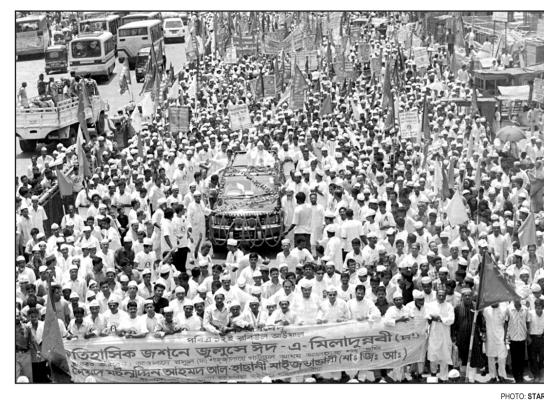
METROPOLITAN

The Daily Star

DHAKA SUNDAY APRIL 24, 2005



A procession was brought out in the city on Friday on the occasion of the Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the birth and death anniversaries of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM).

'More investments, subsidies needed to save agri sector'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar vesterday called on the government to pay more attention to the development of agriculture to boost the economy.

The agricultural sector is on the brink of ruin, they said, urging the government to save it by arranging adequate investments and subsidy

The Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad organised the seminar on 'Agriculture and farmers of Bandladesh' at Cirdap auditorium in the city to mark its silver jubilee.

The contribution of agriculture to the country's national income has declined to 23 percent, which was once 60 percent, said Dr Zahangir Alam, member director of

council "The recent economic reforms globalisation and reduction in budgetary allocations are the main constraints to agriculture develop-

ment," he observed. He also called on the developed countries not to oppose subsidy facilities for the farmers in developing Bangladesh Agriculture Research

Referring to the impact of alobalisation on agriculture, Dr Alam said, "The country has witnessed an increase of 9.04 percent in imports of agricultural products in the last one decade, while exports of agricultural

products increased only 1.96 percent." Using technology on a large scale is a must to achieve the expected growth rate in the agriculture sector, said Prof AM Muazzem Hossain in

his keynote paper. He said socio-economic infrastructure, including communication, electricity as well as storage and processing facilities, must be developed to ensure the growth of agricultural sector.

Prof Muazzem also called for ensuring production and distribution of quality seeds throughout the country

The civil society should come forward to help establish the rights of farmers, he added.

Presided over by BUP Chairman Dr Kazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, the seminar was also addressed by former secretary A Karim, researcher Dr Abul Kashem and Prof AM Sattar Mandal

One gunned down, **Reform discriminatory** 2 others shot in city laws against women

A voung man was killed and two others were shot when the miscreants opened fire on them at Kafrul in the city on Friday

A gang of five started firing on Hafizul Islam, 28, and his friend Nuruzzaman, 28, when they were gossiping near Matborer Pukur in Kafrul after Juma prayers, police said.

Hafizul, who passed master's degree from the Department of Islamic History of Rajshahi University recently, received two bullets in the head and chest. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

He came to Dhaka on Wednesday to meet his friend Nuruzzaman, a computer hardware engineer, who resides in a mess at Kafrul. Nuruzzaman was also shot in a hand. He was released from the DMCH after being operated upon on Friday.

Mahbub Islam Rony, 29, was shot in his leg as he came out of a local mosque during the incident. He was admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital "We were gossiping standing near

the pond at about 2:15pm. Suddenly five youths appeared and started firing

British HC apprised of AL

move for reforms in CG

told reporters at the DMCH.

He, however, could not say whether the criminals targeted him.

"I am certain that my brother was not the target as he does not reside in Dhaka," said Hafizul's elder brother Joynal Islam.

Police arrested one Sohel Friday night from the area suspecting his involvement in the incident and sent him to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court seeking seven-day remand.

"We are trying to find out whether any feud in Chapainawabganj, the home district of Hafizul and Nuruzzaman led to the incident," said Investigation Officer of the case Sub-Inspector Nasimul Islam He said Sohel gave a hint them that

a feud at Chapainawabganj is the reason behind the killing. He, however, declined to disclose anything more for the sake of investigation.

Nuruzzaman filed a case with Kafrul Police Station on Friday night without mentioning any name.

Gender discrimination in the existing laws and lack of women's political empowerment are major obstacles to ensuring women's participation in development decisions at all levels, speakers at a workshop said

yesterday. Women are trapped in a cycle of poverty because of these factors, they said and called for reforms of the discriminatory laws.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women today have achieved successes in many spheres of life, including education and incomegeneration, but have very limited access to the decision-making process, they observed.

Speakers tell workshop

The NGO Coalition on Cedaw and Beijing Process (NCBP), Bangladesh organised the workshop in the city to share the experience and outcome of the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on Beijing+10 held at the UN amend the discriminatory laws were Headquarters in New York from identified as major obstacles to this February 28 to March 11. doal.

A state delegation led by

Khurshid Jahan Haque, minister for

women and children affairs,

attended the session in New York

while another group comprised of

NGO representatives was present

as an observer and submitted a

shadow report on the implementa-

tion of the Beijing Platform for Action

(BPFA) alongside the state delega-

was adopted by the 23rd special

session of the General Assembly

(Beijing+5) in 2000 to establish

gender equality, development and

the workshop, women's rights

women's participation in the policy-

Speaking as the chairperson at

peace for the 21st century.

The Beijing Platform for Action

tion's report.

The laws on marriage, divorce, guardianship and inheritance are highly discriminatory against women, said Mahmuda Islam, president of Women for Women.

Ferdous Ara Begum, director general of Bangladesh Television, who was a member of the state delegation, underscored the need for incorporating the NGO's experience into women's development policy

Md Abdur Rashid Sarker, secretary, ministry of women and children affairs, said the ministry has taken an initiative to develop strategies for eliminating gender discrimination in the laws.

leader Salma Khan said a lack of Ayesha Khanam, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila making process at the state level and the government's reluctance to Parishad, also spoke.

Newly elected leaders of the Supreme Court Bar Association led by its President Mahbubey Alam called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at the Awami League Dhanmondi office yesterday.

> 'Govt making judiciary, **JS non-functional'**

to modernise the judiciary and

4 killed in city road accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people, including a cloth trader and a nine-year-old boy, were killed in separate road accidents in the city in the last two days.

Shah Alam, the cloth trader, was killed when a speeding passenger bus hit him near New Market at about 3:00pm yesterday.

Witnesses said the bus hit Alam, owner of 'Ashirbad Than Kapor' at Reza Supper Market opposite to Dhaka College, when he was crossing the road. Locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors on duty declared him dead

Traffic movement was disrupted at Mirpur Road for an hour following the accident as traders and busi-

nessmen put up blockade on the road protesting the accident. Police seized the bus and

arrested its driver Meanwhile, Mohammad Manik, 9, died on the spot when a passenger bus hit him when he was crossng the road near Malibagh in the

city yesterday morning. He died on the spot. 3:00pm on Friday, a vehicle hit

ing the road at Kachukhet in Kafrul Locals admitted her to the DMCH where she succumbed to her injuries in the evening.

In another accident at about Aleka Bibi, 70, when she was cross-

An unidentified youth aged about 26 was killed when a vehicle ran him over near Balaka Bhaban on Airport Road early Friday

Anwar Chy meets Hasina STAFF CORRESPONDENT British High Commissioner in Dhaka Anwar Choudhury yesterday met Opposition Leader and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in Dhanmondi

During the meeting, the AL leader apprised the envoy of her party's move for reforms in the caretaker government system and the Election Commission.

"We have explained to the envoy the reasons for which the mainstream opposition parties have raised the demand for reforms in caretaker government system and other electoral laws," Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to AL chief, told the reporters after the meeting.

The reform proposals should not be taken as a demand of the AL only, he said, adding, "Other opposition parties and civil society members are also in favour of the demand for a free, fair and credible election.

"The AL did not raise the issue to derive any benefits from the reforms. Rather, the demands are made for establishing people's right to vote and at the same time to ensure accountability of the interim government," Saber said.

approach to the reforms of the caretaker government, the AL leader posed the question, "What is the problem of the government if

He referred to last vear's Saber said the high commis-

sioner was also informed of the opposition's concern over the grenade attacks and political killings that took place in the country in recent times, and the suspected link between those inci-

and head of the political section of the High Commission Stephen Briges were present during the hour-long meeting.

On the AL side, Abdul Jalil, Kazi Zafarullah, former ambassador Ziauddin and Hasina's son Sajib Wajed were present.

They alleged that the authorities

did not provide any bus since the old

one went out of order six months

ago. "We had requested the authori-

ties several times to repair the bus,

but our requests went unheeded," a

resident student told UNB wishing

suffering from accommodation

crisis, the authorities have allotted

four four-seated rooms for setting

shouted slogans against the hall

provost and the house tutors pro-

in our personal matters and hurl

abuses at us," another student said,

also insisting not to be named.

The hall provost and the pro-VC

Opposition won't

participate in

polls without

EC: Menon

UNB, Chittagong

Commission.

Saturday.

reforms

reforms in CG,

Workers' Party President Rashed

Khan Menon has said that none of

the opposition parties will take part

in the next general election without

reforms in the caretaker govern-

ment system and Election

reached a consensus against

participation in the election without

The resident students also

"The house tutors often interfere

"When the hall students are

On the government's negative

we could introduce a better system through reforms for the sake of free and fair elections?" Dhaka-10 by-election and a recent by-election for a ward commissioner in Dhaka, and said, "These

Newly appointed British Deputy

to hold meet on security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

UNB, Dhaka

higher courts for quick dispensation of justice," Hasina told the Ba leaders "We appointed judges according to the suggestion of the court authorities, irrespective of their political identities," she said. New SC Bar President Advocate Mahbubey Alam said during the AL rule, the judges were appointed considering their merit, wisdom and quality. But the ruling coalition appointed 19 judges considering their political dentities. "The downfall of BNP-Jamaat government has started with our election victory and it will end through their defeat in the next general elections," said Bar Secretary Advocate M Enaetur Rahim.

polls and others have proved that the present government is determined to take the results in their favour by any means.

dents and big arms hauls. High Commissioner Jason Grimes

HASINA'S CTG VISIT CMP boss

refuses



Local people and businessmen put up a barricade on the road in the New Market area following the death of a cloth trader in a road accident.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind are likely at few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Chittagong and Barisal divisions till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said. Highest temperature 37.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 21.5 degree Celsius at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:24pm today and rises at 5:29am tomorrow.

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	35.2	26.5	69	56
Chittagong	33.7	26.2	75	69
Rajshahi	36.0	25.4	80	67
Khulna	35.5	26.7	83	79
Barisal	35.0	25.4	78	63
Sylhet	33.7	25.3	91	59
Cox's Bazar	33.7	26.0	67	73

Domestic help's body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a domestic help from Tejgaon in the city on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

The body of Ruma Begum, 18, was hanging from a ceiling fan at a house at West Rajabazar

Quoting the family members of the housemaster, police said she had committed suicide. Ruma, daughter of Al Baqui of

Ramnagar village under Raipura upazila in Narsingdi district, had been working at the house of an expatriate Kaivum Miah at 66/1-Indira Road for the last 14 months.

Ruma's father alleged that his daughter died as a result of torture by the family members.

"The wife of the housemaster Naima Begum, and brother-in-law Jasim tortured his daughter to death, Bagui told the reporters at Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the body was taken for autopsy.

Hospital sources said several old injury marks were found at different parts of the deceased's body that suggest that the family members used to torture her.

DU FAZILATUNNESA HALL

Female students confine pro-VC, provost to dormitory

demands

anonymity.

up shops," she said

with the students.

demonstration.

UNB, Dhaka

Hundreds of angry resident students of Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall of Dhaka University yesterday confined the pro-vicechancellor and the hall provost in the dormitory for several hours to realise their 13-point demand.

The students kept hall Provost Prof Nasreen Ahmed under lock and key for nearly six hours since 1.00pm inside her office while Pro-VC Dr AFM Yusuf Haider was confined for about four hours since 3.00pm at the common room of the house tutors

The pro-VC had to face the anger of the female students as he went to visit the spot along with Proctor Dr AKA Firoz and Senior Assistant Proctor Fatema Begum after he was informed of the demonstration. The demands of the students include reintroduction of the bus service from their hall to the main campus, eviction of shops and stores from the hall rooms, introduction of the attendance register on every floor, reduction of rents by 50 percent for those who share seats installation of a phone booth and permission for everybody to keep PC During their demonstration, the

unruly students cut off the telephone and electricity lines of the dormitory. The pro-VC and the hall provost managed to come out of their captivity after assuring the students that their demands would be met in phases

The hall authorities told the students that from now on they would be able to keep three computers in their respective room and assured them of taking immediate steps to upgrade their existing hall library into full-fledged one.

They said a phone booth would be installed in the dormitory and the number of stoves in the kitchen would also be increased shortly. About the bus service, the pro-VC said a new bus would be pressed into service soon from the hall, which is about a km away from the main campus.

The female students had been demonstrating for the last three days to meet their long-awaited

The Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) commissioner yesterday refused a meeting with two former police high-ups on the security of Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina for her May 1 visit to the port

Former CMP commissioner AT Ahmedul Haq Chowdhury and former deputy inspector general (DIG) of police Shafique Ullah went to meet CMP Commissioner Amjad Hossain at his office at around 11:00am, sources said.

The visitors sent Amjad a note to discuss security measures for Hasina, also Awami League chief, and waited for him at the reception. After about an hour, four police officials came to Hag and regretted for the 'inconvenience' on behalf of their chief, the sources said.

AL sources said the two former police officials came as an advance testing their alleged misconduct security team for Hasina.

Haq served as the CMP commissioner from January 10, 1999 to July 26. 2001 and later went into forced retirement after serving a few months as an additional IGP.

could not be reached for comments Obituary as the students did not allow reporters to enter the hall during the

Advocate Md Anwaruzzaman, a Language Movement veteran a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, passed away due to cardiac arrest at the Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital in the city on April 22 at the age of 70, says a press release.

He left behind his two sons and three daughters

Mustak Ahmed Chowdhury

Mustak Ahmed Chowdhury, former election commissioner, died of cardiac arrest on April 22 at the age of 81, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and two daughters to mourn his death.

The officers and employees of the Election Commission Secretariat expressed deep shock at the death of Mustak and praved for the salvation of the departed soul

Mouluvi Ahmed Ali

All opposition parties will launch Mouluvi Ahmed Ali, an Islamic a movement seeking reforms, said thinker and teacher, passed away Menon while addressing the district on April 22 at his son's residence at workers conference here on Dhaka University at the age of 100, says a press release. He said the opposition has

His qulkhwani will be held at his /illage home in Satkhira on April 25. Mouluvi Ahmed Ali is survived by his 6 sons and two daughters.

wami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the BNP-Jamaat coalition govern-

ment of making two vital state organs -- parliament and judiciary-- virtually "non-functional." Addressing the newly-elected

leaders of the Supreme Court (SC) Bar Association in the evening, the opposition leader said the judiciary has not yet been separated from the executive as our government had taken the first initiative to comply with the Supreme Court directives in this

regard. "Our government had made a provision for disbursement of fund by the Court authorities and efforts were taken with the financial assistance of the World Bank



Seminar

4.30pm

4.30pm.

Discussion

Musical evening The Iranian Cultural Centre organises a seminar on 'Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) The Joyoddhani Sangskritik and the new challenges' with Justice Sangathan, a musical forum, organises Mustafa Kamal, former chief justice, as a musical evening. Venue: Natmondol chief guest. Venue: Shaheed Zia of Dhaka University Auditorium of the National Museum Shahbagh. Time: 4.30pm.

Painting exhibition

The opening ceremony of a painting

exhibition titled 'Three Great Masters'

will be held with Information Minister M

Shamsul Islam as chief quest. More

than one hundred works of

Shilpachariya Zainul Abedin, Quamrul

Rally

The Jatiya Oikya Mancha organises a rally demanding compensation for the victims of the garment factory building collapse at Savar. Venue: Muktangon. Time: 4.00pm.

> DHÂKA TOMORROW

The Nagar Samajik O Sangskritik Kendra organises a prize giving ceremony and cultural function. Venue: Nagar Bhaban Auditorium. Time:

Meeting

The Human Development Foundation Bangabandhu Smriti Charcha Kendra will hold a discussion to mark the organises a meeting to pay homage to publication ceremony of book titled Shah AMS Kibria, former finance 'Azizul Hague Smarak Grantha.' Venue: minister. Venue: World Literature 9/4, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur. Time: Centre, Bangla Motor. Time: 4.00pm.

Hasan and S M Sultan will be on display. Venue: Scholastica School, Uttara. Time: 10.00am. Seminar Prize giving ceremony

Memorial Hall. Time: 9.30am.

The Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) organises a seminar on 'Modernization of Islamic Banking' with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Osmani