METROPOLITAN

The Daily Star

also helps counter the influence of

role in Bangladesh because geography cannot be changed,

MacFarquhar quipped.

"China will always play a big

Speaking as chief guest, Law

"As our neighbour, we cannot

Minister Moudud Ahmed said Bangladesh must strike a balance

of diplomacy among its neigh-

press statement alleged that OC

qbal Hossain while on duty on the

hotel premises misbehaved with

her sons and snatched their mobile phones and other important papers

Dhira, also a leader of Khulna

Jamaat-e-Islami, has been

absconding since March 31, one

day after he had been named as

the prime suspect in Belal murder

injured in a bomb attack at the

Khulna Press Club on the night of

February 5 this year. He suc-

A case was recorded with

Journalist Belal was severely

before taking them into custody.

GARMENTS FACTORY COLLAPSE Skop demands punishment to those responsible

Ensure security of

DHAKA THURSDAY APRIL 14, 2005

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different trade unions, NGOs, rights and women organisations yesterday held rallies and demanded exemplary punishment of the owner as well as the government bodies that approved the construction of the nine-storey garment factory at Palashbari in Savar, which collapsed in the early hours of Monday claiming many lives.

It is now clear to everyone that the collapsed building was badly constructed and the government agencies concerned remained indifferent to it, speakers said at a rally organised by the Sramik Karmochary Oikyo Parishad (Skop) at Muktangan in the city.

Skop leader Aminul Haque Faruq expressed grave concern over the slow process of the rescue operation adding that the government should take foreign help immediately if it does not have equipment to carry out

the rescue operation properly National Garment Workers

Federation, Karmajibi Nari, Ain O Salish Kendra, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), and Action Aid Bangladesh also held mourningrallies at Muktangan demanding immediate arrest of the owner of the Spectrum Sweater and Knitting. Garments Sramik and Shilpa

Rakkha Jatiya Mancha held a mourning-rally at Mirpur 12 bus station. Workers of the National Garments Workers Federation demanded compensation of Tk 2lakh for each of the affected families

"The government should identify all poorly built garment factories and other industries in the country and close them down immediately," JSD president Hasanul Haque Inu said at

a citizen rally. He also demanded that national condolence day be declared for the tragic accident at Savar



One of the hundreds of relatives of the workers trapped under the rubble of a nine-storey garment factory waits anxiously near the collapsed building in Savar yesterday in the hope of getting his loved one back from the death trap. (Right) As part of the rescue efforts, army personnel make profiles of the missing victims of the building Savar tragedy.

PHOTO: STAF **Caterer's family under death** threat from extortionists

Ahmadiyyas: ASK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a legal aid forum, yesterday demanded security of the Ahmadiyya

community across the country. In a statement, the ASK protested the move of the International Khatme Nabuvat Movement (IKNM) to lav siege to Ahmadiyya Mosque at Sundarban village under Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira district on April 17.

IKNM Chairman Noor Hossain Nurani has announced the siege programme The Ask said Islami bigots have

been repeatedly torturing and attacking Ahmadiyya Muslims, and occupying their mosques.

Due to governments' inaction followed by direct or indirect shelter to Islami bigots, the situation is deteriorating fast, it added.

The ASK urged the law enforcement agencies to remain alert to foil the IKNM's move.

The South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism has also condemned

Jov arrives today UNB, Dhaka

the IKNM's threat to lay siege to the Ahmadiyya Mosque at Satkhira

village In a statement, the union leaders said the Bangladesh wing of Pakistan-based IKNM has been violating the constitution by attacking Ahmadiyya mosques and people repeatedly

The signatories to the statement included National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan, Justice KM Sobhan, and Julfikar Ali Manik

Ananda Alo to be launched today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Impress Telefilms Ltd is launching a new magazine 'Ananda Alo' with the slogan 'Binodoney Bandhu Amar', ays a press release

The launching ceremony of the fortnightly is scheduled to take place at Ramna Batamool in the city at 8:45 am today. The magazine will cover every

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A caterer and his family members in Teigaon area are now fearing for their lives after a notorious armed gang of hoodlums threatened to kill them for refusing to pay a toll of Tk 200,000

The gang, which had been demanding the money from the caterer for over a month, recently served him an ultimatum over the phone, demanding that he pay the amount by April 4 or be killed along with his children, 'who attend school'

According to Tejgaon police, on April 4, at around 8:00pm, the armed gang, led by Gaffar, Choto Babu, Chashma Sujon and Kangali Mostafa, entered the Yang Tun Chinese restaurant, hardly 20 yards from the Tejgaon police station, and demanded to see its owner, Dilip G Bepari

An altercation soon ensued between the hoodlums and Dilip's

Contempt rule

others for their wilful disobedience to

its judgement and order.

formalities on the declaration.

Justice AFM Abdur Rahman passed

the contempt rule asking Editor Iqbal

Sobhan Chowdhury, Director Khaled

weeks why contempt proceedings

ment, petitioner's counsel said.

appeared for the petitioner.

on Observer

editor

BSS, Dhaka

order.

the respondents.

miraculously survived the attack because the bullets happened to hit the large steel buckle of the belt he was wearing. Gaffar and his friends left the restaurant thinking Albert was dead Dilip G Bepari told The Daily Star the family is now receiving death "The hoodlums know threats. exactly where our children read and they have threatened to kill our

daughters and the entire family if we do not withdraw the case," Bepari said. The Investigative Officer of the Tejgaon police station, ASI Rejaul Islam, said the notorious gang had

long been involved in various crimes in the Tejkunipara, Razabazar and Tejgaon areas. He added that he had led his

brother and the Managing Director team to arrest Gaffar and Kangali of the restaurant, Albert Prodip Mostafa from the Tejkunipara area. Bepari. Gaffar and his men dragged Under interrogation, Gaffar Albert into a corner of the restaurevealed that one Boro Babu of the rant, shooting him twice in the area was their "coordinator". The stomach point blank. But Albert same night ASI Islam and his team raided Boro Babu's residence, arresting him with several rounds of ammunition and a magazine. The police also seized 72 bottles of Phensidyl from the residence.

"The three men are now on police remand and we shall submit charge sheets against them within a day or two," Islam told The Daily

The two remaining men, Choto Babu and Chashma Sujon, both charged in the same case, are now absconding. According to Tejgaon police sources, a top official in the Home Ministry is "trying to have the charges against Choto Babu withdrawn." Choto Babu is believed to

be trying to cross into India from Jessore

Sammilito Panel sweeps JU dean, syndicate polls

The 'Sammilito Panel', an alliance backed by pro-Awami League teachers, has won 13 posts while the 'White Panel' backed by Gonotantrik Shikshak Parishad, bagged three posts in the elections to dean offices, Syndicate, Academic Council and Finance Committee of the Jahangirnagar University (JU)

The Sammilito Panel, also backed by Vice-Chancellor Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman, has bagged all the dean posts in four faculties.

Prof Nasir Uddin of history, Prof Amin Mohammad Ali of Economics, Prof Shahabuddin Kader Chowdhury of Pharmacy depart-ment, Prof Mahmuda Ghani Ahmad of Chemistry were elected as dean of arts, social science, life science

the Sammilito Panel got three while the White Panel bagged two.

Mohammad Kamrul Ahsan of philosophy, Khairuzzaman Mitu of drama and dramatics department and Dr Naeem Sultan of government and politics department got elected from Sammilito Panel under associate professor, assistant professor and provost categories in the

'Chinese PM's visit helps counter Indian influence'

India.'

bours.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recent visit of the Chinese prime minister to Dhaka has helped Bangladesh counter the influence of its big neighbour, India.

This was stated by a Harvard University Professor Roderick MacFarquhar while he was addressing a lecture in the city vesterday.

The lecture titled 'China's evolving relations with South Asia: abandon the idea of having good relations with India, particularly Implications for Bangladesh" was held at the Bangladesh Institute of when it comes to the watershed International and Strategic Studies issues, but it is also good to have (BIISS). our Chinese friends around,'

"China will of course benefit Moudud pointed out. Bangladesh as it is a supplier of **BIISS Director General Major** technical assistance, and a recipi-General Muhammad Abdul Matin ent of Bangladesh exports," said and Chairman Mufleh R Osmany Lahore-born professor, adding, "It also addressed the programme.

JOURNO BELAL KILLING CASE **Brothers of prime suspect** picked for guizzing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Four brothers of prime suspect in journalist Belaluddin murder case Shahabuddin Lashkar were taken into custody of the Detective Branch of Khulna Metropolitan

Police (KMP) yesterday. Plain cloth police picked Dr Shawkat Ali, Sadek Ali, Shujat Ali and Shamsher Ali at 11:30 am while they were heading towards Hotel Royal International to hold a press conference to deny their brother's involvement in the killing of Sheikh Belaluddin, Khulna bureau chief of the Dainik

cumbed to his injuries on February 11 while being treated in Sangram. When contacted, Officer-inthe Dhaka Combined Military Charge (OC) Iqbal Hossain of Hospital. Khulna Police Station admitted that the brothers of Shahabuddin Khulna PS under section 302 with Lashkar alias Dhira were picked up OC lobal Hossain as complainant. for questioning.

Meanwhile, Hasina Begum, mother of the four brothers, in a



4.30pm

case

Film show

In celebration of the Bangla New Year, **Cultural function** the Centre for Asian Arts and Culture will Students of dramatics and music screen three films titled 'Duratwa' by department of Dhaka University will Morshedul Islam, 'Abar Aronnye' by hold a daylong cultural function cele-Goutam Ghosh and 'Chokher Bali' by brating the Bangla New Year. Venue: Writuparna Ghosh. Venue: 62, Science Natmondol at DU. Time: 10.00am. Laboratory Road. Time: 12.00noon,

Bibartan Dhaka

Seminar

function and drama performance to celebrate Bangla New Year. Venue:

JU CORRESPONDENT

yesterday.

and science faculties

Out of five posts in the Syndicate,

3.00pm and 6.00pm. Liberation War

Museum

Bibartan Dhaka organises a cultural

will hold a three-day special exhibition of

books and documents related to Bangla

culture and tradition. Venue: Office

The People's University of Bangladesh

organises a seminar on 'People's

premises, Agargaon. Time: 10.30am.

Sajib Wajed Jov. son of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, will arrive in Dhaka today from Washington, AL sources said. He will be staying here for a

month. Joy along with his American wife

Christina came to Dhaka in December last.

aspects of entertainment, including sports, fashion, lifestyle, literature, travel, cinema and television. The regular issues of the magazine on art paper will have 80 pages in four colours.

Rezanur Rahman, a senior journalist, has joined the magazine as its editor.

Azizur Rahman Babu

Savedpur, Nilphamari,

They were killed by the Pakistani

Qurankhwani and feeding of the

occupation forces and their collabo-

rators at the Railway colony in

destitute have been arranged to

mark the death anniversary.



Death anniversary of 5 martyrs

The 34th death anniversary of five members of a family who were killed during the War of Liberation will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

The martyrs are engineer Fazlur Rahman, his wife Hosne Akhter, and their three sons --Mostafizur Rahman Moznu,

WEATHER

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Comilla in the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

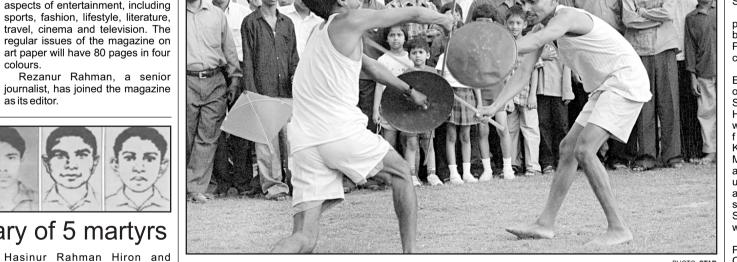
Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country during the period, Met office said, predicting that the day temperature may rise slightly.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 37 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 17 degrees at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:20pm today and rises at 5:37am tomorrow

The highest and lowest 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	35.0	22.5	36	40
Chittagong	33.8	26.4	75	61
Rajshahi	35.8	18.9	48	23
Khulna	35.0	22.0	87	60
Barisal	34.6	24.4	83	62
Sylhet	33.2	21.3	69	54
Cox's Bazar	33.4	26.2	81	75
Khulna Barisal Sylhet	35.0 34.6 33.2	22.0 24.4 21.3	87 83 69	6



Visitors watch a traditional Lathi Khela at the Baishakhi Mela organised by the Bengal Foundation at Gulshan Park in the city vesterday

Wasa demolishes structures amid The High Court yesterday issued a contempt rule against the editor of protests the Bangladesh Observer, director of Al-Helal Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd, district magistrate of Dhaka and

CANAL ENCROACHMENT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On May 26, 2004 the High Court, in a judgement and order, declared The Dhaka Water and Sewerage Nargis Rahman the printer and Authority (Wasa) demolished illegal publisher of the Bangladesh structures belonging to scores of Observer and directed the district families from the Ramchandrapur magistrate to complete the legal canal in Mohammadpur yesterday, in its ongoing drive to protect the capital But no steps were taken regarding from unusual waterlogging during the the High Court's judgement and monsoon.

The drive is a continuing effort to Nafisa Chowdhury, secretary of Al-Helal Printing & Publishing Co. recover the city's 43 canals from illegal encroachers to bring back the Ltd, filed a contempt petition against natural flow of the canals, mainly A Division Bench of the High Court used for drainage comprising Justice M A Matin and

A Wasa team began demolishing bamboo-made houses, shops, semipucca and pucca dwellings from the canal at 10:00am amid protests.

H Huq, District Magistrate Abdul Bari There were allegations from some and others to show cause in two inhabitants that they were not given enough time to shift their valuables.

shall not be drawn against them for A group of freedom fighters under their wilful disobedience of the judgethe banner Mohammadiha Muktijuddha Purnnabasan Barrister A K M Nazrul Islam Bahumukhi Samabay Parishad demonstrated against the demolition drive while around 300 workers of the

tures from the canal.

told The Daily Star.

the city's Tejgaon, Karwan Bazar, New Market, Kalyanpur and Mirpur areas will be drained out properly, if the eviction drive can clear the canal. Wasa officials assured they had been informing people for the last few

valuables and houses.

from the branch canals of Kalyanpur canal as part of the government's decision to free the city's canals of illegal encroachments.

Adequate police were deployed in the spot to avert any untoward situation

Prof Obaidur Rahman of philosophy and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad of botany were selected from the White Panel under professor and lecturer categories in the Syndicate.

In Academic Council, Dr Moniur Elahi of philosophy, Dr Khabir Uddin of environmental science from the Sammilito Panel and Dr Talim Hossain of botany from White Panel were elected under associate professor category, while Kamruzzaman Monir of zoology, Mokammel Hossain Bhuiyan of archaeology from Sammilito Panel under assistant professor category and Abul Kalam azad from computer science and engineering from Sammilito under lecturer category were elected.

Prof Nurul Huda from Sammilito Panel was elected to the Finance Committee

'Market-oriented education a must in the era of globalisation'

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for market oriented-education system in the country to produce trained human resources for the development of trade and commerce.

Northern University of Bangladesh (NUB) and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) organised the seminar titled 'Higher Education in Entrepreneurship Development: Exploring the Needs of Entrepreneurs in the Small and Medium Enterprise (SMC) sectors' at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in

guest, State Minister for Finance and Planning Shah Mohammad Abul Hussain said there is no alternative to marke-oriented education system to survive in the era of globalisation.

Aftab-ul-Islam, president of American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh, presented a keynote while NUB Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammad Ali presided over the seminar.

FBCCI President Abdul Awal Mintoo and University Grants Commission Member Prof Moinul Haque spoke as special guests.

Liberation War Museum organises a Muktangan. Time: 6.30am programme to welcome the Bangla New Year. Venue: Museum premises, Segun Exhibition Bagicha. Time: 10.00am. The Department of Archives and Library

Baishakhi fair

A Baishakhi fair and cultural function, organised by the National Press Club, will be held. Venue: Press Club premises. Time: 8.00am.

Terracotta exhibition

Kachi-Kanchar Mela

Segun Bagicha. Time: 10.00am.

Nazrul Academy

Moghbazar, Time: 5.00pm.

Baishakhi festival

Kite-flying festival

Drama

12.00noon.

Film show

Kendriva Kachi-Kanchar Mela organ-

ises a cultural function and Pitha

Festival to welcome the Bangla New

Year. Venue: Kachi-Kancha Bhaban.

Samay, a theatre group, will present a

drama titled 'Bhager Manush'. Venue:

Mahila Samity auditorium. Time: 7.00pm.

The Nazrul Academy will hold a musical

programme to celebrate the Bangla

New Year. Venue: Academy Bhaban,

The Women Entrepreneurs' Association

of Bangladesh organises a Baishakhi

festival. Venue: Medlion Furniture Show

Room, Panthapath. Time: 10.00am to

Dhakabasi, an organisation of the

residents of Dhaka, will hold a kite-flying

festival and a Mehendi festival. Venue:

Mohsil Hall playground and Shishu

Arganta International Film Society will

screen three films -- 'Pather Panchali' by

Satyajit Ray, 'Dahan' by Writuparna

Ghosh and 'Black' by Sanjoy Lila

Banshali -- in celebration of the Bangla

New Year. Venue: Sparsho's Theatre

Hall, House # 31, Road # 55, Gulshan #

2. Time: 3.00pm. 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Students of Marie Curie School organ-

ises a Baishakhi Mela. Venue: School

premises. Dhanmondi. Time: 9.30am to

Baishakhi Mela

Academy. Time: 7.00am and 9.30am.

University's New Year commitment to A solo exhibition of terracotta by artist maintain the standard of quality educa-Taiabuzzaman Tapu will begin. Venue: tion'. Venue: University campus, Burnt Clay Gallery, House #2, Road #2, Mohammadpur. Time: 3.00pm. Block # B, Section # 10, Mirpur. Time: From 9.30am to 9.30pm.

Lecture

The Iranian Cultural Centre organises a lecture titled 'The role of worldview in our daily life.' Venue: House-54, Road-8/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.

DHÂKA Drama

Asar, an organisation of dramatics and music department of Dhaka University. will stage a drama titled 'Kamalaranir Sagar Dighi' directed by Prof Dr Syed Jamil Ahmed. Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Time: 7.00pm.

Cultural function

Bikalpa Jubo Dhara Bangladesh organises a discussion and cultural function to celebrate the Bangla New Year. Venue: Party's central office. 13/1 Topkhana Road. Time: 4.00pm

Seminar

The Campaign for Good Governance and the Weekly 2000 will hold a seminar on 'Poverty reduction strategy and the role of international financial institutions'. Venue: WVA Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 9.30am

Closing session of SME Fair

The closing session of the SME Fair and the award giving ceremony will be held, with President lajuddin Ahmed as chief quest. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 11.00am

Film Show

Muldhara, an organisation of writers, journalists and artists, will screen two films -- 'Munna Bhai MBBS' and 'Hatath Bristi'. Venue: Muldhara Zakia Alam Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm

eviction team removed illegal struc-"We support the Wasa eviction

PHOTO: STAR

drive, but we urge the government not to knock down our homes." Abul Kashem, one of the freedom fighters

Officials claim that rainwater from

days with megaphones to move their

Wasa started the eviction drive on March 29, removing illegal structures

DU CORRESPONDENT

the city. Addressing the seminar as chief