# METROPOLITAN

Tenants of a six-storied building that subsided at city's Kafrul area on Tuesday moving out yesterday fearing its collapse at any time.

## **BUILDING SUBSIDES AT KAFRUL**

## Panic grips neighbours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Panic has gripped the residents living around a six-storey building that subsided at Kafrul in the city on Tuesday as they feared that the building may collapse anytime on

The building, at 48/7 West Baishteki, has subsided 10 inches, causing cracks on the floor and walls on the ground and first floors of an adjacent building. The road in front of the house was also shat-

Acting on information, Kafrul police evacuated the building yesterday evening.

Aminul Haq, the owner of the cracked building, blamed the subsidence of the building for the cracks.

However, Nizamuddin, the owner of the building that sank to a has subsided and said the cracks have developed due to unknown

The house is located almost at the end of a road next to a lowland where local people cultivate crops this season. There are two buildings constructed close to the ill-fated building on both its sides. Nizamuddin claimed to have

taken all the necessary measures before constructing the building in

"Rajuk has approved my building plan and I went through the legal ocedures before constructing the building on three-katha (2160 square feet) of land," he said, adding, "Rajuk officers visited my house today (Wednesday) and took documents for verification.

Officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station Jane Alam Khan said, "The matter is not under our jurisdiction. The Rajuk will now look into the

Rajuk officials were not available for comments after repeated con-

## DHAKA

#### Hou Hsiao-Hsien retrospective

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen three Chinese films under Hou Hsiao-Hsien retrospective. These are 'Flowers of Shanghai' (1998), 'The Puppet Master (1993) and 'A City of Sadness' (1989). Venue: German Cultural Centre. Dhanmondi, Time: 3.00pm. 5.00pm and 7.30pm.

#### Japanese film festival

Two Japanese films titled 'Little Elephant' and 'Ame Agaru' will be screened as part of the Japanese Film Festival 2005, organised by the Japanese Embassy. Venue: Auditorium of the Institute of Modern Languages, Dhaka University. Time: 4.00pm and

#### Film show

Argenta International Film Society and Shuvechchha Film Society will hold a three-day film session to mark their 29th founding anniversary. Today's films: Shyamol Chhaya and Joyjatra. Venue: Sangskriti Kendra Auditorium, 64/C Green Road, Time: 6.30pm.

#### Drawing competition

Bangladesh Shishu Sangathan Oikvaiote organises a drawing competition for children, discussion and cultural function to mark the Independence Day. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 5.00pm.

## Poetry evening

Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, organises a poetry evening. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

## Int'l Spectacles Fair

A three-day International Spectacles Fair titled 'Bangla Optica-2005', organised by Bangladesh optical Industries and Traders Association, will begin. Venue: Hotel Razmoni Isha Khan, Kakrail. Time: 10.00am.

## **Discussion**

Swadhinata Forum Kendriya Sangsad will hold a discussion on 'The spirit of the Liberation War versus politics of conspiracy and anarchy' to mark the Independence Day, with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.

## **Bilia AGM**

The annual general meeting of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (Bilia) will be held. Venue: Bilia auditorium, House # 22, Road #7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

#### **Sylhet Division Dev Council** The Sylhet Division Development

Council will hold the 10th monthly meeting of its central committee. Venue: Central office, 60/C Naya Paltan.

#### Management Net Management Net, an association of

former students of management department of Dhaka University, will hold a meeting. Venue: Net office, Elephant Road. Time: 6.00pm.

## Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony of two-week orientation course for joint tax commissioners will be held. Venue: BCS (Tax) Academy, 133 New Baily Road. Time: 12.00 noon

## **BPWD** council

The national council of Bangladesh PWD Diploma Engineers (BPWD) will begin, with Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas as chief guest. Venue: Conference room. Public Works Bhaban, Segunbagicha. Time: 1.00pm.

#### **Rotary Greater** Dhaka

The regular weekly meeting and club assembly of the Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka will be held. All members are requested to attend the programme. Venue: Hotel Eastern Residence, House # 14, Road # 27, Block # J, Banani. Time: 6.00pm.

## 'Govt won't resign even one minute before completion of tenure'

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the BNP-led alliance government will not hand over power even one minute before completion of its five-

None will be able to oust the government by creating anarchy through negative programmes like hartals, he added Bhuiyan was addressing a rally

organised by the BNP Dhaka City Unit at Muktangan in the city with Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in the chair protesting frequent hartals called by the opposition and the incidents of bomb attacks, killings

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is likely

to pay an official visit to Japan in

early July at the invitation of her

Japanese counterpart Junichiro

sed through diplomatic channels,

said a foreign ministry source.

since assuming power in 2001.

The date of her visit will be final-

This will be her first visit to Japan,

During Khaleda's visit, the gamut

The two prime ministers are

likely to discuss regional and inter-

national issues of common concern,

in addition to Japan's interest to

become a permanent member of

Aminul Haq Chowdhury, former

deputy governor of Bangladesh

Bank, passed away due to kidney

ailments at a city hospital yesterday

at the age of 81, says a press

with the State Bank of Pakistan.

Chowdhury started his career

His namaz-e-janaza will be held

at Baitul Mukarram Mosque after

Asr prayers today. He will be buried

at his village home at Gazaria,

Alhai Mozaffar Ahmad, father-in-law

of Major (retd) Saeed Eskander, MP.

died old age complications at the

Combined Military Hospital in the

gravevard after namaz-e-ianaza at

Death anniversary

Today is the first

death anniver-

sary of Dr

Noorunnahar

Fyzennessa, a

professor of IER,

Dhaka Uni-

versity, says a

press release.

The first elected woman member

of DU Syndicate, Dr Fyzennessa

was an eminent personality widely

respected in academic and liberal

political circles. She initiated the

Liberation War memorials on the DU

The founder of Chayanir, she

campus and Rokeya Hall premises.

launched a merit scholarship pro-

ject, Rokeya Memorial Foundation.

She was also a member of the Pay

Commission and Asian Regional

Dhaka City Mahila Parishad and

Usha and vice-president of Women

women's rights and the country's

research publications to her credit.

He died of a cardiac arrest in

Nazrul Islam Nayeem, advertise-ment manager of the daily

Matribhumi, is his second son.

for Women.

liberation struggle.

prayers tomorrow.

She was also the president of

She also played a significant role

Population Association, Bangkok.

city yesterday at the age of 76. He was laid to rest at the Banani

Baridhara Park Street Road.w

Alhaj Mozaffar Ahmad

BSS, Dhaka

the UN Security Council.

Obituary

of bilateral relations between the

two countries will be reviewed, the

the largest donor of Bangladesh,

PM likely to

visit Japan

in July

source added.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Housing and Works Minister Mirza Abbas, BNP Joint Secretary General Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Aman Ullah Aman and Jubo Dal President Barkat Ullah Bulu addressed the rally.

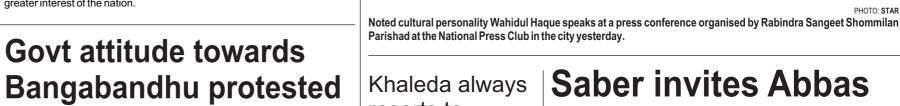
Calling upon the AL to withdraw today's half-day hartal, Bhuiyan said hartal no more reflects public opinion rather it destroys the national economy, tarnishes image of the country and obstructs local and foreign investment

He urged the AL to join the parliament session and raise the demands of the people there for the greater interest of the nation.

Referring to the improvement of law and order, Bhuyian said had the AL cooperated with the government the situation would have been far better, as the BNP does not believe in politics of creation of "Godfather."

Criticising the demand of the AL for establishing the rule of law, he said it had brought out lathi procession against the judges of the High Court during the regime of Sheikh

He called upon his party men to hold protest rallies on April 16 at upazilas across the country and thanas in the city corporations



Bangabandhu Parishad yesterday

protested the government's reluctance to cite the name of JSC submits

## report to president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission (JSC) chairman Justice MM Ruhul Amin submitted the first annual report (2004-2005) of the commission to President lajuddin Ahmed, yesterday.

While submitting the report the chairman and members of the commission apprised the president of the last one year's activities of the commission. They said the commission is scrutinising through vivavoce the candidates who have passed in the written examinations of the 24th BCS judicial service.

Because of no recruitment in the post of assistant judge for the last six years the number of judicial officers has come down alarmingly.

They said it has become essential to issue rules relating to immediate constitution of judicial service, appointment and conditions of service. They also sought president's intervention to solve the problems of the Judicial Service Commission Secretariat. President lajuddin thanked them

for timely preparing the report.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the state-run media and Independence Day programmes of the government.

At an Independence Day programme at the National Archive at Agargaon on March 26, it seemed like the nation does not have any history before 1976, Dr SA Malek, general secretary of Bangabandhu Parishad, said at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city vesterday.

"Ignoring Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and naming General Ziaur Rahman as the person to proclaim the independence is ultimately tarnishing the dignity of the nation. he said in his written speech. With a 23-year continuous

movement against the Pakistani autocratic regime and a 14-year prison life, Sheikh Mujib does not deserve to be ignored on such a day, SA Malek added. Professor Kabir Chowdhury said

this is another typical fascist technique of the alliance government to repeatedly tell lies, which they think, would once be established as truth. Bangabandhu Parishad

President Justice KM Sobhan termed 'the government's tendency of distorting the national history' as "cheating with the nation."

Barrister Shawkat Ali, Dhaka University Teachers Association (Duta) President Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof M Akhteruzzaman, Prof Shamsul Huda, Journalist Iqbal Sobhan, among others, spoke at the confer-

## Modern signal system to be indroduced at 12 rly stations

A computer-controlled modern signal system will be introduced at 12 railway stations on the Akhaura-Sylhet route at a cost of Tk 88.50

The signal system will be placed under the 2nd phase of the Modern Signal and Interlocking System Introduction Programme, aiming to reduce the time of train traffic on the Dhaka-Sylhet route.

An agreement to this effect was signed between the Bangladesh Railway and Irkon International Ltd. at the Bangladesh Railway conference room yesterday, said a press

Additional Director General of Bangladesh Railway M Abdullah and Managing Director of the Indian company BS Kapoor signed the

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Director General of Bangladesh Railway AFM Mostafizur Rahman and high offi

cials of Indian High Commission, Indian railway and Irkon International Ltd. were present at the signing ceremony.

The signals will be set up at Laskarpur, Rashidpur, Shatgaon, Srimongol, Tanugachh, Shamshernagar, Tilagaon, Longla, Boramchal, Bhaterabazar, Maijgaon and Mogla Bazar stations.

Work on the project will be completed within 18 months after the agreement comes into effect.

Earlier, another agreement was signed between the Bangladesh Railway and a Korean company for setting up a computer-controlled modern signal system at 10 stations on the Akhaura-Sylhet section of the route. Involving Tk 79 crore, works on this project will be completed by

Now trains in this section cannot run at a speed of over 48km due to the old signal system, but on completion of these projects, they will be able to run at a speed of over 80 km.

## resorts to falsehood: Jalil UNB, Dhaka

लन् भित्रियम

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday protested the Prime Minister's remarks at a meeting in Joypurhat on Tuesday, saying many people speak lie on some occasions, but "Khaleda Zia always resorts to falsehood." In a statement, he said: "If there

were any Nobel Prize for falsehood. Khaleda Zia would have won the award every year."

Castigating the PM's remark that

"Awami League is making propaganda against the state", Jalil said the BNP chief should recall the history of the birth of Bangladesh for which the AL played the leading role. "None would believe that Awami League is conspiring against the

what is its politics," he said. The AL general secretary also protested Khaleda Zia's remark that she took part in the war to liberate the country and challenged her to say where she had fought in 1971.

nation and the state, as people know

## 30 years' RI for raping a girl in Keraniganj

**COURT CORRESPONDENT** 

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to 30 years' rigorous imprisonment for raping a 12-year-old girl in Keraniganj on September 15, 1999.

Judge Mohammad Mujibul Kamal of the First Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression handed down the verdic in presence of the convict Abul The girl gave birth to a child after

she was raped by Abul Kashem.

The tribunal fined the convict Tk 5 lakh and directed the authorities concerned to realise the money from the convict's property and to pay it to the victim and her child. In the case filed with Keranigani

Police Station, it was alleged that Kashem raped the victim at her residence at Maddhyerchar village under Keraniganj police at about 10:00pm on September 15, 1999 when she was there alone. After the incident, the rapist threatened her not disclose his name to her parents.

## Tk 53.47 lakh Japanese aid

BSS, Dhaka

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Matsushiro Horiguchi signed a grant contract of 90,638 US dollar Tk 53.47 lakh with Executive Director of the World Mission Prayer League (LAMB Hospital) Dr Mark Pietroni here on Tuesday.

## Saber invites Abbas to an open debate on Khilgaon flyover

BDNEWS. Dhaka

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury on Tuesday made an nvitation to Works Minister Mirza Abbas for an open debate on the Khilgaon flyover issue in presence of print and electronic media at any

"If Abbas agrees to we can sit together at any place of his choice in presence of the LGED representatives, contractor of the Khilgaon flyover, print and electronic media, and let the people know what is truth," Saber, also organising secretary of Awami League, said at a press briefing at his residence. Saber, former lawmaker of

Dhaka-6 (Motijheel-Sabujbagh-Khilgaon) constituency, and Works Minister Mirza Abbas are now engaged in war of words on the much-talked-about flyover that was inaugurated on March 23 by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. Earlier, the AL leader at a press

briefing on March 23 said they are happy that the Khilgaon flyover is finally opened for traffic, but incomplete portion will deprive a million of people from getting its full benefit. "If people vote Awami League

back to power in future, we will complete the incomplete loop that will ease the traffic movement on the flyover, and facilitate the people of Khilgaon and other wide areas." he said.

The Works Minister, who is incumbent lawmaker from the constituency at a press conference on March 27, ruled out the allegations of Saber about Khilgaon flyover terming it 'untrue and politi-

Refuting Saber's allegations Abbas said the loop was not ncluded in the original design.

Saber had alleged that an important loop was dropped and the width was narrowed down from 15 metres to 14 metres raising risk to traffic movement, and took excessive time to complete the flyover.

Referring to Mirza Abbas's remarks made at the inaugural function of the flyover and at a press conference, Saber said, "I have doubt whether the Works Minister has any idea about flyover or not."

"It was a plan of LGED and the tender was floated and Ecnec also approved it. How Abbas said that there was no design?" Saber questioned adding that "unwanted interference by Abbas" delayed the implementation of the project.

The construction of another loop will not need to demolish even a single house, he said in a counterpoint of Abbas who said the second loop needed to demolish thousands of houses.

"We do not want to do politics on We want the people to know the fact as they have the right to know the truth. Even the LGRD Minister Mannan Bhuiyan during the inauguration admitted that another loop would benefit people of Khilgaon supplementing our position." Saber

## **PPRC** to conduct survey on crime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), a research organisation working with governance issues, will conduct a countrywide survey to identify country's crime trend and its prevalence.

Crime data from the countrywide survey will help the policy makers to evaluate the situation and take action to that end. The PPRC already piloted a

crime prevalence survey in two unions under Natore district. Advocate Dr Shahdeen Malik supervisor of the survey, presented a report about the survey at a meeting at the Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA)

auditorium in the city yesterday. Dr Malik said currently there is no complete crime data in the country.

He said the number of crime ncidents in the country is much higher than the police records show. Referring to crime statistics of the USA and India, he said the rate of crime in Bangladesh is lower compared to many western and our neighbouring countries.

"About 1200 incidents of murders take place only in the New York city a year while in Bangladesh the number is about 700 to 800 the same period," he said.

The law enforcement agencies can use the data of crime survey for their activities, he added. Speaking at the meeting former

advisor of a caretaker government Hafizuddin Khan said in rural areas the rate of crime is lower compared to the urban areas. He said it is not possible to have

right information about the crime from police records as sometimes police are interested in cases. Hossain Zillur Rahman, execu-

tive director of the PPRC, told the meeting that combating crime was vital to ensure good governance. If there is no complete data about crime of the country then it is not

law enforcement agencies to have a clear picture about it, he said. The crime survey, if completed, would help a lot ensure good gover-

nance in the country, he added.

possible for the policymakers and

## Nine lawyers, women activists burn certificates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Seven senior lawyers and two women activists burnt their academic certificates yesterday afternoon in front of the Chittagong Press Club protesting the authorities' inaction against people with fake certificates.

Those who destroyed their certificates were Parimol Kanti Biswas, Ashoke Das, Rana Das Gupta, Shihabuddin Mahmud, Osman Gani, Tafsiruddin Ahmed, Udoy Shankar Dhar, Noorjahan

"In recent times, the spread of fake certificates has increased to such an alarming rate that many

Khan and Noor-e-Asma

people have managed to get coveted government jobs with those tampered certificates. The authorities concerned so far have remained unmoved and took little or no action against them." said Rana Das Gupta to journalists. Nooriahan Khan said the protest

was actually initiated by lawyers but they came there on behalf of Mohila Parishad to express solidarity with



Asma Kibria, wife of slain AL leader and former finance minister Shah SAMS Kibria, speaks at a press conference yesterday at her Dhanmondi residence in the city. On her left is her son Dr Reza Kibria.