

Eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain, right, discusses a point with Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil, left, at the council of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal in the city yesterday while JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu looks on.

ADB to help boost urban health

\$40 m loan and grant package approved

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will help improve the health status of Bangladesh's urban population, especially the poor, by providing a package of high-impact health services, through a US\$40 million loan and grant package approved yesterday, according to a news release of the bank.

The project will build on the gains of the first Urban Primary Health Care Project in Bangladesh and will cover all the six city corporations of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, and Barisal, and five municipalities of Bogra, Comilla, Sirajganj, Madhabdi and

A \$30 million loan from ADB's concessional Asian Development Fund (ADF) will continue to contract out primary healthcare services to non-government organisations (NGOs) through partnerships established under the first Urban Primary Health Care Project.

least 30 percent of these preventive, promotive, and curative health services will target poor people earning less than Tk 700 per month, Nutritional supplements will also be given to severely malnourished women and children.

Court records

statement of

hijack hoaxer

judicial statement of a mentally

disturbed man arrested for disclos-

ing techniques to hijacking an

As per provisions of the Criminal

Procedure Code (CrPC), no court

can record statement if any accused

seems to be mentally disturbed

during the time of recording confes-

Metropolitan Magistrate

Mohammad Shafiqul Islam

recorded the statement of the

accused Ruhul Aziz Mukul when

Hasan Hafizur Rahman, the investi-

gation officer (IO) produced him

before the Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate's Court on completion of

After recording Mukul's state-

ment, the magistrate said in his

order that he seems to be mentally

disturbed and did not give his state-

ment willfully. When the magistrate

asked Mukul at his chamber

whether he was tortured during the

remand, he replied that he was

Mukul was sent to the Dhaka Central Airport Police arrested Mukul

from Zia International Airport (ZIA) on Saturday after he told the crew of a domestic flight of Bangladesh

Biman that a gang employed him to

from Jessore at about 10:30am on

Saturday, Ruhul Aziz Mukul, 32, told

the crew that a terrorist group had

trained him how to hijack an aircraft

without any firearms and explo-

him to police custody saying that the

group would harm him for his fail-

ure to hijack the aircraft, police said.

meets Hasina

New Zealand High Commissioner

Graeme Waters made a courtesy call

on opposition leader Sheikh Hasina at

her Dhanmondi residence and dis-

judicial killing, opposition's recom-

mendations for reforms of the entire

election system, deteriorating law

and order situation, came up at the

meeting, Hasina's political secretary

Saber Hossain Chowdhury told

Various issues, including extra-

cussed matters of bilateral interest.

NZ envoy

UNB, Dhaka

reporters.

Mukul then asked them to take

On his arrival at the ZIA on a flight

hijack the aircraft.

After recording his statement,

sional statement

his one-day remand.

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The project will support the construction of 64 health facilities, upgrading of four and purchase of 12 apartments or buildings for primary healthcare facilities in

Community-run latrines and community-based solid-waste disposal will be piloted to improve environmental health, and clinical waste management systems will be

"The project will lead to health improvements that will boost productivity and learning at school, and make savings on out-of-pocket expenditure on healthcare," says Sekhar Bonu, an ADB health special-

"With women and children to constitute more than three quarters of those benefiting, child and maternal mortality will be reduced, thus helping Bangladesh achieve the Millennium Development Goals."

A \$10 million grant, also from the The project will ensure that at ADF, will support various HIV/Aids and infectious disease control activities, \$2.5 million of which will be for operating 24 HIV/Aids testing and counselling centres and \$5 million for the control of reproduc-tive tract and sexually transmitted infections (STI). The remaining \$2.5 tion in December 2011.

million is for marketing and knowledge campaigns for HIV/Aids, STI,

and infectious disease control.

The total cost of the project is about \$90 million, of which the United Kingdom's Department for International Development will contribute a \$25 million grant, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency will provide a \$5 million grant, both to be administered by ADB.

The United Nations Population Fund will provide co-financing with a \$2 million grant, and the government of Bangladesh will contribute the balance of \$18 million.

ADB's loan, which covers one third of the total project cost, carries a 32-year term, including a grace period of eight years. Interest is charged at 1% per annum during the grace period and 1.5% per annum

The local government division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives is the executing agency for the project, with city corporations and municipalities serving as the implementing agencies. The project is due for comple-

Increase budget to promote culture

Cultural activists tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural activists, at a roundtable yesterday, demanded of the government to increase budgetary allocation for the promotion of cultural activities in the country.

They said existing allocation is not adequate as most of it is spent for the remuneration of employees, infrastructural development and maintenance purpose.

The roundtable on 'Enhancement of budget for cultural development' was organised by Bangladesh Sangskritikarmi Sangha, an organisation of cultural activists, at the National Press Club. Poet Sumadra Gupta moderated it.

Taking part in the roundtable, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, a noted literary personality, said there is huge budget for defence or even for sports sector, but not so much for culture.

Of the total Tk 48 crore annual budget of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Tk 18 crore is not enough for

patronisation of cultural activities in a

country like Bangladesh which has rich cultural heritage, he added.

Prof Sayeed demanded that the budget for cultural sector should be gradually raised to Tk 1000 crore.

"Bureaucratic tangle and the presence of people having little knowledge about our culture in the top position of the cultural ministry are the main problems we face," said Syed Lutful Haque, an eminent artist.

Filmmaking has been declared as an industry, but like other industries we don't get bank loan facilities. I believe the lack of interest by the government in this sector is partly responsible for substandard condition of the film industry, " said filmmaker Shiblee Sadik.

Khandaker Shah Alam, a theatre activist, placed a 15-point demand at the roundtable that included establishment of the branches of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at the grass-roots level, and a research centre for preservation and development of indigenous culture.

Workshop

The inaugural session of a workshop on 'Promotion of renewable energy, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas abatement phase-2' will be held with State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmud as chief guest. Venue: LGED Seminar Room, Agargaon. Time:

Seminar

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon organises a seminar on 'Noise pollution and the environment of Dhaka.' Venue: WVA Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time:

Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony of Cardiac Emergency at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute will be held with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed as chief guest. Venue: Institute premises, Shahbagh. Time: 10.00am.

BSCIC Fair

The opening ceremony of a fair, organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation, will be

held. Venue: House-24/A, Road-13/A, Sector-6, Uttara. Time: 11.00am. The exhibition will remain open till June 3 from 10.00am to 8.00pm daily.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Shaplakuri Award

The distribution ceremony of Shaplakuri Award 2003-04, organised by Zia Academy, will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

Discussion

Nazrul Institute will hold a discussion to mark the 24th death anniversary of former president Ziaur Rahman. Venue: Kabi Bhaban, House-330/B, Road-28, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.

Cultural evening

Officers Club, Dhaka organises a literary and cultural evening in celebration of Rabindra-Nazrul Joyonti. Venue: Club Auditorium, Bailey Road.

'ADR soon to settle criminal dispute'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to bring comprehensive reforms to the criminal procedure code to expedite the criminal dispute resolution and make it up to date, said Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday.

"We are going to introduce Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the criminal dispute settlement addressing the compoundable offences through compromises," he said at the ministry's monthly press briefing, held to highlight the advanages of ADR in civil disputes.

The ADR facilitates settlement of a dispute with a mediator at a court on the basis of mutual agreement of the parties concerned but without undergoing the conventional prolonged legal procedures.

The ADR is an arrangement that eases a conflict resolution procedure with the minimum period of time at the lowest expenses, the minister said.

The civil cases that otherwise would have taken four to five years for disposal in the existing 'adversarial system', are now resolved in four to five months with the ADR,

A total of 7338 civil cases (except family and Ortha Rin disputes) have been resolved across the country during the period between July 1, 2003 and April 30, 2005 by ADR, said

State Minister for Law Muhammad Shahjahan Omar and Ministry Secretary Md Alauddin Sarder, among senior officials, were present at the briefing.

Morphine worth JCD attack on Tk 2 cr seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Morphine worth Tk 2 crore was seized from a hotel in the capital in the early hours of yesterday.

Tipped off, a team of narcotics control department raided the 2nd floor of the hotel Banvojan at Topkhana Road, and seized 15 bottles of morphine at 1.30am.

The paper label on the bottles reads "Health Care Limited, Gujrat-382, India."

The morphine was smuggled into the capital by one Abdus Salam of Poikata of Benapole in Jessore, sources said. He avoided arrest when the raid

was conducted at room no A-2. The morphine was to be handed over to an unscrupulous trader at

A case was filed with Ramna Police Station, but no one was arrested as of 8.00pm.

Obituary

BSS, Kushtia

Advocate Abdur Rahim, a former BNP lawmaker from Kushtia-3 constituency, died of cancer at his residence on Monday at the age of 84.2111 Rahim, also a former president of Kushtia District Bar Council, left behind his three sons and four

Advocate Sheikh Ali Afzal

Advocate Sheikh Ali Afzal, former vice-president of Brahmanbaria District Bar Association, died of a cardiac arrest at his East Paikpara residence in the district town on

He left behind four sons and one daughter. He was laid to rest at his family graveyard.

students condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More organisations yesterday con-demned the attack of BNP-backed JCD cadres on the general students of Dhaka University who were protesting the death of Shammee Akhter Happy by a speeding bus at

In separate statements, leaders of Bangladesh Communist Party, Workers Party, 5 Left Parties, Jatiya Gonofront and Bangladesher Samyobadi Dal castigated the JCD attacks with the help of police on the

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary

Mujahidul Islam Selim, in a joint statement, said the JCD activists carried out the attacks on the general students in a pre-planned way. Workers' Party General Secretary

Bimol Biswas demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for the attack, and urged all to be united against the fascist BNP-Jamaatalliance government. Biplobi Chhatra Moitree,

Bangladesh Jubo Moitree, and Progotishil Chhatra Jote also demanded exemplary punishment to the persons involved in the attack

after quick investigation.

JCD cadres attacked the procession of general students and injured 20 students including Central Office Secretary of Chhatra Moitree Bappadittyo Basu, Sorafur Rahman Naim, Mahmud Hossain, Shaheen

Mahmud, and Kudrat Elahi Sohel. They also attacked the leaders of Progotishil Chhatra Jote at Madhu's

The injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and

Meanwhile, police arrested five Chhatra Moitree activists including Nazrul Islam and Abdullah.

IS WOMEN'S RESERVED SEATS

30 rights organisations reject HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajik Protirodh Committee (Committee for Social Resistance), an alliance of 30 rights organisations, yesterday rejected the High Court verdict on direct election to reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS).

The committee, in a statement, said it will now move for further legal steps as the court discharged its two writ petitions in this regard.

The statement said public opin-

ion has already been formed in favour of the direct election which was also the electoral pledge of the ruling BNP.

But avoiding the pledge, the party has passed the 14th amendment only to serve its political purposes, it added. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has

also rejected the high court verdict. In a separate statement, the parishad said it will take legal steps

as well as build up strong agitation

Professor Nurul Islam tells discussion on World No-Tobacco Day 2005 STAFF CORRESPONDENT more difficult of a job.

40m a year worldwide

About 40 million people across the world die due to tobacco related diseases every year, said National Professor Dr Nurul Islam. "Smoking is similar to suicide,

ভ দলীয় শিক্ষকদের হামলার বিচার সত্

protesting the attacks by the JCD on students.

homicide and embryo killing," said Prof Islam, also the founder President of Adhunik, at a discussion marking the World No-Tobacco

The discussion was jointly organised by Adhunik, Coalition against Tobacco (CAT), LIFE and World Health Organisation (WHO) at the National Press Club in the city vesterday.

Referring to the Tobacco Control Act-2005, he also said that it was easy to formulate laws but the implementation of the law is even

Non-govt teachers demand higher allocation in budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Teachers Employees Front (NTEF), a forum of non-government teachers, yesterday submitted a nine-point charter of demands to Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman. The demands include higher

allocation in the forthcoming budget in order to raise standard of education and create more job opportunities for the unemployed but educated youths. The demands also include a 10 per cent increase in the salaries of

medical allowance, festival bonus and house rent as same as those of the government teachers. Adelegation of the NTEF submitted the demands to the minister at his Planning Commission office in

non-government teachers, Tk 500 as

the city. Unemployment allowance for the educated youths, specific plans to encourage them in selfemployment, micro credit of Tk 50,000 for at least 200 educated

youths in every upazila. The NTEF also demanded steps to eliminate discrimination in allocations between rural and urban areas, government and nongovernment educational institutions and to introduce job oriented

He emphasised mass awareness against tobacco production and urged all, including the members of civil society, to come forward and raise awareness against the harmful effects of smoking

The Students Against Repression laid a siege to the office of the vice-chancellor of Dhaka University yesterday

Tobacco-related diseases kill

The theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day is "Health Professionals and Tobacco Control"

"Every day, at least 700 kids in the country are dying from malnutrition. But it is possible to save these lives if the smokers give up smoking and use their money for children which they spend for tobacco," said Barrister Muhammad Jamir Uddin ircar, Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, while addressing as chief guest.

He also said there is no positive ingredient in a cigarette and it destroys our social values. Tobacco is responsible for many diseases, including lung cancer, mouth cancerand breast cancer.

He suggested that chapters on negative effects of smoking be included in the secondary level school books.

The Independent Editor Mahbubul Alam told the discussion that large-scale awareness against smoking has not yet been developed in the country, as it should have

Among others, chairman of LIFE, smoking.

Kamrul Islam Sony, member of Adhunik Professor DrKaniz Maola and CAT president Amanullah Khan also spoke at the discussion.

After the discussion, singer Fakir Alamgir performed a song and several anti-tobacco activists were awarded for their contribution in the anti tobacco campaign.

Earlier, a rally was brought out in front of the Press Club that paraded different streets of the city. Meanwhile, Beximco

Pharmaceuticals also brought out a rally in front of National Museum to mark the World no Tobacco Day-Health professionals - doctors, nurses, public health personalities

and nutritionists started marching towards the National Press Club at Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Beximco pharmaceuticals ltd.

Nazmul Hassan said tobacco is a serious public health concern today. Beximco pharmaceuticals is also

aunching other public awareness programmes with two non government and health care organisations to inform people about the injuries and effects of tobacco and the measures people could take to quit



Health and Family Welfare Ministry took out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the World No-Tobacco Day.

WORKSHOP ON HEALTH SYSTEMS

'Bridge financing gap between the rich and disadvantaged'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an international workshop yesterday called for bridging the financing gap in the health system between the disadvantaged people and the

They pointed out that policymakers in developing countries tend to allocate funds for infrastructure and equipment more than considering the real needs for the disadvantaged people.

But a large numbers of infrastructures in many South Asian countries remain idle whereas similar infrastructures run by NGOs are put to their maximum utilisation, they said, adding that the challenges of policymakers are to put ideas into

The Centre for Health, foster dialogue with the aim of tries attended the workshop.

Bangladesh in collaboration with the Global Equity Gauge Alliance (GEGA) organised the workshop on 'Health systems and equity'. The CIDA sponsored the event.

The three-day workshop, that ended yesterday, was aimed at promoting equity within and between societies and achieving equity in health systems in South Asian coun-

The issue of equity in the health system is a major concern for the policy planners and it is a challenge for members of the civil society, academicians, health professionals, researchers, non-government organisations and policy-makers to American and European coun-

Population and Development of developing a training module the Independent University, on the issue with South Asian perspective, the speakers said.

"South Asia's real wealth is its people. We can completely change the economic and political destiny of South Asian countries by investing more on these people," said a speaker.

Prof Omar Rahman, executive director of the Centre for Health, Population & Development, IUB, Prof Jafrullah Choudhury of Gonoshashthya Kendra, ASM Amanullah of IUB, Liliana Jadue of GEGA, Kawsar Afsana of Brac and Saiful Bari of ATN Bangla spoke at the closing ceremony of the workshop.

A total of 20 participants from South Asian, South



Heat wave may continue

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country till 6:00pm

Mild to moderate heat wave may continue over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Bogra, Faridpur, Tangail and Patuakahali during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 39.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 25.0 degree Celsius at Rangpur. The sun sets in the capital at 6:42pm today and rises at 5:11am

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		35.5	28.2	72	63
Chittagong		34.9	27.5	70	68
Rajshahi		39.0	27.7	74	53
Khulna		36.4	28.0	75	***
Barisal		35.6	27.0	81	74
Sylhet		34.2	25.3	75	64
Cox's Bazar		34.5	27.6	73	66
CHILD THE DANGE SECTION	MORNICAL	***	ECHANICAL PROPERTY.	ACCUPATION OF	