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# The Daily Star

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## People will have a say in the planning process: PM



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the first participatory consultative meeting for formulating a New Perspective Plan for Bangladesh organised by the Planning Ministry in Thakurgaon yesterday. — PID photo

By Staff Correspondent

THAKURGAON, April 5: Lay villagers with years of empirical experience and practical expertise learnt on the job would, from now onwards, actively participate in policy-planning for the development of the country, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia announced here today.

Inaugurating a two-day workshop on "New Perspective Planning for Bangladesh: 1995 Onwards", Begum Zia said, planning from the grass-roots level is imperative to materialise the dream of building a self-reliant Bangladesh.

"Just now we initiated the process of bottom-up system instead of the previous top-down procedure," she said.

Previously, policies were imposed upon the people from the capital by a group of planners but from now on policy planning would start from the grass-roots-level with the participation of the common people.

Organised by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Planning, the meeting was attended by representatives from the World Bank and the UNDP.

The organisers say they would hold, during the next two months, similar consultative meetings at the village level in all the 64 districts. Ideas and suggestions gathered from these meetings would be incorporated into the Fifth-Five Year Plan.

BSS adds: Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, State Minister for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan, Khurshid Jahan Huq MP, Secretary, Planning Division Dr Harunur Rashid, Planning Commission Member Syed Ahmed, and a number of Thakurgaon district BNP Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir spoke on the inaugural session.

MPS, high officials of the Planning Commission, representatives of various donor agencies, elected representatives of various local bodies attended the meeting.

Dr Moyeen Khan will head a task force to hold meetings at the local level which will be

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## Govt, opposition on collision course

By Staff Correspondent

The government faces a big political challenge tomorrow with the country's major opposition parties set to stage demonstrations around the Secretariat and the Election Commission office.

The largest opposition party in Parliament the Awami League (AL) and the second largest Jatiya Party have planned these agitations to press home their demands for cancelling the results of the by-election in the Magura-2 JS constituency and for holding the next parliamentary polls under a 'neutral, care-taker government.'

The AL had announced its April 7 siege plans on March 22 and the JP a day later.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is reportedly due in the city today. The delegation is supposed to observe the investment climate in Bangladesh.

The government has, meanwhile, banned rallies, processions and demonstrations around the central Secretariat and the office of the Election

Commission for twenty-four hours from the mid-night of April 6.

According to sources in the Home Ministry, a large number of police would be deployed to enforce the prohibition.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and AL chief Sheikh Hasina has condemned the ban.

In a press release issued yesterday she said the ban on rallies and processions was a violation of the constitutional rights of the people.

The AL central working committee is scheduled to meet this morning to discuss its next course of action.

A top leader of the party told this correspondent on condition of anonymity that the AL would either hold a grand rally in the city sometime next month or observe a countrywide strike this month.

The choice would depend on tomorrow's developments," he said.

The JP is likely to announce programmes similar to those of the AL, sources said.

## Ban on rallies, processions

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner yesterday banned all rallies, processions and demonstrations in the areas adjacent to Secretariat and Election Commission for 24 hours from midnight Wednesday.

The ban has also been imposed on carrying all kinds of weapons, explosive and other lethal items.

A statement issued by the DMP says, "As there is a possibility of breaching of law and order for some programmes on April 7 announced by some political parties, I, the Commissioner, A N Hussain, put the ban under Sections 28 and 29 of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Ordinance."

The restricted areas are: The north gate of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque, Link Road between the Baitul Mukarram Mosque and the GPO, the Osmani Auditorium and its adjacent areas, west-end of Abdul Gani Road, north-end of the College Road, High Court Mazar gate, Star Gate of the Ramna Park, Park Avenue from the Magbazar square, roads and alleys of Segun Bagicha, Agargaon Link Road to

See Page 12 Col 8

## 'There's no permanent JS seat for any particular party'

By Staff Correspondent

THAKURGAON, Apr 5: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here today that an opposition party was pursuing the 'politics of anarchy' in order to retard the progress and development of the country.

The Prime Minister was addressing several thousand party workers at a rally at the Government High School premises here.

With an oblique reference to the Awami League she said that after being defeated in the Magura by-election, a particular political party had announced a series of agitation programmes.

"The people of Magura voted for our candidate because they had not witnessed any development work in their areas in the past 40 years," she

said, adding that "Retaining a post for 22 or 40 years does not mean it is their permanent seat."

It was the first public comment of BNP chairperson Begum Zia after the March 20 by-election in the Magura-2 JS constituency which the ruling party candidate Kazi Kamal had won.

Begum Zia said the politics of peaches and slogans ended after the politics of development was initiated by the BNP.

The ruling party chief said that when the BNP started massive development works after clearing the mess created by nine years of autocracy, this particular opposition party was trying to disrupt the development process.

Begum Zia directed her party workers and supporters

to inform the people of what the BNP had done in three years.

During the day-long visit to Thakurgaon, the Prime Minister inaugurated a two-day workshop on 'local-level participatory planning process for the fifth five-year plan,' the new building of the Thakurgaon Diabetes Society hospital and addressed a public rally at Pirganj.

Thousands of people — men, women and children — gathered in the Pirganj Government College premises when a special helicopter carrying the Prime Minister landed at a nearby field at around 11:15 am.

Begum Zia said the foundation stone of the Jamuna Multi-Purpose Bridge would be

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## Prokrichi-BCS' fresh action programme

By Staff Correspondent

The Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council in a resolution yesterday announced a three month-long programme beginning from April 10.

The council would conduct a mass contact programme from April 10 through June 8.

The members of the Prokrichi-BCS will observe a protest day on May 9 against the show cause notice against the members of the council for boycotting the district coordination meetings chaired by the Deputy Commissioners.

They would also observe a three-day strike beginning June 14 if the non-functional outsiders were not withdrawn from the government, semi-government and autonomous organisations by June 8.

Besides, the organisation of

the professionals will continue to abstain from joining the district coordination meeting' at the thana and district levels.

Earlier, thousands of professionals rallied in the capital yesterday for an updated and accountable administrative system for giving democracy a firm footing in the country.

Doctors, engineers, agriculturists and members of the 26 non-administrative cadres demanded that the government immediately accept their 17-point charter of demands putting an end to the present administrative system, a legacy of colonial rule.

The professionals also observed a day-long work abstention across the country Tuesday to drum up support

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## Resist move to close down machine tools factory: Hasina

Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for united resistance against 'conspiracy to close down the Joydevpur Machine Tools Factory, with a note of warning against any such government move, reports UNB.

The Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief made the call when leaders of all-party action committee of the factory met her at 29 Minto Road.

The union leaders apprised her of the announcement of closing the country's only heavy industry and its consequences on the economy.

Sharing the concern of the union leaders she said the only objective of the Awami League politics is to ensure welfare of all sections of people, including workers and farmers.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**ALCWC meets today**

The Awami League Central Working Committee will hold an emergency meeting today at 10 am at 29 Minto Road. The meeting is expected to review the situation arising out of the government-imposed restriction on the Secretariat siege, reports UNB.

**CUTA polls Apr 17**

CHITTAGONG, Apr 5: The election to the Chittagong University Teachers' Association will be held on April 17. Twenty two candidates from White and Pink panels are contesting for 11 posts. Today was the last date for submission of nomination papers. Dr Md Mahbubullah of the Sociology Department and Dr A N M Munir Ahmed of the nationalist White panel are in the race for the posts of President and General Secretary against Dr Faisal Alam of the Accounting Department and Dr Md Alauddin of pro-liberation Pink panel for the same respectively, reports UNB.

**Workers' Party rally today**

The Bangladesh Workers' Party will hold its central rally at the Dhaka Stadium Gate at 3 pm today. The rally has been organised to initiate a mass agitation across the country to unseat the BNP government, reports UNB.

## Investment rate now 13 pc of GDP, says Saifur

The country has achieved an investment rate of 13 per cent of the total GDP this year against nine per cent per year during the Ershad regime, said Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday, reports UNB.

"Though it is a significant improvement, we have to achieve an investment rate of 18 per cent for a significant economic growth of the country," he said addressing a meeting on the overall economic progress achieved in the country.

Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan, State Minister for Civil Aviation Abdul Mannan, a group of MPs and concerned secretaries attended the discussion meeting at the NEC Bhaban.

Referring to a significant improvement in the stock market activities, Saifur said Dhaka Stock Exchange recorded an average daily transaction of 300,000 US dollar last month against a daily transaction of 100,000 dollar during the previous eight months of this fiscal year.

Turning to the development activities of various line ministries, the Finance Minister said Tk 2,251 crore had been spent so far by the four ministries against the current year's development budget.

Saifur appeared critical of the multilateral donors like the World Bank and ADB for imposing conditionalities.

"For conditionalities put forward by the multilateral donors, it is becoming difficult day by day to utilise their assistance," said Saifur who is the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the World Bank and IMF.

The Finance Minister said, "We have to uphold our national interest first and avoid any conditionalities inconsistent with our national interest during finalising any loan agreement."

He stressed the need for mobilising internal resources to avoid conditionalities and to inject fund into the development projects.

In this context, he said there is hardly any bilateral donor apart from Japan while among the multilateral donors only World Bank and Asian Development Bank are the development partners of the country.

The minister, however, emphasised carrying out 'people-oriented' reform measures vitally important to attract foreign donors. These measures have been widely acclaimed in the outside world, he said.

## Sporadic clashes mark Mirpur strike

By Staff Correspondent

A six-hour strike from 6 am to 12 noon was observed in Mirpur yesterday amid sporadic clashes.

The strike was called by the local people following a series of clashes with the police during the last few days over the construction of a market on a disputed land in front of the Mirpur Government High School and the Upashahar Government Primary School at Mirpur Section One Crossing.

During the strike, the local people pelted stones at the police near the school

premises and demolished the walls and the pillars of the proposed market owned by the Muktabangla Bahumukhi Cooperative Society.

The people and the students had begun demolishing the walls and pillars since Thursday. On that day, clashes with police left over 60 people injured and the number of people injured on Monday was 50.

All vehicles excepting only a few rickshaws were off the roads yesterday. Markets, business houses and educational institutions were closed and banks and government offices operated partially.

The people brought out processions chanting slogans

against the Muktabangla Society at Mirpur Sections 1, 2 and 10.

Special security measures had been taken in the area during the strike, according to police.

Although cases had been lodged against over three thousand people accusing them of disrupting law and order and attacking the police Monday, the police could not arrest anybody till yesterday.

The people against whom cases have been filed include

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## Locals seek govt intervention

Star Report

The managing committee of the Upashahar Government Primary School and local people of Mirpur yesterday called for urgent government intervention in the land dispute which had caused a series of clashes between the public and the police.

The clashes occurred over the construction of a market by the Muktabangla Cooperatives Society on a piece of land in front of the Upashahar Primary School and the Mirpur Government High School ignoring public de-

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## Sylhet divn movement Airtport siege programme April 30

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 5: The Division Implementation and Greater Sylhet Development Action Council has announced a programme for a siege of the airport on April 30 to press the demand for immediate formation of Sylhet division.

Besides, they will hold a grand rally at Madhabpur thana headquarters, the gateway to greater Sylhet on April 17 and a rail and road blockade at Shaistaganj and Madhabpur on April 24.

Different political parties, student organisations and other local organisations have extended their support to these programmes.

## Myanmar returns 28 Bangladeshis

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 5: Myanmar returned 28 Bangladeshi nationals who were arrested by its security forces on February 23 and 26.

According to a press release issued today from BDR Sector Commander's office here, the Bangladeshi nationals were released following a Company Commander level flag meeting held between Myanmar and Bangladesh on March 28.

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প্রকৃতির হার ১৫.৩৫%	প্রকৃতির হার ১৩.২৫%	প্রকৃতির হার ১৬.৯৩%

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