

# Introduce Anti-Poverty Fund in Asia

## Hasina urges AAPP senior advocacy council

**BDNEWS, Dhaka**

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has called for introduction of Anti-Poverty Fund to mitigate the sufferings of the millions in Asia.

Hasina, also Awami League president, stressed the need for drafting a roadmap reflecting the Asian realities for achieving the elements of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

She was addressing the meeting of the senior advocacy council of the Association of Asian Parliamentarians for Peace (AAPP) yesterday at Strasbourg, France, according to a message received in Dhaka.

AAPP founder president Hasina said role of the Asian parliamentarians is vital in achieving the MDGs and its elements like eradicating poverty, combating terrorism and corruption and checking drug and human trafficking.

The AAPP should advocate strengthening cooperation among

Asian countries and between regional organisations against terrorism, she added.

The former prime minister said there is a vastness and diversity of the Asian continent with its large and small, powerful and weak, rich and poor countries with ancient civilisations, culture, numerous ethnicities with unique talents, boundless natural and human resources.

The assembly of the Asian parliamentarians will explore mobilising the talents and resources for the economic and social emancipation of all Asians, she added.

AAPP senior advisory council members include Sheikh Hasina, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan Chaudhury Amir Hossain, President of the National Assembly of Cambodia Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines Jose De Venecia Jr. and Vice Chairman of the foreign affairs committee, National People's Congress of China Ji Peiding.

The opposition leader said, parliamentarians can lobby with their relevant authorities to do the needful.

The senior advocacy council meeting deliberated that Asia is beset with problems like terrorism, human rights violation and repression on women and child trafficking.

Participating parliamentarians were unanimous in the meeting that these problems can be countered through integrated efforts of all Asian countries.

The meeting discussed on the conversion of the AAPP into the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and sought proposals for its work programme, timeframe, objectives and budget.

The Senior Advisory Council, in a joint statement, said the AAPP General Assembly will consider the advocacies like the MDGs, debt relief and large-scale debt to equity conversions, anti-terrorism, drug and human trafficking, anti-corruption and creation of Asian

Anti-poverty fund.

The meeting also decided to work towards evolving the AAPP into Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

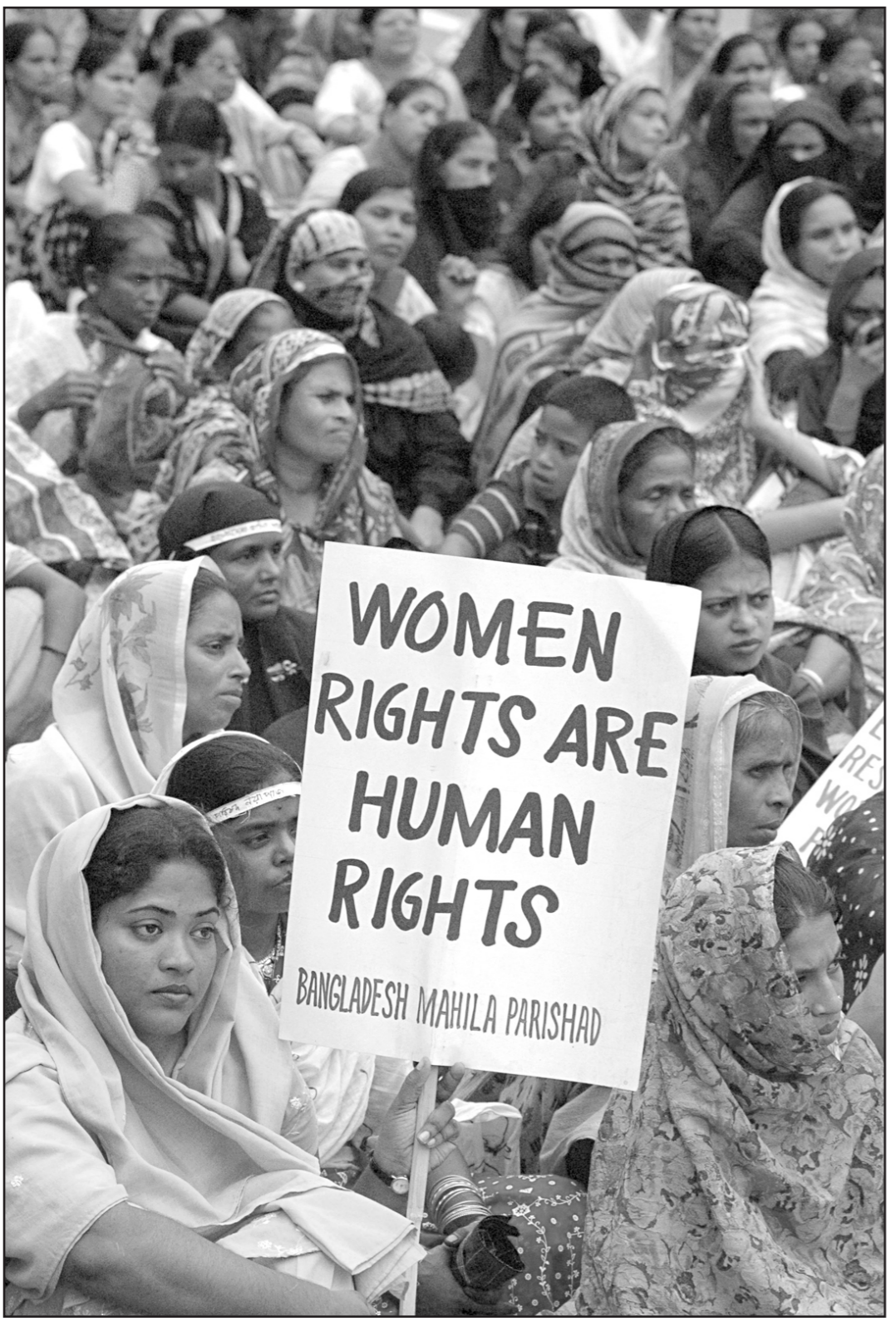
During the senior advisory council meeting, Hasina was assisted by Awami League presidium member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP, AL International Affairs Secretary Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain MP and member of AL international affairs sub committee Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin.

Hasina met with the chairman of the sub-committee on external relations Adrian Severin yesterday and participated in a briefing on the activities of the European Commission for Democracy.

Earlier, she attended a reception on Wednesday night organised by Secretary General of the Council of Europe (CoE) Terry Davis at his residence. State dignitaries, MPs of parliament for Europe and Asia attended the reception.



'Blue for Peace' was observed at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday demanding fair investigation into the incidents of all grenade attacks. The family members of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria organised the programme.



## 'Preserve reserved seats in JS for 3 terms'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday demanded preservation of reserved seats for women in parliament for three terms and direct election to those reserve seats.

Addressing a meeting, the parishad leaders also demanded cancellation of all anti-people proposals from the proposed budget for the greater interest of the common people.

The meeting was organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city to protest violence and repression on women, and price hike of essentials.

Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanom demanded of the government to increase the reserve seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) from 45 to 100.

She said the proposed budget has been formulated for the interests of black money holders and rich people.

Ayesha Khanom urged the members of the opposition party to go to parliament to take part in the budget discussion.

"People have made them members of parliament (MP) to place their demands in the House. So the MPs should go to the Jatiya Sangsad to realise people's demand," she viewed.

Saraban Tohura read out the proposals of the parishad at the meeting.

Presided over by parishad President Hena Das, the meeting was also addressed by its Legal Aid Secretary Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum, and Treasurer Dil Afroz Begum.

**Chehlum**

Chehlum of Prof Nayar Sultana, a former member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission, will be held at her residence at PWD Building # 2, Road # 36, Gulshan # 2 after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, colleagues and friends are requested to attend the milad mahfil at the chehlum and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Mahnaz Naila Rose

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Chehlum of Mahnaz Naila Rose, daughter of former member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission, will be held at her residence at PWD Building # 2, Road # 36, Gulshan # 2 after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

A doa mahfil will be held on the occasion after Juma prayers.

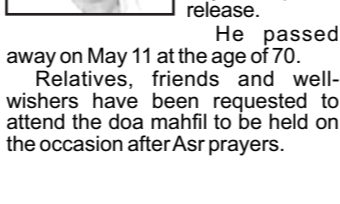
Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the doa mahfil.

**M Aminul Haque**

Chehlum of M Aminul Haque, former director of Power Development Board, will be held at his residence today, says a press release.

He passed away on May 11 at the age of 70.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the doa mahfil to be held on the occasion after Asr prayers.



## Improve marketing system for agri commodities

### Experts tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a discussion yesterday called for improving the marketing system for agricultural commodities to ensure that the farmers get the fair price of their produce.

They also called on the government to take effective measures so that the poor farmers can receive subsidies and loans.

They suggested forming a survey team to identify the factors responsible for mismanagement in the agricultural sector and find out ways to improve the marketing system.

The Bangladesh Agricultural Economists' Association (BAEA) organised the discussion on 'Agriculture sector in the new budget' at Bangladesh Agricultural Research

Council in the city.

The agriculturists said the transport system should be developed so that the farmers can ferry their produce at a low cost.

Middlemen are the main obstacles to agricultural development, they said, adding that the government should take effective steps to eliminate these middlemen.

"It is very difficult to control the operators in the open market system. We have arranged a training programme for the farmers to make them aware of the marketing system and impart knowledge about improving their produce," said Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, who was the chief guest at the discussion.

Describing the development of agriculture as the key to progress,

he said a total of 1.20 crore families in the country are directly involved in the agricultural arena.

"A total of Tk 2,213 crore is allocated for the agriculture sector in the proposed budget for 2005-06, which is 8.01 percent of the total budget," said Dr Jahangir Alam, former president of BAEA, while presenting a keynote paper.

He called on the government not to realise toll from the agricultural produce-laden vehicles crossing the Jumuna Bridge so that the farmers in northern districts can transport their produce at a low cost.

Agriculturists SM Elias, Firoz Shah Shikdar and SM Fakrul Islam took part in the discussion chaired by Education Minister Osman Farruk.

## US keen to help procure 777 Boeing

UNB, Dhaka

The US government is ready to give financial help to procure 777 Boeing aircraft if Bangladesh wants, said outgoing Ambassador Harry K Thomas yesterday.

He gave the US proposal when he called on State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin at his secretariat office yesterday.

Appreciating Bangladesh government's decision to procure new Boeing aircraft as a timely step, the envoy said the aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines are "safer" than those of other airlines.

He also expressed his satisfaction over the security measures and overall management at Zia International Airport and termed the Chittagong Shah Amanat Airport

"magnificent".

During the meeting, Mir Nasir said the present government has taken a "strong stance on terrorism".

The government has taken necessary preparations, including

ensuring highest security measures at ZIA, to provide better service through its modernisation and expansion as per the demands of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and Federal Aviation Authority (FAA).

## White panel wins CU dean election

BSS, Chittagong

BNP and Jamaat-backed white panel candidates won the dean election of two faculties of Chittagong University yesterday.

The faculties are Biological Science and Physical Science.

Dr Nazmus Shahadat Mohammad Yahia of Statistic Department was elected dean of the Physical Science Faculty and Dr Anisul Islam of Zoology Department dean of Biological Science Faculty.

## BFUNPW election on July 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The biennial meeting and election of Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers (BFUNPW) will be held at the daily Ittefaq office at 11.00am on July 24.

This was decided at a meeting of the BFUNPW at the Ittefaq office yesterday with its President Fazle Imam in the chair, says a press release.

Union Secretary General Abul Hashem has requested all the affiliated unions to take necessary steps in this regard.

**WEATHER TODAY**

## Moderately heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions, Met Office said. It said day temperature may fall slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 37.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chaudanga and lowest 23.5 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:12am 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	30.5	26.5	84	80
Chittagong	32.0	26.7	83	89
Rajshahi	35.4	27.5	74	81
Khulna	32.8	27.6	79	82
Barisal	30.6	27.4	92	93
Sylhet	33.4	25.3	76	98
Cox's Bazar	32.0	26.5	84	96

## Kibria sisters vow to agitate unto justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sisters of slain former Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria have vowed to go on with the protest programme until the real killers of Kibria are arrested and brought to justice.

"We will never forget the pain that our brother Kibria, who served the countrymen throughout his life, had to die pathetically" Ashrafi Siddique, sister of Kibria, said.

She was addressing a protest programme arranged under the 'Blue for Peace' initiated by Asma Kibria, wife of slain Kibria, at Dhanmondi in the capital yesterday.

"As an internationally renowned person, my brother could receive treatment free of cost in any part of the world, but he had to die for lack of treatment in his own country," Ashrafi said in an emotion-choked voice.

Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) President AAMS Arefin Siddique, in his address, stressed the need for participation of general people in peaceful programme like 'Blue for Peace' across the country to stand against any killing.

Wearing blue dress, other family members, intellectuals and common people spontaneously joined the programme.

They also brought out a silent procession, which paraded the Dhanmondi area.

Kibria, also an Awami League lawmaker, was killed in a grenade attack at Boiddyerbazar in Habiganj on January 27.

**Rab constable briefly detained with 2 women**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A Rab constable was detained by Kotwali Police and Detective Branch on Wednesday night with two unidentified women at a residence at city's Askerdigir Par area on charge of his involvement in immoral activities.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), however, took constable Anwar Hossain in their custody from the Kotwali Police Station in a few hours of the incident, sources said.

Rab officials denied Anwar's involvement with any questionable act, saying whole episode occurred due to 'misinformation'.

Acting on a tip-off, the joint DB and Kotwali police team raided the residence of one Matlab Sowdagar at Askerdigir Par at around 12.30am on Wednesday and detained Anwar along with two women. Anwar identified him as a constable of Rab-7.

Police then informed the matter to the Rab officials.

Wife of Matlab Sowdagar told journalists that a team of Rab took Anwar to their custody from her residence at around 1.00am. They also released the two women, asking them to contact Rab office by 10.00am.

"The two women rented the house just two months ago. Anwar used to come here in the night. The local people also knew him as member of Rab," said Matlab's wife.

But, the on-duty officer of Kotwali PS said Anwar was brought to the thana and Rab took him from there. No diary or case was filed in this connection, he said.

Rab officials said police detained Anwar on misinformation. Anwar actually went there to visit his relative, they added. The officials refused to say anything more about the matter.

The two women went missing since the incident.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**BAUS conference**  
The ninth national scientific conference of Bangladesh Association of Urological Surgeons will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: BCPS Auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 9:30am.

**Installation ceremony**  
The installation ceremony of the executive committee of Chittagong Youth Forum-Dhaka will be held with Youth Minister M Morshed Khan as chief guest. Venue: VIP Lounge of the National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

**Khelaghar parliament**  
The national session of Khelaghar Shishu Parliament will be held. Venue: Shaheed Moizuddin Auditorium, 2 Naya Paltan. Time: 9:00am.

**Rupali Tarar Mela**  
Rupali Tarar Mela, a children's organisation, will hold a discussion to mark the centennial celebration of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. It will be followed by a cultural function and film show. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 4:30pm.

**Kachi-Kanchar Mela**  
Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela organises a discussion to mark the 94th birth anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal. A drama will be staged after the discussion. Venue: Kachi-Kancha Bhaban Auditorium, Segun Bagicha. Time: 10:30am.

**Book launch**  
Liberation War Museum organises a programme to launch the silver jubilee edition of the book 'Ekattur Dinguli' by Jahannara Imam. Venue: Museum premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 5:30pm.

**SASU discussion**  
Santal Students Union, Bangladesh will hold a discussion to mark the historic 'Santal Revolution Day' with State Minister for Housing and Public Works Md Alamgir Kabir as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

**AGM**  
The annual general meeting and election of Chittagong Journalists Forum-Dhaka will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

**Meeting**  
A meeting of Greater Rangpur Welfare Society, Dhaka will be held. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 3:00pm.

**Blood donation**  
Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation programme. Venue: Blooming Sun International School, Nikunja. Time: 10:00am.

**Musical evening**  
Music and Melody organises a cultural evening. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:00pm.

**Film show**  
World Literature Centre will screen a film titled 'Fahrenheit 9/11' by Michael Moore. Venue: Film Circle Auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 6:00pm.

**Academy Film show**  
Academy Film Society will screen two films titled 'Roman Spring of Mrs Stone' and 'The Last Samurai'. Venue: Academy Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3:30pm and 6:30pm.

**Muldhara film show**  
Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, will screen a film titled 'Company' and 'The Ring Two'. Venue: Zakia Alam Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 3:30pm and 6:30pm.