VAT while buying educational accessories.

Faruque issued illegal work order to a firm for buying motorcy-cles that caused a loss of Tk 5.60 lakh to the government.

He misappropriated Tk 6.50 lakh by setting up a dummy plant in the name of arsenic mitigation project for his own interest.

Faruque caused a loss of Tk 1.14 lakh to the government in the last five years by spending money without attaching revenue stamps.



Institut will screen two films titled 'The Sonargaon Hotel. Forester of Silberwald' (1954) by Alfons Stummer and 'The Farmer's Perjury' (1956) by Rudolf Jugert. Venue: The Goethe Institut, Dhanmondi. Time:

Academy film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Sling Blade' (1995). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Workshop

5.00pm and 7.00pm

A workshop on 'Capacity building of Securities and Exchange Commission and selected capital market institution' will be held. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 2.00pm.

Discussion

Anti Aggression Student Teacher National Council organises a discussion on issues related to Iraq and Palestine. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10.00am

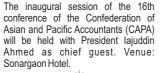
Prize giving ceremony

Cultural affairs ministry organises a prize giving ceremony for the winners of divisional level competition on creative writing, reading and recitation. Venue: Seminar room of the Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm.

Publication ceremony

WBB Trust organises the publication ceremony of a booklet titled 'Shabdadushan Niontran: Amader Koronio.' Venue: Trust office, Dhanmondi. Time: 11.30am

CAPA conference



<u>Dhà</u>kA TOMORROW

German film show

In the weeklong session of German HEIMAT-film of 1950's, Zahir Raihan Film Society in association with Goethe Institut will screen two films titled 'The Fisher Girl of Lake Constance ' (1956) by Harald Reinl and 'High Uo on the Mountain' (1957) by Rgeza von Bolvary. Venue: The Goethe Institut, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm

Academy film show

Oxfam makes a presentation on

A seminar on 'Aid group meeting: An imperialistic conspiracy in the name of development,' organised by Hizb-ut-Tahrir Bangladesh, will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.30pm.

Immigration seminar

Immigration Law Consultancy Bureau organises a seminar on 'Immigration of skilled workers in Canada.' Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 10.00am



Academy Film Society will screen a French film titled 'Dogville' (2003). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola.

Time: 4.00pm. Seminar

Time: 6.30pm. Presentation

'Stitched up: How northern protectionism in textiles and clothing trade prevents poverty alleviation,' with Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Topkhana Road.

city after Asr prayers today, says a press release

press release.

Samity for 2004-2007.