



PHOTO: STAR
Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina sees her son Sajib Wazed Joy off at Zia International Airport in the city yesterday. Before leaving for the United States, Joy told reporters that he is likely to return home in August to take part in the National Mourning Day programmes.

SAIFUR ASKS MINISTRIES

Spend funds by May to get enhanced allocation

More funds for BADC in next budget likly

UNB, Dhaka

The next budget is likely to allocate more funds for strengthening Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) and other agricultural research institutions to help produce high-yielding variety (HYV) of seeds to increase agriculture output.

"BADC seeds are in demand among the farmers." Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman told reporters after a pre-budget meeting with eight ministries, including agriculture, at the ministry yesterday.

Presently, the BADC supply only five percent of the total seed demand while the rest comes mainly from household stocks of the farmers, Agriculture Ministry officials said. Imported seeds also meet some demand, though marginally.



Samad Azad's qulkhwani tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of former Foreign Minister and Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad will be held at his Lake Circus residence in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Party leaders and workers, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Foil evil designs of damaging country's image, stability

PM urges all patriotic forces

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged all patriotic forces to foil evil designs of damaging country's image, stability and peace.

"If stability, social peace and image are alright, then production, development, investment, industrialisation and employment opportunity will increase," she said.

The PM was inaugurating a two-day programme in observance of the historic May Day organised by the Ministry of Labour and Employment at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday.

She announced a number of welfare schemes for the workers.

Presided over by State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman, the function was also

addressed by ILO Director Gopal Bhattacharya, Bangladesh Employers Federation President M

Anis-Ud-Dowla, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal General Secretary M Zafrul Hasan, Secretary for

Labour and Employment M Shafiqul Islam and Labour Director M Aminul Islam.

The speakers at the function recalled with gratitude the sacrifice of the workers 119 years ago in the United States to establish their right of working not more than eight hours a day.

This year's theme of the May Day is 'Labour-owner Amity is Development in Production'.

Khaleda said that real development of the country is not possible without protecting the interest and ensuring welfare of the workforce.

Recalling the post-independence nationalisation of mills and factories, she regretted that the

beginning of Bangladesh was not very pleasant.

"Widespread looting and politicisation in the name of a special ideology marked the post-independence period," she said.

She reminded that the opportunists and even some dishonest labour leaders made the most in the

plunder, depriving the labourers. The doldrums rendered the nationalised mills and factories losing and sick concerns.

"The loss has come down as a burden on the shoulders of the country and nation ... the larger section of population is bearing the brunt of the loss."

She said her government is committed to ensuring welfare of the workers and has taken up a number of

measures, including a plan to form a national wage and productivity commission.

Work on the formation of Labour Welfare Foundation for all

labour organisations is under active consideration of the government, she announced at the May Day meet.

She said that a new policy for empowerment of women workforce is being formulated and would be implemented soon.

Khaleda said Bangladesh has signed 33 ILO conventions and taken up various programmes to implement them.

She reminded that the workforce is the main resource working in the fields, factories, offices, shops, business establishments, mines, gardens and transport sectors.

"Dignity of labour has to be enhanced to improve the image of the country," she said lauding the workers for contributing to the

development of the country as well as for strengthening the economy.

Workforce is the architect of the world civilisation and advancement, she noted. "With advances in technology, machines have taken over, but still the person manning the machine is the driving force for development, production and construction."

The PM emphasised proper training of the labour force for improvement of their skill and for enhancing production.

The second session of the May Day's inaugural function included a musical function participated by noted artistes Arif Dewan, Kajal Dewan, Shakila Zafar and Kanak Chapa.



Kibria's 74th anniversary of birth today

UNB, Dhaka

Today is the 74th birth anniversary of late Shah AMS Kibria, former finance minister and a member of the Awami League Advisory Council.

Kibria was born on May 1, 1931 at Jalalsab village in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj District.

The family members will place wreaths at his grave at the Banani graveyard in the morning and offer fataha.

Various organisations, including Sonar Bangla Jubo Parishad, Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research and Bangabandhu Smriti Charcha Kendra, have drawn up programmes to mark the day.

The Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research and the Weekly Mridubhashan will organise a seminar on Kibria's last article on 'Reforms of Caretaker Government' at the Cirdap auditorium on May 9. Prof Kabir Chowdhury, chair of the Foundation, will preside over the seminar.

Kibria was killed in a grenade attack at Boidyer Bazar in Habiganj on January 27.



PHOTO: STAR
Members of the Supreme Court Bar Association, carrying black flags in their hands, march in a procession on the High Court premises in the city yesterday, demanding removal of additional High Court judge Faisal Mahmud Faizee.

Contractor killed in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person was killed and another injured in a road accident near Gabtoli bus terminal in the city yesterday.

Aminul Islam Thandu, 42, a contractor of Manikganj, died on the spot as a speeding passenger coach ran over him at about 2:00pm, Mirpur police said.

The accident took place when Aminul and his companion were crossing the road. His companion was also injured and rushed to a local hospital. His identity could not be known.

Bikalpa Dhara to launch its activities in Ctg May 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) will formally launch its activities in the port city through a public meeting at Laldighi Maidan on May 4.

BDB Organising Secretary and lawmaker Mahi B Chowdhury informed this at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club yesterday.

Nagorik Committee, which is backing ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in the upcoming mayoral election, had actually booked the Laldighi Maidan venue for election purpose for five days from May 1 to May 5.

'Following our request, they spared May 4 for BDB,' Mahi told the journalists. He also expressed his gratitude to Nagorik Committee for the positive gesture.

"We appealed for CMP permission on April 28 to let us use microphone but got no response as of today (April 30) regarding this matter," he regretted and informed that the Deputy Commissioner (North) had assured him of full cooperation in this connection.

Mahi categorically said that BDB would not take any side or show any kind of direct or indirect support to any of the contesting candidates in the May 9 polls.

"We came here only to start up our party activities," he said.

On choosing the programme just five days prior to the polls, he said, "This is the best, the most suitable and hopefully the safest time for us. Because we think, at least at this time of an important election, the ruling party goons or cadres might not make any blunder to attack us to foil our programme."

Mahi paid rich tribute to 'architect of the nation' Bangabandhu Shiekh Mujibur Rahman and late president Ziaur Rahman for their contribution to the independence of Bangladesh.

'We don't want to see any more controversy centring these two great personalities,' he said.

city, recovered a revolver with 4 bullets from under his mattress and arrested him. Later, an arms case was filed in this connection. The SI investigated the case and pressed charge against Chanchal on July 3 last year showing 10 people as prosecution witnesses.

The case was then transferred to the two tribunals, including the present court for its trial.

Nine prosecution witnesses, including SI Rawshan Alam were produced before the court for giving their statements. But no witness could bring real allegations against the accused.

On the other hand, it was proved that the SI brought it against him only to evict Chanchal from his rented shop at 29 Kushal Centre at Uttara in collusion with his landlord one Kamal.

1,573 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,573 people, including two listed criminals, on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours as of 6.00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers also recovered five firearms, five other weapons, 20 bullets and filed four cases against eight people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.

