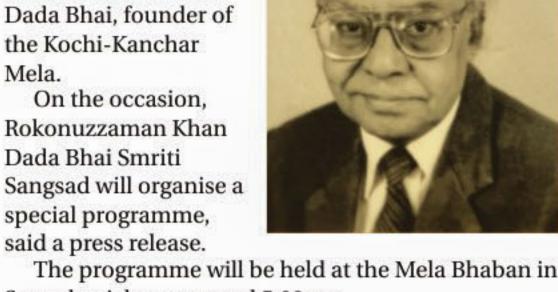
NEWSINbrie

Dada Bhai's birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Today is the 87th birth anniversary of Rokonuzzaman Khan the Kochi-Kanchar

On the occasion, Rokonuzzaman Khan Dada Bhai Smriti Sangsad will organise a special programme,



Segunbagicha at around 5:00pm.

Domestic help 'commits suicide'

OUR COREESPONDENT, Ctg

A female domestic help allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at a residence at Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Ltd (Kafco) Housing Society in the port city yesterday.

The deceased was Rina Akhter, 21, daughter of Mir Mosarraf Hossain, hailed from the city's North Bandar.

She was working as a domestic help at the quarter of Kafco Production Manager (Utility) Taiyob Ali in the colony for past few months.

House residents found Rina's body hanging from the ceiling fan of the drawing room around 4:30am, said police.

Rina was depressed about her personal life for past few days, police said.

An unnatural death case was filed with Karnaphuli

Security guard shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified assailants shot and injured a security guard at Pallabi in the capital yesterday.

The victim, Md Alam, 22, working at AUS-Bangla Developer Ltd, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with a bullet injury in the right arm.

Alam told reporters at DMCH that he was taking rest at the guardroom in the office compound around 7:30am when it was raining outside.

Suddenly, two youths appeared at the guardroom window and left shortly firing a single shot at him, he said.

Jahangir Hossain, a subcontractor of AUS-Bangla Developer Ltd, said some criminals had been demanding money and giving life threats over the

50 injured as cops, RMG workers clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

At least fifty people including four policemen and four journalists were injured as garment workers clashed with cops at Mauna Chowrasta in Sreepur upazila yesterday.

Workers of SQ Celsius Ltd, a concern of SQ Group, blocked Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway for an hour from 6:00 pm to realise their 10-point demand including removal of the administrative chief of the industry, bonus, transportation bill and implementation of labour law.

As police reached the spot to bring the situation under control, demonstrators hurled brickbats on them prompting the law enforcers to charge baton, said witnesses.

At one stage of the clash, police lobbed 29 rounds of teargas canisters and fired 76 rounds from shotgun to disperse the agitating workers.

The clash left scores injured including additional police super of Gazipur Industrial Police, officer-incharge of Mauna Highway Police Station, a sub inspector of Sreepur Police Station and local correspondents of some newspapers.

Additional Superintendent of Industrial Police Dewan Lalon said garment authorities sat with the workers yesterday morning over their demands which ended without result ensuing vandalism. Later, the workers put barricade on the highway.

The workers also observed work abstention on April 8 over the issue.

Administrative chief of the garment factory Shaheduzzaman Rabin said most of their demands were unreasonable and an important one will be fulfilled soon.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

tomorrow.

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:18pm today and rises at 5:41am

Country's highest temperature 34.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 17.0 degrees at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Dhaka	24.0	20.2	95
Chittagong	28.2	19.7	58	80
Rajshahi	25.4	20.0	89	84
Rangpur	25.8	19.3	88	77
Khulna	33.5	21.5	81	98
Barisal	30.5	20.6	72	99



Chowdhury Moni, Governance **Advocacy Forum** (GAF) Chairperson Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, GAF Coordinator Mohsin Ali and **Prof MM Akash at** a meeting, "Decentralisation and local government in the national budget", organised by GAF at Cirdap auditorium in the capital. (Story on Page 20)

(From left) BNP

PHOTO: STAR

Masked men hack BCL leader at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Some five to six masked youths hacked a Rajshahi University unit Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader on Sunday night.

The injured Saddam Hossain Tipu, joint convener of Shaheed Habibur Hall unit BCL, was talking to his girlfriend before Taposhi Rabeya Hall around 9:00pm when the attackers, carrying sharp weapons and iron rods, arrived on motorbikes, said witnesses.

Within minutes they hacked and beat Tipu, who is doing his masters in fine arts, on the head and different parts of the body and sped away.

The witnesses then rushed Tipu to the university medical centre. Afterwards he was transferred to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital.

Later, around 100 BCL leaders and activists brought out a procession on the campus alleging that Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres carried out the attack and demanding a ban on politics of this student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Yesterday the fine arts department students formed a human chain demanding immediate arrest of the attackers.

Denying the allegation, RU unit Shibir organising secretary Saifuddin Yeahia said BCL was conspiring against them.

In another incident, some 10 BCL activists of Sher-e-Bangla Hall unit led by Al-Amin, Tamim Hasan and Humayan Kabir drove out two resident students of the hall early yesterday, accusing them of being Shibir activists, said sources.

Khalid Hasan, in his second year in the Islamic studies department, alleged that the BCL activists beat and forcefully drove him out of the hall and snatched a table fan, mobile phone and Tk 500 of his.

The other victim, requesting anonymity, said the activists threw him out after failing to extort money from him.

The hall Provost Suvash Chandra Shil said he received no complaint in this connection.

\$40m US support for health

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Through United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the US, for the first time, will pool US\$ 40 million to be directly used in a health programme of Bangladesh government.

US Ambassador to Dhaka Dan W Mozena yesterday said, "We are making history today because for the first time ever America is undertaking a grant agreement with the World Bank (WB) in Bangladesh that will pool US funds with those of other development partners." "These funds will directly support

the Ministry of Health and Family

Development Program," he said at a press briefing at Economic Relations Division in Dhaka. In his address, Health and Family

Planning Minister Dr AFM Ruhal

Haque said the fund is meant for the 6th Five-Year Plan, "Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Program". The programme aims at reducing the population growth and mortality rate of women and children,

strengthening family planning programmes and controlling communicable and non-communicable diseases.

The programme is estimated to

Welfare's Health Sector cost US\$ 7.6 billion, of which US\$ 5.9 billion will be provided by the government and the rest will come from development partners, including USAID, the UK, Sweden and WB. Lauding Bangladesh's role in the

> halved the under-five mortality rate since 1990. "Today over 80 percent children are fully vaccinated. Maternal mor-

> health sector, WB Country Director

Ellen Goldstein said, "Bangladesh

tality rate has declined by 40 percent between 2001 and 2010." USAID Bangladesh Mission

Director Richard Greene attended the press briefing.

Army capable of building 'digital Bangladesh' PM briefed at AFD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Army has told Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that it would be capable of implementing the government's vision for building 'Digital Bangladesh' and contribute effectively in the disaster management and infrastructure development of the country with the implementation of the "Reorganization and Forces Goal-2030".

The prime minister was briefed on Sunday about the goal-2030 at Armed Forces Division in Dhaka Cantonment where the prime minister sat her office as the defence minister.

The high-ranking army officials told the premier that Bangladesh Army is expected to develop into a modern and viable force after the phase wise implementation of forces goal.

The army said the forces goal will remain as a milestone for the Armed Forces and the country as well, says an ISPR press release.

The forces goal-2030 has been prepared to strengthen Bangladesh Army in national defence and nation building activities in light of the defence policy envisioned by father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1974.

During the briefing, Defence Adviser to Prime Minister Major General (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, Chief of Army Staff General M Abdul Mubeen and other high officials were present.

PADMA BRIDGE 'GRAFT' BNP asks Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

to resign

The main opposition BNP yesterday asked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign taking all responsibilities of corruption in Padma bridge project.

"The prime minister had earlier asked the World Bank to probe corruption allegation. Now the World Bank found evidence of corruption in the Padma Bridge project. So, the prime minister should resign taking all responsibilities of corruption," said a party regulation that was accepted by the party's central executive committee on Sunday.

BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir made the regulations available while addressing a press briefing at the party's central office at Nayapaltan.

Replying to a query about the proposal for a permanent secretary general, he said the party council empowered the chairperson to nominate anyone at any time. "So, she [Khaleda Zia] would decide in this regard at the right time."

Fakhrul said as per the executive committee's decision, pending committees of party's different units and front and associate bodies would be declared within next two months.

In the regulation, the party also asked the home minister to resign for deteriorating law and order and demanded cancellation of decision to introduce electronic voting

machine (EVM) system in the next general elections. "Local and foreign experts said that manipulation is possible through EVM system. So, we wont accept it," the regulation stated.

Demanding cancellation of the 15th amendment of constitution and restoration of caretaker government by June 10, the BNP's executive committee also asked the government to cancel the project of building 1320 MW power plant at Rampal in Bagerhat as the party thinks the project would cause a serious harm to biodiversity.

The BNP acting secretary general criticised the government for approving new banks and said approval of new banks have only given to make the ruling party leaders happy. "The decision would be harmful for the country's economy. How those who received permission to start new banks earned the money over the last three years."

Party leaders--Aman Ullah Aman, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Nazrul Islam Manju MP--were also present.

from trucks bringing in live ones to the wholesale chicken market near Tejgaon Railway Station, to sell in different food shops and restaurants in the capital. Two collectors of dead chicken jailed

The two miscreants jailed by a mobile court yesterday for collecting dead chicken,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were arrested and jailed by a mobile court yesterday for collecting dead chicken, from trucks bringing in live ones to the capital, to sell in restaurants.

A total 102 chicken carcasses were seized from their possession, a good number of which had already been dressed.

Arrestee Delwar Hossain Delu, 42, will spend two years while the other, Reshma alias Kali, 35, will spend one and a half years behind bars, said Executive Magistrate Anwar Pasha, who led the mobile court.

Rapid Action Battalion-2 assisted the drive at a wholesale chicken market near Tejgaon Railway Station.

Anwar said, "Around 1.5 lakh chickens are brought to this market, the biggest in the capital, on trucks which need around 10 to 15 hours to arrive from different parts

of the country. "On the way, heat and exhaustion causes

around 2,000 chickens to die. Several groups of local cheats collect the carcasses just as the trucks enter the market, dress them instantly and sometimes preserve them in lemon juice." The arrestees confessed that they used

he added. Some restaurant owners knowingly buy the dead chicken to make a quick buck while some employees themselves do so behind the back of the owners, said Anwar.

to sell the dead chicken to some restau-

rants and fast food shops in Uttara,

Gulshan and Dhanmondi at cheap prices,

"According to the Consumer Rights Protection Act, selling dead chicken meat is a punishable offence. The arrestees also admitted that they had earlier been caught by police for the same offence," he added.

Power crisis: Menon blames govt He also urged the government to be trans-STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday criticised the government saying that it has failed to come up with a 'visible solution' to the country's electricity crisis in the last three years.

The government has hiked the electricity price five times in its tenure while the power crisis remains unsolved, said Menon, a lawmaker of the ruling grand alliance and also chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry.

He was speaking at a roundtable styled "Electricity crisis and public interest" organised by the Workers' Party of Bangladesh, a partner of the ruling grand alliance, at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital, said a press release.

Criticising the government's strategy to set up rental power plants, Menon said the system has failed to solve the power crisis, rather the government is hiking the power price in phases to arrange subsidy for those plants.

parent with the people on the issue and to formulate effective power and energy policy on the basis of actual information. Subid Ali Bhuiyan, chairman of the

standing committee on power, energy and mineral resources ministry, admitted that severe power crisis persists across the country and termed quick rental power project an emergency-basis solution to address the problem. "We will have to work towards producing

10,000 megawatt electricity parentally," he said. Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President

Hasanul Haque Inu stressed the need for strengthening regional demotic ties to launch long-term initiative to address the crisis.

Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim and Workers' Party of Bangladesh politburo member Noor Ahmed Bakul also spoke at the roundtable.



Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, at the EC Secretariat conference room in the capital yesterday, announcing May 24 as the day when the two Dhaka city corporations will go to election. (Story on Page 1) PHOTO: STAR