



Suffering to the city commuters increased yesterday as several members of Kawmi Chhatra Sangram Parishad held a rally blocking the road at the busy Baitul Mukaram intersection of the city, resulting in huge traffic congestion.

Fateha-e-Yajdaham on May 21

BSS, Dhaka
The holy Fateha-e-Yajdaham will be observed on May 21.
The decision for observing the Fateha-e-Yajdaham on the day was taken at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee here yesterday.
The month of Rabius Sani of Hijri 1426 will begin today, the meeting said.
It took the decision after reviewing information received from different sources that the moon of Rabius Sani was not sighted anywhere in the country.
The meeting was held at the Islamic Foundation with vice president of the Moon Sighting Committee and secretary in charge of the Ministry of Religious Affairs Rafiqul Islam in the chair.

7 cops injured in criminal attack in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'Ganj
At least seven policemen were injured in Narayanganj as a gang of criminals attacked them with sticks when they were out to arrest the gang.
A team of Sonargaon Police Station raided Asharia area at in the early hours yesterday after an executive of an industry in the area filed a case accusing the gang members of demanding Tk 10,000 from him in illegal tolls on Monday.
Soon, the police team reached the spot. The criminals dubbed the policemen as robbers and attacked them leaving Sub-Inspectors Shamim and Baten, Assistant Sub-Inspectors Habib and Siddiq and constables Raja, Nannu and Alamgir.
Police arrested two alleged criminals Rafiq and Shafiq from the spot.

Different bodies congratulate Mohiuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Different political and social organisations yesterday congratulated Awami League backed Nagorik Committee candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury for becoming the mayor of the port city for the consecutive time.
Former president and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) chief AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said people have expressed their non-confidence to the government through electing Mohiuddin with huge votes.
He also thanked the people of Chittagong for thwarting conspiracy of the ruling party backed cadres to snatch their verdict in the election.
Jatiya Party (Manju), Bangladesh Awami Sechachasebok League, Muktiyuddha Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Muktiyuddha Sangsad, Amra Muktiyuddhar Santan, Bangladesh Krishok League and Jatiya Chhatradhara also greeted Mohiuddin for the victory.
It may be noted that ABM Chowdhury defeated his nearest rival, ruling BNP supported candidate, Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin by 91,481 votes in the much-hyped CCC election on May 9.

Free politics from black money, arms holders : Dr Kamal

Sony Memorial Foundation launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain has urged the people to help bring back the politics of welfare from the grip of black money and arms holders.
He was speaking as honorary chairman of Sony Memorial Foundation (SMF), which started its journey yesterday with an announcement to work for preventing criminal activities in educational institutions. It was established on December 21, 2003.
Sabikun Nahar Sony, a meritorious student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BuEt), was brutally killed in a crossfire between the two rival factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the ruling BNP, on June 8, 2002.
Dr Kamal said the prime minister's assurance of arresting the main accused is yet to be materialised.
'It means the prime minister is surrounded by an evil force elected through black money and arms, and that's why her directives are ignored,' he added.
He said from now on the demand to make educational institutions free from criminal activities would be included in all future movements.
Dr Kamal, also president of Gono Forum and Jatiya Oikya Mancha, said to make money after going to power with the help of black money and arms could not be the goal of politics.
'Even the present politicians have admitted that something is going wrong (in politics),' he added.
Dr Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, a noted academician, said the anarchic situation and criminal activities in the academic institutions need to be curbed.
He said all successive governments in the past formulated their own education policies, but these could not bring any change due to lack of political will.
Journalist Ataus Samad, Advocate Sultana Kamal, Sony's father Habibur Rahman, mother Dilara Begum, brother Maqsudur Rahman Rana, cousin Bushra Ferdousi Jeni and aunt Rawshan Ara recalled the memory of Sony.
F H Khalid, executive chairman of SMF, said apart from working to prevent criminal activities in educational institution, it will also work in the areas of health, nutrition and others social welfare sectors.



Eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at the launching ceremony of Sony Memorial Foundation at the National Press Club yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY
Thundershowers likely
UNB, Dhaka
Rain and thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chittagong and Barisal divisions till 6:00pm today.
Mild to moderately heat wave sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the region of Faridpur, Dhaka and Tangail may continue.
Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country during the period, Met Office said.
Highest temperature 39.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Ishurdi and lowest 22.6 degree Celsius at Rangamati.
The sun sets in the capital at 6:32pm today and rises at 5:18am 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	35.9	25.5	77	44
Chittagong	33.5	23.2	71	85
Rajshahi	39.8	26.8	82	46
Khulna	37.2	28.0	84	86
Barisal	35.2	27.5	83	76
Sylhet	28.2	25.0	90	74
Cox's Bazar	34.2	26.8	78	81

HIV infection level low in Asia

UNB, Dhaka
HIV infection levels in Asia have been found to be low compared with some other continents, including Africa.
But the population of many Asian nations is so large that even low national HIV prevalence means large number of people is living with HIV. Latest estimates show some 8.2 million people (2.3 million women) were living with HIV in Asia at the end of 2004, including the 1.2 million people who were newly infected in the past year. Aids claimed some 540,000 lives in Asia in 2004. Among young people in the age group 15-24 years, 0.3 per cent of women and 0.4 per cent of men were victims of HIV by the end of 2004.
According to the latest statistics released by government of Bangladesh at the end of the year 2004, 7,500 people were HIV positive, 465 Aids infected and 44 died of Aids in Bangladesh.
In the backdrop of the statistics, LIFE, a UN Associated NGO, organised a workshop on HIV/Aids as a part of its on going project sponsored by National Aids/STD programme (NASP), Health Ministry and facilitated by UNicef at its office at Lalmatia in the city on May 8.

Stay at stations, ensure proper medicare of people

PM asks physicians

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the physicians of government hospitals to stay at their stations and do their duty duly to ensure proper medicare of the people at the time of their ailment.
She was speaking at a function of the physicians at the International Conference Center in the PMO complex.
The function was arranged for a courtesy meeting of the newly elected central executive committee and other elected councils of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) with the Prime Minister.
Khaleda called upon people of all professions to work unitedly with sincerity and honesty from their respective positions for the development and welfare of the country and its people.
'If the forces of the nationalist and Islamic values work together and come to power again, Bangladesh will emerge as a self-reliant country within five years,' she said.
Khaleda made it clear to the doctors that they have to do or transfered.
She hoped that BMA, the apex body of the physicians, would play their part in this regard.
Only extension of hospitals and enhancing its facilities is not enough people want to see doctors and nurses all the time in the hospitals. Physicians will have to give time to patients and behave well with them, she said.

Congratulating the BMA leaders and members of various bodies, she told them that the government is working for development of all sectors, not only health sector, to ensure basic rights--- food, clothing, housing and health for all.
'Massive works have been done in all sectors in last three and a half years,' she told the function, adding that foreigners are appreciating success of the government in various fields with a remark that many can learn from Bangladesh.
The PM said doctors would

have to take care of maintaining cleanliness in hospitals as well as keep operative all kinds of equipment and facilities in operation theaters and testing laboratories.
Health Minister Dr Khandokar Mosharrif Hossain, State Minister for Health Mizanur Rahman Sinha, newly re-elected BMA President Prof MA Hadi and Secretary General AZM Zahid Hossain also addressed the function.
The Prime Minister said crime was a big problem in the country which has been reduced largely following her government's efforts.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia addresses the newly elected Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) leaders at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: PID

Engineer Faiz passes away

Engineer Md Abdul Faiz, former chairman of Petrobangla and founder president of Ful Kurir Ashor, passed away at Shikder Medical College in the city yesterday at the age of 84, says a press release.
Hailing from Sirampur village of Kachua thana under Chandpur district, Md Faiz became the first naval architect of this sub continent and received membership of the Royal Institute of Naval Architect, UK.
Faiz left behind his wife, former minister Syeda Razia Faiz, a daughter and two sons.
His second namaz-e-janaza will be held at Qazi Office Mosque at Bara Mogbazar in the city after Zohr prayers today.

MA Halim

M A Halim, a former income tax commissioner and father of actress and lawyer Tarana Halim, died of cardiac arrest at Shomorita Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 78, says a press release.
He left behind his two daughters and one son to mourn his death.
He will be buried at the Mirpur Intellectuals Graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Dhanmondi Road No-7 after Asr prayers today.
His quikhwani will be held at his residence at House-24, Road No-3, Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers on May 13.

Ayesha Begum

Ayesha Begum, mother of Suvastu Development Ltd Director Akil Akhtar Chowdhury, passed away due to cancer on Monday at the age of 70, says a press release.
She left behind her five sons and one daughter to mourn her death.
A doa mahfil will be held at her residence at Segunbagicha in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.
Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the doa and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

ABM Zahir

ABM Zahir, assistant chemist of the Food Department, passed away due to cardiac arrest at his residence at the age of 55, says a press release.
He is survived by his two sons, four brothers and one sister to mourn his death.
He was buried at his family graveyard at Nasirabad in the Chittagong city.
His quikhwani will be held at his younger brother Golam Sarwar's residence near the Nasirabad Gate No-2 today.
Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the quikhwani.

Teachers, exam centres penalised for politics

NFTE tells journalists
National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) yesterday accused the government of politicisation in penalising the teachers and examination centres.
Addressing a press conference in the wake of the HSC examination beginning tomorrow, the front leaders demanded security and dignity of on-duty teachers in the examination centres.
They said the government's success in checking copying in public examinations is now under question as politicisation is noticed in cancelling the centres and punishing the teachers.
The speakers said teachers of 76 schools and colleges are not getting their salaries, while the authorities of more than 50 colleges got no opportunity to defend their position against the government's decision.
'Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahed formally submitted a letter to the education minister to cancel the examination centre of a school established in the name of an opposition MP Sayed Abul Hossain. It raises the question whether the checking of copying in public examinations is a tool for political repression,' said Chief Coordinator of the front Quazi Faruque Ahmed.
In a written statement, he said total number of examinees this year has been reduced by nearly one lakh comparing to last year, whereas total number of examination centres raised to 22.
The front called for setting up of a task force free from the intervention of the administration to formulate a national examination policy.
It also called for forming Academic Council, Examination Committee and Teachers-Guardians Committee in every institution.
The front leaders urged the government to reform the SSC examination system by 2010 and HSC examination by 2015.
Co-chairman of the front Sheikh Amanullah, Convenor Mohammad Azizul Islam and Principal Mohammad Shahjahan, General Secretary of Bangladesh College Teachers' Association Prof Asadul Haque, Acting General Secretary Khan Mosharref Hossain, and General Secretary of Bangladesh Vocational College Teachers' Association Prof Mohammad Ali Chowdhury were also present on the occasion.

First electronic talking book Kathok Lipi launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Kathok Lipi, the country's first electronic talking book for Bangla alphabets and words, was launched yesterday.
It's a new type of book where anyone can hear the correct pronunciation of every letter and word just pressing it with fingertips.
Unveiling the cover of the book at the National Press Club, Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said it would create a new era of learning for the kids.
They will learn the correct pronunciation of alphabets and words from this book amid playing, he added.
The minister said Kathok Lipi will also help the persons who live in foreign countries to learn the correct pronunciation of Bangla alphabets and words.
'Most of the people in our country can't make correct pronunciation of the words resulting deterioration of our language. The book will help overcome the situation,' he added.
Speakers at the launching ceremony said the book will be a pathfinder for correct pronunciation of Bangla alphabets and words.
They also hoped that Kathok Lipi would play vital role in promoting correct pronunciation for all people including the kids.
Former vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Dr AKM Aminul Hapue, former director of Science Museum Dr KM Serajul Islam, former chairman of Comilla Education Board Dr M Mobarak Ali, and former head of the Physics department of Bangladesh University of Science & Technology Dr Ali Asgar also spoke.
Masud Ahmed Sarker, developer of the Kathok Lipi, attended the programme organised by Apollo Technologies.

Jubo Leage leader arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Police yesterday arrested a leader of Awami League's youth front Jubo League, who was running for the post of commissioner in the April 20 by-election of ward No 63 of Dhaka City Corporation.
Sources said Mohammad Hossain Basan was arrested in a case filed after he and his supporters had been beaten up allegedly by BNP lawmaker Nasir Uddin Pintu and his supporters at Badrunnesa College on the election day.
A team of Lalbagh police aided by Teigaon police and detectives arrested Basan from the Election Commission premises when he went there to inquire about his appeal to cancel the election results alleging rigging.
Four-party alliance candidate Shahida Morshed won the race last month.
When asked, duty officer of Lalbagh Police Station, SI Abdus Sattar told The Daily Star that Basan was arrested following a warrant. He, however, failed to specify the charge.