

Economy gets momentum: Saifur

BSS, Sylhet
Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said the economy that had become almost stagnant during the past Awami League government got momentum under the four-party alliance government.

Describing the development activities in various sectors during the last few years as epoch-making, he called upon the leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations to inform the people of these achievements.

Speaking as chief guest at a workers' meeting organised by the district unit of Bangladesh Jatiyabadi Mahila Dal in the district council auditorium here, he said the development programmes undertaken by the government have been highly praised by the world

community.
The meeting was also addressed by M Ilyas Ali, MP, Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury, MP, city BNP president Aniful Haque Chowdhury, district Mahila Dal president Abeda Chowdhury, vice-president Salma Bakht and city president Samia Begum Chowdhury.

Saifur said the government is sincere to involve women, who constitute half of the population, in the development activities.

Bad weather forces PM to postpone Manikganj visit

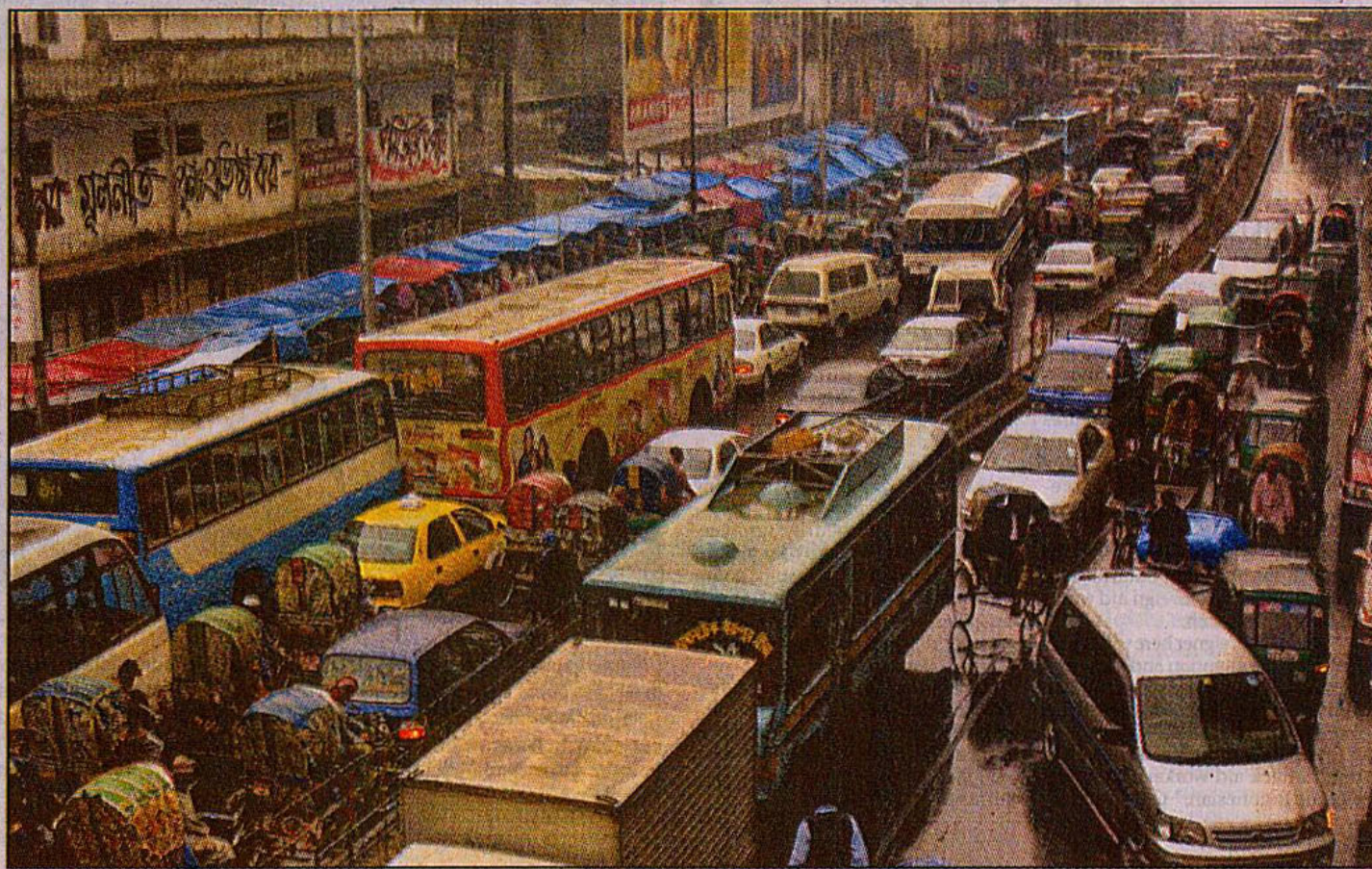
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Inclement weather forced the postponement of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit to Manikganj yesterday where she was due to inaugurate the Rita Abasan Prakalpa, a housing project for the landless.

The inaugural ceremony was scheduled to take place at Rita Adarsha Bidya Niketon playground at Balora under Hariampur upazila. The houses of the project were built on 4.11 acres of land for 100 families.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Communication Minister Nazmul Huda, State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman and Deputy Minister for Disaster Management Asadul Habib Dulu attended the programme.

Harunur Rashid Khan Monno MP and his daughter Afroza Khan Rita and local BNP leaders also spoke.



Purana Paltan area remains gridlocked for long yesterday, with inclement weather adding to the suffering of commuters who faced massive traffic congestion in different parts of the city.

Obituary

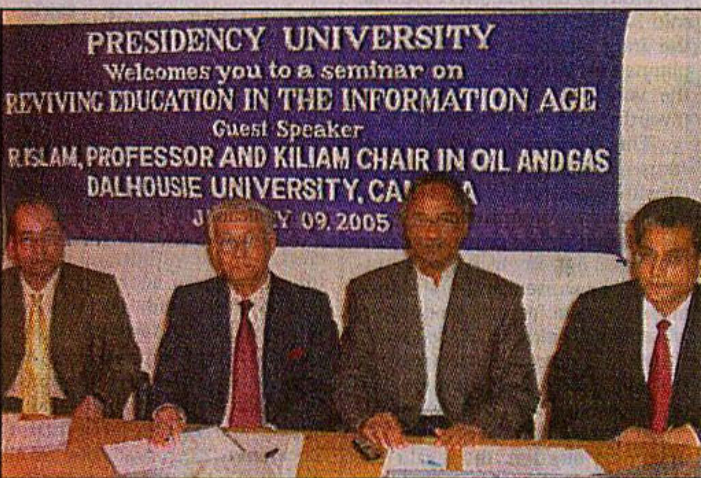
Rafiqul Ameen, former president of Dhaka Club and director, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), died at a city hospital yesterday due to old age complications at the age of 79, says a press release.

Ameen, son of late Mahmudul Ameen, left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Azad Mosque at Gulshan in the city and buried at Banani graveyard.

His qukhwani will be held at Azad Mosque at Gulshan in the city after Asr prayers on January 14.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qukhwani.



The Centre for Excellence and Professional Development, Presidency University, organised a seminar on the university campus in the city on Sunday. From left are Md Enamul Hossain, Muslehuddin Ahmed, Dr Baqui Khalily and Dr Rafiqul Islam.

Seminar on reviving edn

The Centre for Excellence and Professional Development of the Presidency University organised a seminar on 'Reviving Education in the Information Age' on the university campus on Sunday, says a press release.

Prof Dr Rafiqul Islam, holder of Kiliam Chair in Oil & Gas and faculty member of engineering, Dalhousie University, was present as the key-note speaker.

Prof Islam strongly argued against the traditional approach of education. He felt that the most important purpose of education was to be able to see something that could not be taught. It must be acquired through self-discovery or research, he added.

He also talked about the role of 'creative thinking' and 'strategic planning' in the context of increasing knowledge.

The essential feature of the presentation was to demonstrate that the current inability to think creatively and independently and to see the wider perspective is a widespread legacy of an educational formation that stresses 'repetition of the formula'.

With the knowledge-based approach, the slogan is 'Intangibles before tangibles' -- you think before you memorise.

Dr Islam said that knowledge-based approach makes the role of a teacher secondary and a teacher should become a partner in learning.

Muslehuddin Ahmed, Dr Enamul Haque, Dr Arifa Rahman, Dr Islam M Faisal and Prof Rafiqul Islam Mollah of North South University took part in the discussion.

Prof Baqui Khalily, acting vice-chancellor of Presidency University, chaired the seminar. Lucky Sen, director of the Centre, extended vote of thanks.

Students and faculty members of the Presidency University and teachers of other private universities attended the seminar.

1,566 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,566 people, including two listed criminals, on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

Violence against women on the rise

PORIMOL PALMA

The incidents of violence against women took a sharp rise in the last few years mainly due to negative attitude of men towards women and the government's apathy to discrimination against women in family laws.

Last year, 5,986 women fell victim to violence, up from 2474 in 2003, while the number of victims was 693 in 1996 and 1438 in 1997, according to the documentation cells of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

Rape is one of the major forms of violence against women. The total cases of rape were 1074 in 2004 and 1381 in 2003 while the number was 753 in 1997, up from 262 in 1996.

Besides, the number of dowry-related violence was 374 in 2003 and 355 in 2004. The number of such violence was only 77 in 1996.

Murder is the worst form of domestic violence. In most cases, women were killed by their husbands or in-laws or the victim's own relatives. A total of 1630 such cases took place from 1996 to 2003.

Also, 1379 women were murdered over dowry during this period and 84 others committed suicide. And 951 rape victims were killed in nine years.

The other forms of violence are

throwing acid, fatwa, trafficking, kidnapping, forced prostitution, torture and teasing.

On average, 25 incidents of violence against women take place a day, according to Mass-line Media Centre (MMC).

Advocate Sultana Kamal, executive director of ASK, said the figures represent just the 'tip of the iceberg'. "There are thousands of incidents taking place in our society each day, which are not published in the newspapers."

Today, women have advanced to a great extent in many fields, but men's attitude has not changed, which is one of the reasons for this increasing trend of violence, she said.

Women still lack freedom of choice in the society although many men recognise the women's rights and even allow them to go out for professional purposes, Sultana said.

She also observed that the media could not play its due role to change the social attitude towards the women. Films, dramas and television serials still show the women as subordinate to men.

Gender specialist Maleka Begum said the constitution of Bangladesh enshrines equal rights to all while some family laws do not give equal rights to women.

Women never enjoy equal rights in regard to marriage, divorce, custody, guardianship and inheritance in the Muslim Family Code, she noted.

The people consider the domestic violence as a 'personal matter', so they do not raise their voice against it or file any case, said Maleka, a researcher. "The women themselves are also responsible for such conditions."

Shahid H Shamim, director of Prabartana and Narigrantha Prabartana, thinks that the unabated consumerism in the society is a major reason for increasing violence.

"On the one hand, poverty and creator of limitless and artificial demand, on the other, through media prompt the men to claim dowry and create pressure on the women," he said.

Advocate Habibun Nesa of Naripakkho believes that complicated legal procedure and lack of logistics and technical support for the law enforcing agencies are an obstacle to ensuring justice for the victims.

Birth anniversary of Vivekananda today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 142nd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda will be observed today.

Vivekananda Shikha and Sangskriti Parishad has taken up a daylong programme to observe the day.

The programmes include a special prayer at the Jagannath Hall Temple of Dhaka University at 6.30am.

The parishad will also bring out a procession from the hall at 10:00am. A discussion meeting will be held at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium of the Central Public Library at Shahbagh at 4.30pm.

Swami Vivekananda, who built Ramkrishna Mission, was born on January 12 in 1863 at Simla in Kolkata, and died on July 4 in 1902.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show
Dhaka Film Society will screen two films titled 'Fahrenheit 9/11' (2004), and 'The Big One' (1997) directed by Michael Moore. Venue: CAAC Auditorium, 62 Science Laboratory Road. Time: 4.30pm and 7.00pm.

Documentary show
Steps Towards Development will screen a documentary titled 'Long Way to Go'. It will be preceded by a dialogue on 'Women's participation in local government: Experience and learning'. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium, Tophkhana Road. Time: 10.00am.

Science festival
The inaugural ceremony of the 9th Science Festival, organised by Viganurisa Noon Science Club, will be held with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: College Auditorium. Time: 12.00noon.

ASB talk
Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organises a special talk on 'The Quran and Science: The debate on the validity of scientific interpretation' with Dr Bustami Khir of Birmingham University, UK as guest speaker. Venue: Society seminar room, Old Secretariat Road. Time: 4.00pm.

Seminar
Bangladesh Shikha Samity organises a seminar on the 'Role of teachers in creating copy-free environment in examinations and improving the quality of education' with State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon as chief guest. Venue: Dhaka Film Society will screen two films titled 'Bowling for Columbine' (2002), and 'Roger and Me' (1989) directed by Michael Moore. Venue: CAAC Auditorium, 62 Science Laboratory Road. Time: 4.30pm and 7.00pm.

Indian film show
The High Commission of India will screen a film titled 'Main Hoon Na'. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House-25, Road-96, Gulshan-2.

Discussion
Bangladesh Jatiyabadi Bhumihin Dal organises a discussion to mark its 7th founding anniversary. Venue: National Press Club Auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

FEJB seminar
Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh will hold a dissemination seminar on the book titled 'Disputes over the Ganga' written by seven writers from Bangladesh, Nepal and India. Venue: FEJB field office, Segun Bagicha. Time: 10.30am.

Roundtable
Prongonur Chetona, a self-accountable social forum, organises a seminar on 'Political reforms movement: Problems and solutions' to mark its 4th founding anniversary. Venue: Liberation War Museum Auditorium, 5 Segun Bagicha. Time: 3.30pm.

VIP Lounge of the National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.

হলি ফ্যামিলি রেড ক্রিসেন্ট মেডিকেল কলেজ
১, ইন্টারন্যাশনাল রোড, ঢাকা।

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

হলি ফ্যামিলি রেড ক্রিসেন্ট মেডিকেল কলেজে লেকচারার পদে নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকৃত বাসোপার্শ্বী স্নাতকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

সর্তাবলী:

১. বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল (বিএমডিএসি) কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা অনুসরণ করা হবে, বিএমডিএসি'র রেজিস্ট্রেশন থাকতে হবে এবং বয়স অন্তর্গত ৬৫ বছর। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও সিটিং-এর অভিজ্ঞতার সত্যায়িত সনদপত্র আবেদনপত্রের সহিত যুক্ত করতে হবে।
২. আবেদনপত্রের সহিত ১০০.০০ (একশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকার পেন-অর্ডার (অফিসেরতযোগ্য) 'হলি ফ্যামিলি রেড ক্রিসেন্ট মেডিকেল কলেজ'-এর অনুকূলে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
৩. কোন সরকারী/বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্তৃত্ব প্রার্থীকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। হলি ফ্যামিলি রেড ক্রিসেন্ট মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে কর্তৃত্ব চিকিৎসকদের আধিকার দেয়া হবে।
৪. পূর্ণাঙ্গ ডিগ্রি বৃত্তান্ত ও সঙ্গী ডেপা ২ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবিসহ আবেদনপত্র আগামী ২৫ জানুয়ারি-২০০৫ তারিখের মধ্যে অত্র কলেজে পৌঁছাতে হবে।
৫. আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

অযোগ্যতা: ডাঃ শাহীন হোসেন
তারিখ: ১২/০১/০৫

SAVE

more than

75%

fuel cost

■ Latest CNG conversion technology from Lo.gas s.r.l Italy
■ Free pre-inspection of vehicle ■ Free first gas fuelling
■ Technicians trained by foreign experts assures excellent workmanship ■ 15 months warranty

Convert Your Car at

RAHIMAFROOZ CNG
your intelligent choice

Dhaka: Arzed Chamber (2nd Floor), 13 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka 1212 Tel: 8858021, 8858023, 0189-276324, 0172-507023, 0176-432832
Conversion Centre: KA 61/5 A, Bishwa Road (Progoti Sharani), Dhaka-1212 Tel: 8824088
Chittagong: 15 Agrabad C/A, Chittagong Tel: 724154, 712313, 713635, 0172-173539 Email: cng.info@rahimafrooz.com

Running on Petrol **Running on CNG**

Tk. 10,000/month **Tk. 2,500/month**

open 7 days a week