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Holiday

The office of the Daily Star
will remain closed today
(Friday) on the occasion of
the May Day.
Therefore, there will be
no issue of the newspaper
tomorrow (Saturday).

NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda talks with partymen

Prime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia last night
exchanged views with the
leaders and workers of BNP and its
front organisations at
Dhanmondi party office.
Ministers, BNP members of
Parliament, leaders of
Jatiyatabadi Samik Dal, Juba
Dal, Chhatra Dal, Mahila Dal,
Sechchasebak Dal and Samajik
Sangakritik Sangstha (JASAS)
were present, reports BSS.

Hasina addresses in Tejgaon today

Jatiya Samik League holds
a workers' rally today at 3 pm
in Tejgaon Industrial area near
Nabisco biscuit factory in ob-
servance of the May Day.
Awami League President and
Leader of the Opposition in
parliament Sheikh Hasina will
address it, reports UNB.

Case against Meillat

Bangla Academy has lodged
a case with Bangladesh Press
Council against the Daily
Meillat for allegedly publishing
a false, concocted and moti-
vated report recently, a reli-
able source said in Dhaka
Thursday. The news item pub-
lished on April 26 captioned
"Barshapunt 1399" (Dairy
1399), reportedly said the
book was published according
to an Indian blueprint. Sources
alleged that the paper was
"provoking the government
against the Academy and its of-
ficials" by publishing the
"malafide" article, reports UNB.

Non-govt initiative in education welcome: PM

Prime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia Thursday called
for building a well coordinated
social mobilisation in "Edu-
cation for All" and launching it
as a community programme,
reports BSS.

"Education must be
launched as a community pro-
gramme. Along with other de-
velopment activities this pro-
gramme has to be integrated at
the grass root level," she said
while inaugurating the national
conference on "Education for
All — Social Mobilisation" at
the Shilpakala Auditorium
here.

The Prime Minister urged

all conscious social organisa-
tions and forces to come for-
ward to implement the
"Education for All" programme
as it was an imperative for the
country's over-all development
as well as for consolidating
democracy.

She said a democratic gov-
ernment is now in power. The
most important factor in
democracy is the participatory
involvement of all. As the gov-
ernment belongs to all, so also
every individual citizen is
equally responsible for the
successful implementation of
its programmes, she said.

The Prime Minister said "to

achieve our goals in education
we must now ensure that all
our national resources, energy
and capability are appropri-
ately pooled and properly
utilised. What we need is the
wholehearted participation of
the people of all walks of life,
she said.

Begum Zia said the impor-
tance of education in national
development could hardly be
exaggerated. She said educa-
tion strengthens process of
democratization and promotes
political stability. It nourishes
and develops human and ethi-
cal values. In the accumulation
See Page 12 Col 5



Grant talking to newsmen yesterday. —Star photo

Children's summit likely next year

By Staff Correspondent

Ten countries of the world
including Bangladesh, where
children constitute majority of
the population, are expected
to have a summit of their own
sometime next year.

One of the objectives of this
summit will be to address the
problem of basic education at
the highest political level. This
was stated by the visiting
Executive Director of UNICEF,
James P Grant yesterday while
addressing a press conference
at Hotel Sonargaon.

Grant said that he had al-
ready communicated to Prime
Minister Begum Khaleda Zia
the joint proposal from
UNESCO and UNICEF extend-
ing Secretariat Service for the
summit.

See Page 12 Col 5

Golam Azam issue Coordination body trying to involve professionals

By Asiuzzaman

'Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal
Nirmul Samanyee Committee'
or the coordination committee
has started talks with the pro-
fessional and trade union
groups to involve them in the
current movement.

The move has come in the
backdrop of indications that
the government is going to
take a toughline with the
committee.

The committee has already
had talks with professional
engineers and lawyers and will
hold meetings with other
groups including Sramik
Kormachari Oikya Parishad
(SKOP) to intensify the move-
ment.

"We have had talks with a

Dhaka welcomes new Kabul govt

Bangladesh Thursday wel-
comed the installation of an in-
ternational government headed by
Prof Sibghatullah Mojaddedi as
President in Afghanistan, re-
ports BSS.

A Foreign Office spokesman
said, "we hope this historic
event will be a major turning
point in the Afghan situation."
See Page 12 Col 8

number of Ministers who have
respect for the Liberation War
before the parliament session
on April 12 but the session was
dominated by anti Gana Adalat
Ministers who defended
Jamaat, the source said.

Since the parliament ses-
sion that ended in a
Pandemonium, there has been
no negotiation between the
government side and the
committee members.

"We are now sure that we
have to struggle a lot at
Parliament failed to resolve the
crisis," one leading committee
member told the Daily Star
adding that "the government is
planning to arrest us before
the proposed hartal."

At the same time the trial
committee also believes that it
is still possible to resolve the
crisis through dialogue and the
committee's door is always
open for discussion, the source
said.

Meanwhile, the coordina-
tion committee has added two
more points with their de-
mands that action should be
taken against Jamaat for violat-
ing country's Constitution and
ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics
in the country.

"The committee took the

movement as the second war
of independence and is
preparing for that," the source
said adding that "the situation
may turn grave if the govern-
ment opts for intransigence."

"This is a 'out with Jamaat'
movement and will in no way
be a 'out with government'
movement," he added.

Meanwhile, the committee
source said that Awami League
agreed to remain one of the
major partners of the samanyee
committee and will never try
to dominate the forum.

The committee member
rejected BNP's claim that AL
was trying to turn movement
into a 'topple-government'
movement.

Jamuna Fertiliser Factory resumes production

JAMALPUR, Apr 30: Jamuna
Fertilizer Factory resumed
production today after remain-
ing closed for two weeks, re-
ports UNB.

Production at the newly
built factory, largest in the
country, was halted on April
14, reportedly due to lack of
storage facilities.

OIC lauds handling of refugee problem

The visiting Secretary
General of Organisation for
Islamic Conference (OIC) Dr
Hamid Al-Gabid congratulated
Prime Minister Begum Khaleda
Zia for the way her govern-
ment handled the Myanmar
Muslim refugee problem, when
he called on her Thursday at
her office in Dhaka, reports
BSS.

The OIC Secretary General
said the handling of the
Myanmar refugee problems
through a mutual agreement
would enable the refugees to
go back safely and with honour
and dignity, to their homeland.
He appreciated what
Bangladesh had done for the
Myanmar refugees.

Dr Hamid was leading a
nine-member OIC delegation
during the visit. The member
included Assistant Secretary
General of the OIC Mohammad
Mohsin, Ambassadors of
See Page 12 Col 3

No decision on BCI yet NCL also faces liquidity crisis

By Sohail Manzur

The Ministry of Finance has
delayed its final decision on
Bangladesh Commerce and
Investment (BCI) pending
availability of audit report.

The Bangladesh Bank has
in the meantime, started send-
ing surveillance teams to all
the branches of BCI in a bid to
examine its financial dealings
and papers, sources said.

Besides, the bank through a
public notification has asked
the employees of BCI to be
present at the branch offices
to facilitate the work of the
bank's audit teams.

The government earlier
suspended all activities of the
BCI on Wednesday with im-
mediate effect.
Meanwhile, another in-

vestment company in the pri-
vate sector, the National Credit
Limited (NCL) has been hit by
liquidity crisis throwing hun-
dreds of depositors into uncer-
tainty.

Sources said, NCL has ap-
pealed to the Bangladesh Bank
for Taka 124 crore as call
money to overcome the pre-
sent crisis. The Bangladesh
Bank, according to sources,
did not turn down the appeal
but has asked the NCL man-
agement to submit a plan to
restructure the company.

The Ministry of Finance has
already advised the Bangladesh
Bank to inquire into the activi-
ties of NCL and examine possi-
ble legal and financial implica-
See Page 12 Col 2



Depositors demonstrating in front of the BCI yesterday. —Star photo



May Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The historic May Day which
glorifies the dignity of labour
will be observed today
throughout the country as else
where in the world with due
spirit and fervour.

Today is a public holiday.
On this day in 1886, work-
ers in Chicago city of USA
sacrificed their lives to fix an
eight-hour working day.

Trade union bodies around
the world have been observing
the day since 1889 when it
was declared as the interna-
tional labour day.

Different socio political or-
ganisations of the country have
chalked out elaborate pro-
grammes to mark the day.

Radio Bangladesh and
Bangladesh Television will put
out special programmes and
See Page 12 Col 1

Rab released, faces fresh forgery charges

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal
(JSD) leader A S M Abdur Rab
was granted bail and released
from the police custody in
Noakhali Thursday after more
than a year, party sources said.

Lakshimpur District and
Sessions Judge Abdul Ahad
Choudhury granted him bail in
a case involving alleged misbe-
havior with an Upazila
Magistrate in Ramgati on
March 19, 1990.

Rab had won the election
and played the role of Leader
of the Opposition in parliam-
ent which was dissolved be-
fore the fall of Ershad on
December 6, 1990.

UNB adds from Cox's Bazar:
The Bureau of Anti-corruption
Thursday sued seven people,
including JSD leader ASM
Abdur Rab and his wife.

Five separate cases were
filed with the Cox's Bazar po-
lice, accusing Rab and six
others of taking lease of a vast
area of shrimp culture land of
Charam Island in Chakaria
upazila by misusing power
and using forgery and false in-
formation identifying them-
selves as shrimp cultivators.

Other accused are Rab's
wife Tania Ferdousi, his mo-
ther-in-law Rahima Begum,
brothers-in-law Zakir Hossain
and Gulzar Hossain, APS Hab-
ibur Rahman and Altaf Hossain,
Principal Officer of Agrani
Bank, Motijheel Branch.

JS body wants cattle bazar banned in border areas

By Nurul Kabir

The Parliamentary Standing
Committee on Home Affairs
Wednesday resolved that no
cattle bazar would be allowed
within five miles of the border
area of the country, sources
said.

The committee unani-
mously took this decision for
what the members attending
the meeting said controlling
cattle smuggling in the border
areas of the country.

Presided over by the Home
Minister Abdul Mattin Chow-
dhury, the meeting was at-
tended, among others, by the
whip of the BNP parliamentary
party Mahubb Alam Tara MP,
Wing Commander (Retd)
Hamidullah MP of BNP,
Rahamat Ali MP and Abul
Hasanat Abdullah MP of Awami
League (AL), Inspector General
of Police Enamul Hoque and
Director General of Bang-
ladesh Rifles Maj Gen Abdul
Latif.

According to committee
sources, BDR Director General
informed the committee mem-
bers that with a total of 26
battalions of BDR manned by
inadequate number of officers
it was difficult to check smug-
gling effectively in the
border areas.

Government is, however,

learned to have been consider-
ing increasing the number of
officers in the BDR.

According to the meeting
sources, Rahmat Ali MP of AL,
in a bid to check smuggling,
proposed holding of public
meetings in border areas to
motivate people against this
malpractice affecting the na-
tional economy.

The AL MP also suggested
that the government take up
the issue at the diplomatic
level and pursue the govern-
ments of the neighbouring
countries to come forward
with suggestions to check
smuggling in their borders.

According to sources, the
AL MP urged the Home
Minister to repeal the Special
Powers Act for the sake of
democratic rule in the country
while the Home Minister
argued in favour of the act.

The Special Powers Act was
enacted by the AL government
in 1973 and since then almost
all political parties including
the ruling party have spoken
for the repeal of the law.

According to another com-
mittee meeting, the Home Min-
istry in the light of the com-
mittee's last meeting, would
See Page 12 Col 7

Judgement of Milon murder case May 13

Court Correspondent

The judgement of the sen-
sational Dr Shamzul Alam Khan
Milon murder case will be de-
livered on May 13.

The Second Additional
District and Sessions Judge,
Dhaka Md Ismail Mia passed
the order yesterday (Thursday)
after conclusion of trial and ar-
guments.

All the arrested persons in-
cluding Golam Feroque Ovee
were produced before the
court yesterday.

Sanaul Haque Niru and
other five accused are still ab-
sconding.

During the long trial the
prosecution produced 32 wit-
nesses. Among their 19 wit-
nesses were declared hostile
by the court.

Six killed in Pabna road accidents

PABNA, Apr 30: At least five
people, including a woman and
a child, were killed and 42 in-
jured when a nightcoach
plunged into a roadside ditch
at Sharisha on Nagarbari-Bogra
highway early hours today
(Thursday), reports UNB.

Police said the five pas-
sengers died on the spot. Seven of
the 31 injured admitted to
Bera upazila health complex
are in critical condition.
Eleven others were released
after first aid.

In another mishap this
morning, Arif (7), a school-
going boy, was run over by a
bus at Shapur on Pabna-
Ishwardi road.

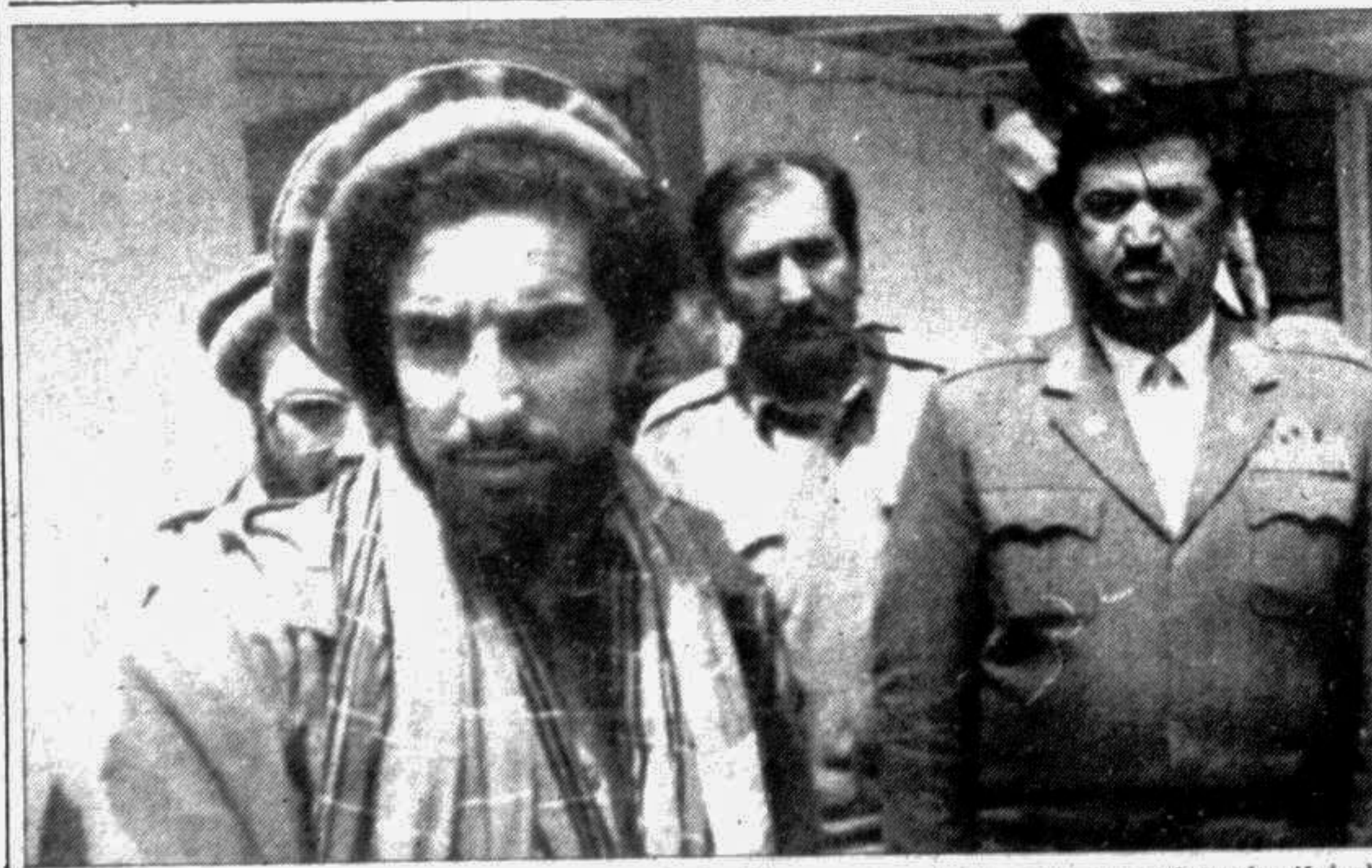
A case was filed with
Ishwardi police in this connec-
tion.

Jyoti Basu's ancestral home revamped

By Staff Correspondent

The ancestral home of Jyoti
Basu, the Chief Minister of
West Bengal, in the village of
Barodi of Sonargaon upazila has
recently been renovated by
the Public Works Department
(PWD).

The PWD last week wrote a
letter to concerned depart-
ments seeking advice as to
whom the property should be
handed over.
A decision is yet to come.



Ahmed Shah Masood (left) and an unidentified Afghan government army general at the Kabul Garrison yesterday. —AFP photo

Masood enters Kabul

KABUL, Apr 30: Rockets fell
on the Afghan capital Kabul to-
day as the new Islamic gov-
ernment met to decide how to
stamp out violence led by a
dissident guerilla leader, re-
ports Reuter.

The thump of incoming
rockets could be heard across
the city in the late afternoon.
There was no immediate word
on casualties.

Forces loyal to the new gov-
ernment of Sibghatullah
Mojaddidi said today they had
succeeded in pushing out of
the citymost of the Hezb-i-
Islami guerrillas that tried to
re-take power last weekend.

But the city obviously re-
mains within range of rockets
fired by supporters of radical
guerilla chief Gulbuddin Hek-
matyar or allied hardline
elements of the former gov-
See Page 12 Col 8

Europeans protest in Tiananmen Square

BEIJING, Apr 30: China de-
tained several west Europeans,
including three parliamentari-
ans, today after the group un-
furled banners and staged a
brief protest in Tiananmen
Square, witnesses said, reports
Reuter.

Several journalists were also
detained at the site of the
1989 pro-democracy protest
which were crushed by the
army.

The group of seven people
from Germany, France,
Switzerland, Hungary and
Britain came to China on a pri-
vate visit to press the govern-
ment to release political pris-
oners and allow free trade
unions.
After efforts to see justice,

Ministry officials on Thursday
failed, they went to Tiananmen
Square in the centre of Beijing
where troops and tanks
crushed the 1989 student-led
protests with heavy loss of life.

The Europeans unfurled
two banners calling for democ-
racy and free trade unions.
Police quickly took the
banners away, witnesses said.
The group was taken away in a
police bus after a brief sit-
down protest. Four journalists
were also detained.

Those detained on
Thursday included Robert
Parry of Liverpool, a Labour
Party member of the British
Parliament, Cornelia Natzke,
who represents Saxony in the
German parliament, and Irene
Savoy from Switzerland.