HC orders NBR

chief to explain

his holding post

on contract job

The High Court (HC) yesterday in a

rule on the chairman of National

Board of Revenue (NBR) ordered

him to explain within four weeks in

what capacity he is holding the office

after his retirement from the civil

filed by a businessman, S Shaifuddin

Ahmed Shantu, that challenged

Khairuzzaman Chowdhury's holding

the office of chairman of the NBR and

that of the secretary of Internal

Resources Division (IRD) on a con-

tractual appointment after his retire-

According to the existing provision, the NBR chairman also holds

Khairuzzaman retired from public

service on completion of 57 years of

age on February 4, 2002, but the

government appointed him as NBR

chairman on a contract basis for two

After its expiry, the government on January 26, 2004 extended the con-

tract for another year and after the end

of the second contract, the govern-

ment re-appointed him for one more

moved for the petitioner while

Advocate Fatema S Chowdhury

Barrister Masood R Sobhan

The counsel for the petitioner told

The Daily Star that according to

Section 4 of Public Servant Act, there

is no provision of contractual appoint-

ment of a public servant after retire-

ment on completion of 57 years of

age. But Section 5 (3) of the same act

has a provision that provides for

appointment of a retired government

year on February 6 this year.

assisted him.

ment as a public servant.

the office of the IRD secretary.

The rule followed a writ petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

service.

PM, her son plundering public money

Hasina tells Bogra rally

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her son of plundering public money and siphoning off their fortune into a foreign country.

"Ziaur Rahman left nothing, except a broken suitcase and a torn shirt when he died in 1981, but his family mobilised a lot of wealth after the BNP government came to power," said Hasina, also the main opposition leader, at a public meeting at Sherpur in Bogra, reports our

Hasina, who began a 3-day mass campaign in the northern districts vesterday, said due to financial crises two sons of Ziaur Rahman received orphan allowance and Khaleda Zia widow allowance, but "this is the family that has now become the richest one in the country.'

As Hasina started her mass campaign along with her only son, Sajib Wazed Joy, thousands of party workers and commoners greeted them along the route from Dhaka to Rangpur by showering petals and chanting welcome slogans.

Numerous colourful arches were erected along the route where AL workers carried portraits of Hasina, Joy and his wife Christina

PM opens Nat'l

Centre today

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugu-

rates country's first 70-bed National

Asthma Centre next to the Institute of

Chest Diseases and Hospital (ICDH) at Mohakhali at 12:00 hours today

The five-storey hospital built under a

1998 project on 1.91 acres of land will

now come to the aid of hundreds of

asthma patients who had to seek

treatment at the only state-owned

asthma centre at a small corner of the

ICDH run by a group of dedicated

The PM will also lay foundation

stone of the National Academy of

Health Management next to the Infectious Disease Hospital also

Health Minister Dr Khandaker

Mosharraf Hossain, Health Secretary

AFM Sarwar Kamal. Bangladesh

Medical Association (BMA) President

Professor MA Hadi, BMA Secretary

General Dr AZM Zahid Hossain will be

present among others at the opening

Roughly a hundred patients used to

visit the tiny ICDH centre every day

during peak season--October to

January-to seek treatment mostly for illness from asthma. Limited bed

capacity and poor equipment facilities

however, forced many patients to wait

separate asthma centre is finally start-

ing its journey," said Dr Zahurul Islam

Shakil, member secretary of the project

"We are happy to announce that a

in queue until their turn came.

implementation committee.

ceremony.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asthma

them from their motorcade and

She said, "The Malaysian government is now inquiring about the huge amount of money that Tarique Zia could smuggle into that country. If Awami League returns to power all smuggled out money would be brought back to the country," reports

"People are fed up with this regime that turned Bangladesh into a nation of corruption and women's

Terrorism and making illegal money are their only policy," she told wayside rallies at Savar, Tangail, and Hatikumrul and Chandaikona in Sirajgani, Sherpur and Mokamtala in Bogra, and Gaibandha before reaching Rangpur.

Hasina blamed the government for its 'failure' to control price-hike, unemployment and 'monga' in the

In an oblique reference to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), she wanted to know who had given them the license people while keeping their godfathers protected.

Seeking vote for 'Boat', the election symbol of AL in the next polls to change the present situation, Hasina government and the Election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Savar building collapse.

an official report.

Several rights, women and labour

organisations yesterday served a

legal notice on different govern-

ment officials, including secretar-

ies of seven ministries, asking

them to take legal action against

the people responsible for the

Spectrum Sweater Industries Ltd.

collapsed in the early hours of April

11, killing 61 people, according to

Security Forum, the organisations

served the legal notice on the

secretaries of the labour, com-

merce, industry, land, food and

disaster management, forest and

environment, and housing and

It also served the notice on the

chief inspector of factories, the

chairman of Rajuk, the deputy

commissioner of Dhaka, the chief

executive officer of the Savar

cantonment board, the inspector

general of police, the president of

Under the platform of Workers

A nine-storey building of

against culprits

Rights bodies ask govt

Commission are essential to allow people to vote freely in electing the government of their choice.

On the situation of northern region, Hasina said it was not so worse during the AL rule that had made the country self-reliant in food.

Refuting Khaleda's claim on development, she criticised the incumbent prime minister for "failing to produce a single megawatt of

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: At a public meeting in the district Hasina said AL will not participate in the next general election unless the alliance government reforms the structure of the existing caretaker government system.

BDNEWS adds: Sajib Wazed Joy said Bangladesh has turned into a "corrupt country" during the present

Replying to a question Joy said, "I love my country and its people. They want me and they welcome me. But I do not want to get involved in politics

AL leaders Abdul Jalil MP, Mohammad Nasim MP, Mirza Azam

MP. Zahid Hassan Russel MP. and Jahangir Kabir Nanak accompnied SAVAR COLLAPSE

BGMEA, the managing director of

the collapsed factory Sharier Syed,

and directors Altaf Hossain and

ties to inform them by April 28

about the case filed with the Savar

information about the cause of the

building collapse, and asks the

authorities to ensure justice and

compensate and rehabilitate the

Salish Kendra, Bangladesh

Fnvironmental Lawyers

Association, Bangladesh Legal Aid

and Services Trust. Bangladesh

Society for Enforcement of Human

Rights, Bangladesh National

Women Lawyers Association,

Incidin Bangladesh, Jatiya Nari

Jote, Karmajibi Nari, Nijera Kari,

Odhikar, Oxfam, Sammilita

Samajik Andolan, Sammilita Nari

Samaj and Ubinig

Members of the Forum are Ain o

Police Station against Sharier.

The Forum asked the authori-

The legal notice also seeks

Hashem Fakir.

official on contract in public interest. Take legal action He termed the two provisions contradictory and said it is necessary to clarify 'public interest'. "We want to know in what public interest has the government appointed Khairuzzaman to the post of NBR chairman on a contract basis," he said.

He also said the government's appointing retired public servants on contract in such way will infringe rights of government officials still in

TSUNAMI

Expert team to arrive soon for assessment

A team of experts from the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) will arrive in Bangladesh soon to assess the needs to install early warning system for Tsunami.

Sources yesterday said the IOC team is coming to Bangladesh as part of its mission to the Indian Ocean region. The team will assess the needs of individual littoral nations to help them install early warning system for Tsunami.

The decision of the team's visit came at the just concluded second international meeting on development of early warning systems for Tsunami for the Indian Ocean region on a global framework.

Mauritius hosted the meeting on April 14-16 as a follow-up of the Paris meet on March 3-8 held under the auspices of the Unesco and IOC.

Appeal for help



kidneys were damaged, says a press release. He needs about Tk five lakh for kidney trans-

plantation. Theatre activists have appealed to the generous people to extend a helping hand to save his life.

Contributions can be sent to the following savings account: Abu Sufian Biplob, Savings Account No. 0834047447, IFIC Bank Ltd., Federation Branch, Motifheel, Dhaka. Phone: 9336148,

Obituary

Quazi Shahdat Hossain, former Principal of Narayangani Government Women's College, passed away due to cardiac arrest at

Cardiac Hospital in Dhaka yesterday (Sunday) at the age of 70, says a press release

He left hehind his wife and three daughters to mourn his death. His qulkhwani will be held at his residence in the Narayanganj town

after Asr prayers on Wednesday. Death anniversary



orphanage

Mohammad Nurul press release.

DCC's special cleanliness drive ends, leaving wastes on many roads

The 15-day-long special cleanliness drive of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) ended yesterday, leaving wastes scattered as well as piled up on many lanes and by-lanes of the

During the drive from April 10 to 24, the main roads of the capital were cleaned up. but the footpaths of many roads in old parts of the city were left with piled up rubbish and filthy solid

The garbage collectors collected rubbish from many lanes and bylanes only once in the last 10 to 15 days, alleged the local people.

During a visit to some parts of the capital marking the ending of the special drive, this correspondent found waste, construction materials and rubbish on the footpaths and roads. The areas included Jatrabari intersection, opposite to Sayedabad bus terminal, Mugdah, Maniknagar, Basabo, Malibagh rail gate, Kakrail road, Paltan-Bijoynagar road, Paribagh and Dhanmondi road No-

Residents of those areas said their roads and waste bins were cleaned only one day in the last 15

Waste materials were found dumped on the footpaths at Mugdah, Maniknagar, Gopibagh and

Domestic waste was kept outside the bins at Sayedabad, Paribagh and Malibagh littering the main roads.

At Kazi Alauddin road in the old city, piled up wastes were found at around 1.45pm. On inquiry, the locals said the DCC's cleaners did not visit the area in last seven days.

M Rafiq, a trader of the locality, said, "The piled up waste is here for the last one week creating impedi-



Kazi Alauddin Road after completion of the Dhaka City Corporation's 15-day special cleanliness drive yesterday.

ment to traffic movement. The cleaners come here once in a week. '

Similar condition was prevailing at Tanti Bazar, Shankhari Bazar, Bangsal and Laxmi Bazar where domestic waste and garbage were found dumped in the corner of the houses and shops.

City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka yesterday visited several areas adjacent to Mirpur Section No-11 to mark the ending of the drive.

He walked along the road from Purabi cinema hall to Pallabi crossing in a procession comprising ward commissioners and local elite

The mayor said although the special drive has come to an end, the cleanliness drive would continue. He also reiterated that henceforth

the last Friday of every month will be observed as the day for special cleanliness drive The mayor launched the drive on

April 9 in its 90 wards saying that the city's footpaths, roadside surface drains, date expired banners, posters and graffiti would be removed. Apart from its regular 7,000

cleaners, the DCC hired 5,000 more cleaners for the drive at a cost of Tk

"The drive has made some progress in cleaning the city in terms of sweeping the footpaths but waste collection was not managed properly. Besides posters and graffiti were also not removed," said Harun-ur-Rashid, a citizen of Mirpur.

"If the DCC authorities actively inspect the work of cleaners and waste collectors making them accountable for their respective jobs, the situation is bound to improve." he

Italian found dead in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An Italian national was found dead Saturday midnight in the bedroom of his Sonadanga residence in Khulna

Police recovered the naked body of Andrew Gonzalvez, 35, his mouth, hands and legs tied with rope, at 10:45pm from his bedroom on the first floor of a three-storey building Maya Bhaban owned by Shafiul Azam retired chief engineer of Khulna Development Authority (KDA), at Sonadanga residential

area of Khulna city. According to police, Andrew Gonzalvez was the caretaker of the apartment rented by another Italian, Patrio Mariani. A high official of Dalit, an NGO dealing with environmental affairs with headquarters in Italy Mariani has been living in the apartThe officer-in-charge (OC) of Sonadanga Police Station said, Andrew Gonzalvez was strangled and the murder took place when there was nobody in the apartment. However, the motive of the murder is yet to be known. The killers did not take anything from the apartment, the OC said. The police arrested Mahbubur

Rahman, 30, son of the owner of Maya Bhaban, and were interrogating him. They also questioned Patrio Mariani on Saturday night following the recovery of Gonzalvez's dead Śwapan Kumar Das, director of

the Khulna unit of Dalit, lodged an FIR on Saturday night with the Sonadanga PS as complainant naming none as accused. The body of Gonzalvez was sent

to the Khulna Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy.

UN STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Nat'l consultation begins to seek children's opinion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children from across the country gathered at a national consultation in the city yesterday to contribute their inputs in framing national recommendations on the UN Study on Violence against Children.

Unicef, the Save the Children Alliance, and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs organised the meeting at the Bates-Victoria auditorium in Ďhanmondi.

The consultation with and among the children will provide first-hand accounts of child repression, said Humaira Aziz, programme manager of Save the Children, Sweden and Denmark, while briefing the reporters.

The child participants, aged between 8 and 18 years, representing various sections of the society, will put forward their suggestions and recommendations today, the second day of the three-day event.

The 85 children represented various income groups, ethnic community and underprivileged sections. Some of them were abused, some fell victim to trafficking and some are

During the first day's consultation session, children learned what the Child Rights Convention is and how and when child rights are violated. The final national recommenda-

tions, incorporating those of the children and government initiatives and responses, will be discussed at the South Asian regional consultation scheduled to take place in Islamabad on May 15 and 16, said Humaira Aziz.

The participating children themselves will select four from among them, who will take part in the regional consultation.

The UN Study, rooted in children's human rights to protection from all forms of violence, aims at promoting action to prevent and eliminate violence against children at the local, national, regional and international

On the basis of the study, the UN will prepare a comprehensive report

on the child repression in different

parts of the world by 2006. As part of the study, there will be nine regional consultations, with national consultations in all the countries. Sultan Mahmud, country repre-

sentative of Save the Children, Sweden and Denmark, and Ummay Habiba of Save the Children, UK attended the consultation session, moderated by Shamsul Alam Bakul of Save the Children, Sweden,

Enayetullah Khan undergoes surgery tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Enayetullah Khan, editor of The New Age and The Holiday, will undergo a surgery of the pancreas in Toronto, Canada, tomorrow. Dr Aliee Wey of Princess

Margarette's Cancer Hospital and her team will first perform an exploratory surgery to determine the risk of the removal of a tumour at the head of the If the benefits outweigh the risks of

the removal, the surgeon and her team will remove the tumour. The sixhour surgery will take place at Toronto General Hospital across Princess Margarette's. Earlier, the Toronto oncologists and surgeon confirmed Dhaka

Birdem Hospital's diagnosis of carcinoma of the pancreas after Enayetullah Khan had gone through "obstructive jaundice" in March. The Birdem Hospital team, led by Dr Anisur Rahman, successfully put two stents through what is known as

ERCP to open the bilary ducts, and

thereby help remove the toxins and

clear the obstructions.

IHM seminar

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 Memorial Hall. Time: 9.30am.

BQLS seminar

The Bangladesh Quran Learners's Society organises a seminar on 'Friendship and enmity in Islam.' Venue: Hamdard Auditorium, Sonargaon Road. Time: 5.00pm

Meeting Bangabandhu Smriti Charcha Kendra

organises a meeting to pay homage to Shah AMS Kibria, former finance minister. Venue: World Literature Centre, Bangla Motor. Time: 4.00pm.

Musical programme

The Centre for Education, Creative and Performing Arts organises its monthly musical programme. Venue: Centre Auditorium, 64/C Green Road. Time:

Art competition

The Environment and Social Development Organisation organises an art competition for under-privileged children to mark the Earth Day. Venue: Surovi School Premises, House-16, Road-5, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm.

Musical function

The Bangladesh Geetikabi Sangsad organises a discussion and musical function to mark the first death anniversary of its vice-president SM Hedayet. Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 4.00pm. Roundtable

The Muktijoddha Samannay Parishad organises a roundtable on 'Bangladesh-India relations in the light of the liberation war.' Venue: Cirdap Auditorium, Topkhana Road, Time: 3.00pm.

The annual general meeting of the Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh will be held with State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar as chief guest. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity Auditorium, Segun Bagicha. Time:

BASIS programme The Bangladesh Association of

Lawyers' meeting

CRAB meeting

A meeting of the Democratic Lawyers'

Association of Bangladesh will be held

Venue: Room No 48, Shah Kamal Hotel.

Software and Information Services organises a software copyright awareness programme to mark the BCS Computer City, IDB Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 3.00pm.

Blood donation

The Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Independent University. Time: 10.00am

DHÂKA TOMORROW

Workshop

The opening ceremony of a two-day national workshop on 'Use of ICT in basic education' will be held with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Bhashani Novo Theatre, Bijoy Sarani.

Meeting

The People's Empowerment Trust organises an opinion sharing meeting to mark the Global Action Week with Speaker Mohammad Jamir Uddin Sircar as chief guest. Venue: LD Hall of the Jatiya Sangsad. Time: 10.30am.



No change in day temperature likely

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Highest temperature 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.0 degree Celsius at Rangpur and Dinajpur. The sun sets in the capital at 6:25pm today and rises at

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town Temperature Humidity in Morning Dhaka 34.8 22.5 Chittagong 26.0 Rajshahi 35.3 24.5 76 85 80 65 66 78 Khulna 35.2 26.4 Barisal 34.5 25.8 Sylhet 32.0 20.1 91 Cox's Bazar 34.0 26.0

HEADMISTRESS MURDER Prime accused on remand

Scholastica organised the painting exhibition.

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Abdur Rahim, the prime accused in the headmistress Lily murder case, was placed on a five-day remand yesterday. Shahnaz Kabir Lily, 35, headmis-

tress of Ashuliya Government

Primary School, was stabbed to

death by a gang of robbers at her

Kamarpara house in Uttara on April Earlier, Rahim declined to give a confessional statement when he was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on April 18. Later, he was

sent to the Dhaka Central Jail. The investigation officer (IO) on April 21 submitted a petition before the court seeking a ten-day remand. But the court fixed April 24 for hearing in presence of the accused.

'Steps taken to phase out organic pollutants'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) is currently finalising a National implementation Plan to phase out persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in State Minister for Environment and

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam inaugurates a three-day painting exhibition of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin,

Quamrul Hasan and SM Sultan at the Scholastica School at Uttara in the city yesterday. Bengal Foundation and

wide Inventory of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Bangladesh & Phase Out' at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city. He said the country has a stock of DDT and other obsolete pesticides,

which should be destroyed immedi-

Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury dis-

closed this at a workshop on 'Nation-

Kamico Bangladesh Limited, which has successfully exported 2764 tonnes of zinc oxy-sulphate to the Netherlands recently for safe disposal of the environment pollutant, has

organised the two-day workshop. A US company had dumped this

toxic fertiliser to Bangladesh back in 1991 after misleading the state-run Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC). POPs are chemical substances

that pollutes the environment, bio-

accumulate through food chains, and pose health hazards. At the inaugural session of the workshop, the speakers underscored the need for international cooperation for safe disposal of toxic substances as the country does not have the

technology to destroy the POPs.

BADC Member Director Iqbal Hossain, Prof Imamul Haque of Dhaka University, Representative of the Dutch company AVR Marco Kortland, and Kamico Director Shamsul Arefin Chowdhury also spoke.

Kamico Managing Director Hasan Khaled were also present.



Today is the 18th death anniversary Huq an educationist and civil servant, savs a

On the occamahfil will be held and foods will be distributed in the