Strengthen BNP for development: PM

PURBADHALA (Netrakona). Apr 30: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the people to continue their support for her government and strengthen the BNP for the sake of democracy, national independence, development and production, reports BSS.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting at the J M Pilot High School field here, the Prime Minister said the BNP government believed in the politics of production and development and all its programmes were intended for the welfare of the people.

Begum Zia said all the welfare-oriented programmes of the government were progressing despite many obstacles and asserted "These programmes will continue."

Presided over by president of Purbadhala thana unit of the BNP Dr Mohammad Ali, the meeting was addressed by BNP secretary general and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Whip of the Jativa Sangsad M A Karim. Abu Abbas MP. Lutfuzzaman Babar MP, Mrs Bani Ashraf MP, social worker Rabeya Khatun and local leaders Abu Taher Talukder and Maksud Ali Khan.

At the meeting seven hundred leaders and workers from different political parties in cluding the Awami League, the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and the Jamaat joined the BNP, expressing their solidarity with the ideals and principles of the party and lending their full support to the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda

The Prime Minister wel comed the newly-joined lead ers and workers to the BNP and said the leaders and workers of various political parties were joining her party because they favoured production and development.

Responding to local demands Begum Zia said steps would be taken to expand the rural electrification programme in the thana, metal the Shyamgonj-Birishiri road construct the Purbadhala Hogla-Guatala road in phases, build a barrage on the bank of the river Kangsha, and turn the 31-bed Purbadhala health complex into a 50-bed one.

The meeting over, the Prime Minister distributed poultry and cattle among the distressed men and women.

Historic May Day

From Page 1 Col 8

lice and the labour protestors in Chicago dramatised the labour movements struggle for recognition across the world.

Trade union bodies around the world have been observing the day as the international labour day since then.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, in a message to mark the May Day, underlined the need for maintaining peaceful atmosphere in the industrial sector to attract foreign investment.

Calcutta port

From Page 1 Col 8 The two sides also agreed

to extend the existing facilities to the Bangladeshi vessels for carrying stones (boulders) coals and other construction materials at Haldia port in West Bengal and Goalpara (Panchratna) port in Assam.

The Indian side agreed to expedite payment of pending bills and outstanding dues of its Bangladesh operations.

The Indian request for arrangement of unloading coal at Fatullah and Pagla in Bangladesh in terms of existing customs clearance facilities at Narayanganj was agreed by Bangladesh.

The night navigation facilities to Indian vessels, as agreed upon earlier, have been reconfirmed. But India's request for cargo transshipmen facilities at Ashugani and Daudkandi of Bangladesh was not agreed because it was outside the purview of the existing protocol.

The Indian request for carrving of fertiliser from Ghorashal by inland water transport was also not entertained, said an official handout.

He said, for achieving the target of overall industrialisation, both the labourers and the owners of the mills and factories should work with a sense of fellow feeling and cooperation.

Recalling the significant role of the working class in the War country's Independence, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, in her message, called upon the working class to take a fresh vow for building a happy, prosperous society.

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina in her message. has urged the working people to be imbued with the spirit of historic May Day to realise their legitimate rights and contribute their best in increasing natural resources.

Referring to the objectives of May Day, Hasina regretted that repression on working people in different countries is still continuing.

In observance of the day the Labour Directorate will hold a discussion meeting at the Shilpakala Academy at 10 this morning.

The World Astrological Society has also arranged a discussion meeting at the Hawladar Chamber Ghausia Market at 5 pm.

The Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Shilpa Press Sramik Federation will hold a discussion at its office at the

Ittefaq Bhaban, also at 5 pm. The Kranti Shilpi Gosthi will present a cultural function in front of the Jatiya Press

The Left Democratic Front on Saturday organised a dis-

cussion at the Taher Auditorium in Dhaka on the occasion of May Day.

Stock market vibrant

From Page 1 Col 4 tinue for a long time and has to be corrected, brokers explained.

"Also, the foreign investment inputs were low in the market," Imtiyaz Hussain, vicechairman of DSE said, "causing the down beat in the index.

Moreover, one cannot rule out the 'valley effect' of the season." April-May are the months of book adjustments in the country's agro-based economy. which causes a general slump in business. This also was reflected in the capital's stock

market, Imtiyaz insisted.

"Moreover, the forecast for this year's Aus crop is not good. This has cast a spell of gloom over the economy which might have affected the share market. And on top of it, the coming budget perception has also caused some profit taking

in the market," Imtiyaz said. But most brokers said the floating of new shares by Beximco Fisheries was the reason for the profit taking by share-holders. Investors are selling their shares and taking chances on the new shares.

Meanwhile, market players feel that the drying up of new shares has been the reason behind the slack in foreign investment in the market.

"There was a decision to off-load the government held shares in the market," the DSE chairman said. "But these had not come."

If it had, the DSE would have seen some Taka 100 crore shares ready for trade off. The insurance companies were supposed to float their shares according to a set time slab within December. Only Eastern Insurance floated shares in December. Since then, no new insurance company has come forward. It is estimated, 14 private insurance companies could have issued about Taka 40 crore

worth of shares.

Yet, more and more private companies are going public and new shares, however, small in quantity, are pouring in: Only yesterday, two new companies - Mala Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals and Agricultural Marketing Company Ltd — notified the DSE about their coming to the market with a total of Taka six

Although the share base is still small, it is expanding and has the potential of becoming a very vibrant one, observers feel. "Recently, Morgan Stanley of the USA, an investment company, sent its representatives here to study the market and they also realised its potentials," Khurshed Alam says.

Looking at the market capitalisation, one can fathom the depth of the comment. On March 31, 1993, the market capitalisation was Tk

12,794,867,345. A year later, it stood at Tk 79,534,150,653 an almost six fold increase. The number of listed securities increased from 145 to 154 during the same time and the total numbers of issued shares and debentures increased from

172,344, 998 to 366,625,553. The 75 million US dollar strong Regent Mogul Fund an overseas investment corporation — which had decided to join the ranks of portfolio investments in the DSE last month, has become active in the buying of shares. Taka one crore has already been committed for investment in Beximco Fisheries.

With new opportunities opening up for the companies, they have become active in streamlining their managements for better performance.

"The companies have become more transparent in their accounts," Khurshed Alam says. "They have realised that unless they perform well. they will go out of the market."



Registrars seal the ballot box by candlelight at a remote KwaZulu/Natal polling centre without electricity on the last day of voting in South Africa's first all-race elections — AFP photo Friday.

BBC on FM band From Page 1 Col 5

around capital city because the FM band broadcast cannot be heard from much afar. *

"The FM band is not widely used in Bangladesh," he said. But we will use the FM band since the government of Bangladesh has allowed us to use only that band. In future, we expect to use the mediumwave band."

The government has al lowed the BBC to broadcast programmes for one year from May 1 from the Shahbagh transmitter of Radio Bangladesh. It will pay the government eight pounds sterling per broadcast hour plus the electricity bill.

The BBC will broadcast a wide range of programmes including world and regional news and current affairs, business news, sport, music features and magazine pro grammes, drama, arts, litera ture, science and light enter tainment.

"We will extend the time of our Bengali service gradually and utilise local journalistic inputs," Crawley said.

The BBC has meanwhile opened a studio in the city to make local productions which will be better in technical quality. As the studio is technically rich, the BBC will be able to train local journalists as well, Mahmud Ali said.

The productions of this studio would be sent to London from where those will be relayed around the world, he

According to preliminary findings of a BBC survey conducted here late last year, the BBC roughly has some 7 million listeners in the country.

Baton-charge

From Page 1 Col 5 Dhaka DC's office was organ ised by the liaison committee of six organisations of non-government school and college teachers as part of its nationwide programme to gherao the district administration offices The liaison committee leaders said their gherao programmes outside Dhaka were held peacefully.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the liaison committee yesterday decided to strengthen its current agitation for realising the 15-point charter of demands, including financial benefits equivalent to those enjoyed by the teachers of nationalised educational institutions. The meeting, strongly protesting vesterday's police action, decided to bring out a torch procession from in front of the Jatiya Party Club at 6:30 pm today and wear black badges upto May 19, besides continuing the strike for an

indefinite period. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Association and the Bangladesh College Teachers Association, in separate statements, condemned the police action on

the striking teachers. UNB adds: Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman strongly condemned the police batton-charge on a demonstration of striking teachers in the capital.

In a statement, Zillur asked the government to immediately accept the just demands of the striking teachers of non-government schools and colleges.

Amnesty report

From Page 1 Col 5 known if the investigation was completed.

Amnesty International has repeatedly urged the Bangladesh government to initiate full, independent and impartial inquiries into every reported case of possible extrajudicial execution to establish the circumstances in which the deaths took place.

It suggested that the findings of such inquiries be made public at the earliest and any members of the security forces found to have been responsible for extrajudicial killings or attempted killings should be promptly charged and tried.

Counting of votes begins in S Africa JOHANNESBURG. Apr 30: sweep ANC leader Nelson

brimmed with confidence Saturday as election officials started counting millions of paper ballots. ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa forecast a 60 per cent landslide and urged supporters to show self-control in their celebrating, reports AP.

First returns told a different story. The bulk of those returns were from the Western Cape region that includes Cape Town, where the National Party jumped to a lead among mixed-race voters who have embraced the candidacy of President F W de Klerk. The National Party had 14, 436 votes to 4.696 for the ANC.

However, the initial result was expected to be reversed as results from the rest of the country start to flow in. There were an estimated 22.7 million votes to be counted nation-

The vote is elected to

The African National Congress Mandela in as president of a new democratic South Africa. leading a five-year coalition government that would also include de Klerk.

Ramaphosa's prediction of a 60 per cent triumph for the ANC based in part on the huge turnout among black South Africans who jubilantly voted for the first time in the elections from Tuesday to Friday. A week ago, Mandela had spoken only of winning a majority.

The key target for the ANC is 67 per cent. If they achieve that, the organization that led the anti-apartheid struggle would have the two-thirds majority in Parliament required to enact the country's future permanent constitution.

Vote counting had been scheduled to begin at 6 am Saturday, but many of the counting centers nationwide were just getting started to 6



Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar (R) speaking at a press conference at his Secretariat office yesterday. State Minister for Education Principal Eunus Khan is also - Star photo

All got for SSC All set for SSC exams

From Page 1 Col 4

the country. The minister said the government has already agreed to introduce time-scale and enhance medical allowance equal to those for government teachers and employees for the non-government teachers from July this year.

This will involve an additional expenditure of about Tk 125 crore for the state, he

added. As for the other demands of the non-government teachers. who run abut 80 per cent of the country's secondary and higher secondary education, Jamiruddin Sircar said nationalisation and job security would be considered in phases.

nationalisation process and we shall continue it within our capacity," he said and called for resolving the problem through discussions. "Huge sum of money will be

"We have not stopped the

needed to meet all the demands, including enhancement of government grant from the present 70 per cent to 100 per cent, which is not possible now", he said.

Asked about alleged police excesses on the striking teachers, the minister pleaded ignorance about any such inci-

The Central Teachers Action Liaison Committee alleged that police had resorted to baton-charge on striking teachers who held a rally in front of the DC's office yesterday, resulting in injuries to 10

State Minister for Education Principal Eunus Khan and Education Secretary Md Irshadul Haq also spoke at the press conference. Eunus Khan said the government has given top priority

to the education sector. Some

18 per cent of the budget or 3 per cent of the GNP has been earmarked for education. He said the government has also taken up extensive programmes to develop infrastructures of 11 non-government schools in each thana, 128 intermediate colleges and

country. The standard of education in private schools and colleges

64 degree colleges across the

is better than that in the government ones because there is community participation. Besides, accountability of the teachers is better ensured in private schools, he said.

Few examples — the Vigarunnisa Noon and Holy Cross - were cited where performance was reportedly better than those of government institutions.

Education Secretary Md Irshadul Haq estimated that 12 to 15 hundred crore taka would be needed if all the demands were to be implemented. There are 2.25 lakh non-government teachers and 70,000 employees across the country.

BSS adds: Convenor of 14th BCS (General Education) Cadre Coordination Committee Hasibur Rahman and joint convenor Jahurul Alam yesterday informed Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar that they would participate in conducting the forthcoming SSC examinations in the greater national interest

They also called upon the government and the striking non-government teachers to resolve the issues through discussions for facilitating the smooth holding of the SSC examinations.

Dhaka protests violation of airspace

Bangladesh yesterday lodged a protest against its airspace violation by Indian Air Force planes on Wednesday and hoped such incidents would not recur, reports UNB. The Foreign Office in a

press release said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has lodged the protest with Indian authorities against the intrusion of Indian Air Force planes into Bangladesh.

On Wednesday, two Mig-21 fighter planes of the Indian Air Force flew about 20 kilometres deep into Bangladesh airspace in the Burimari frontier area in Lalmonirhat district amidst a border tension.

"Such incidents which adversely impact on bilateral relations should not recur," the protest note said.

Dapunia polls

From Page 1 Col 7

and 11 am, that they were convinced of the fairness of

the system. "We won't mind if we are defeated in the elections." the sitting chairman Abu Baker Siddik, who contested the polls with the umbrella as his symbol, said.

Siddik, a local level leader of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, also observed that the government should approve the new polling system for the whole of Bangladesh to ensure free and fair polls.

Haider Ali of the Awami League (AL), who eventually won the election, made the same observations in the morning. Ali secured 3496 Nurul Huq, a Jatiya Party (JP) activist, got the second highest votes, while Mohammad Siddigur Rahman Azad, sympathetic to the AL, stood third. They bagged 2918 and 2256 votes respectively.

Meanwhile, the turn-out of voters increased by thirty percent. Of the total 19,920 voters, 81.30 per cent exercised their franchise, while the per-centage during the last polls, in 1988, was 50.

No member of the law enforcing agency was present in the union during the polls.

Meanwhile. Mohammad Zahurul Huq of the village called Goshtha, who had his Kamil degree from a local madrassah and discharged the responsibilities of the presiding officer at polling centre number 11, told The Daily Star that he did not face any problem in discharging his duties.

Huq received training from the Election Commission (EC) officials on the duties of a presiding officer. Huq, while talking to this correspondent in the morning, had observed that the number of voters would be higher than that of previous years because this time the polling officials were well-known to the local peo-

A number of local and foreign observers, including officials of the Asia Foundation. NORAD, the USAID and the US Embassy went to Dapunia.

David M Merrill, the American ambassador to Bangladesh, while expressing his reactions on the model polling, told reporters at Dapunia that such a system would ensure free and fair elections in Bangladesh.

Cyclone From Page 1 Col 8

The maximum sustained wind within 56km of the storm centre was about 65 kmph, rising to 90 kmph in gusts or squalls.

The maritime ports of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar have been advised to lower the distant warning signal number 2 and hoist local warning signal number 4 (four).

The maritime port of Mongla has been advised to keep hoisted the distant warning signal number 2 (two).

All fishing boats and trawlers over the north Bay have been advised to take shelter immediately and remain there till further notice.

PM appeals

From Page 1 Col 4 can be the only substitute for another democratic government," she emphasised .-

The Prime Minister said the overall responsibility of conducting elections is vested with the Election Commission. The present Chief Election Commissioner was appointed at the time of forming an interim government and since then the Election Commission had been functioning independently, she said.

The government, the Prime Minister said, had never influenced the Election Commission even to the slightest extent. She said during the last

three years, free, fair and neutral elections were held in 4000 union parishads, about 100 municipalities, four city corporations and 16 by-elections in the vacant seats of the Jatiya Sangsad. Replying to a question on

how to further develop the election procedure, the Prime Minister said the government would consider any feasonable and acceptable advice for further developing the electoral

Replying to another question, the Prime Minister said it has been decided that identity cards (IDs) for the voters would be introduced in the coming general elections for the first time to enable each voter to cast his/her vote and thus achieve further improvement of the electoral process.

The government, she said, will extend all-out cooperation to the Election Commission in this regard.

Begum Khaleda Zia said, besides this, the government is also thinking to dispose of election-related cases within the shortest possible time through amendment of the relevant laws.

She said the government wants to complete the judicial process of election suits within the stipulated time.

The Midnight File

Serbs attack British troops

SARAJEVO, Apr 30: Serb soldiers attacked British troops twice inside a NATO-declared area around the eastern town of Gorazde that was to be clear of Serb forces. UN officials said Saturday. The British soldiers were attacked Friday southeast of the town and fired back, a British spokesman said. As many as three Serbs were reported killed. No British soldiers were reported injured, reports AP.

Pak tribal leader shot dead

QUETTA (Pakistan), Apr 30: A Pakistani tribal leader and his brother were shot dead today in a hail of bullets by tribal eremies as they entered a court to appeal against bail for their rivals, police said. Mohammad Afzal Kakar and his brother Shadi Khan were shot dead and two people injured when a band of heavily armed men opened fire on them as they entered the district and sessions court in Quetta, capital of the remote Southwestern province of Baluchistan, police

Opposition's return to JS

discuss the issue of returning to the House at their respective forthcoming parliamentary party meetings and report back to an all-Opposition meeting scheduled for 8 pm on May 3.

The latest political situation was discussed in detail at yesterday's meeting. The question of joining the next Parliament session - beginning May 4 the Prime Minister's rejection of the Opposition demand for a caretaker government; the BNP Secretary General's comments about is informal contacts with the Opposition, the possible modalities of a caretaker government and the coming Bogra by-election featured prominently in the dis-

cussions According to a meeting

Azad told newsmen that the government was responsible

"The government failed to create conditions for bringing back the Opposition to the

Salam Talukder's recent claim that he had contacted the Opposition for a possible dialogue and termed his comments appearing in different newspapers as 'confusing.' Azad mentioned that the

meeting had rejected Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's arguments against the Opposition demand for a caretaker government. The Prime Minister reportedly ruled out any possibility of election under a caretaker government while addressing a public meeting in Noakhali last week.

caretaker administration, Samad Azad said, "We have neared agreement on the issue." The meeting also discussed the draft of a common bill seeking amendment of the Constitution to provide for elections under a caretaker government.

The Opposition caucus was attended by Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Salahuddin Yusuf, Tofael Ahmed, Sudhangsu Sekhar Halder, Abdur Rahim and Rahmat Ali of the Awami League, Moudud Ahmed, Anwar Hossain Manju and Munirul Haque Chowdhury of the Jatiya Party, Sheikh Ansar Ali. Sakhawat Hossain and Shajahan Chowdhury of the Jamaat, Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganotantri Party and Shamsuddoha of the Gano

Addressing the press briefing. Moudud Ahmed denied that Abdus Salam Talukder or any other BNP leader had held any discussion or made contact with his party until yesterday.

Suranjit Sengupta said the Prime Minister and her party had closed all doors for the Opposition's honourable return to the House. "Now, it is the responsibility of the Prime Minister to create conditions so that we can go back," he added.

Sheikh Ansar Ali also denied any discussion between the Jamaat and the BNP regarding the opposition's joining the next JS session.

Shamsuddoha said the existing political crisis can only be solved through the holding of elections under a caretaker government.

Crowded country

From Page 1 Col 5 relatively small land areas," the report said. In contrast, other populous countries have low aver-

age densities because they

have large areas that may in-

clude deserts, steppes, grasslands, jungles, or other features that are sparsely inhab-"Nevertheless, these countries may also have re-

gions, provinces, states, or urban zones that are densely populated," the report said. Following are the ten most populous countries in number of persons for per square

kilometre of land area in Persons Country per sq km Bangladesh Japan India Pakistan 165 China 128 Indonesia 108 Nigeria United States Brazil

বাংলা একাডেমী

হালীমা-শরফুদ্দীন বিজ্ঞান-লেখক পুরস্কার

বাংলা একাডেমী ১৩৯৯ সাল থেকে হালীমা-শরফুদ্দীন বিজ্ঞান-একটি সনদ পাবেন

বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি ক্ষেত্রে যাঁর অন্তত স্নাতক মানের শিক্ষা

এ-বিষয়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

আবদুর রব খান উপপরিচালক ভাষা ও সাহিত্য উপবিভাগ বাংলা একাডেমী, ঢাকা-১০০০

বাংলা একাডেমী জাতির মননের প্রতীক

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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said, reports Reuter.

From Page 1 Col 5

source, the parties were unanimous about continuing their agitation in support of the demand for holding the next general elections under an interim government. However, the leaders maintained that the final decision regarding a return to the JS should be taken at the meetings of their respective parliamentary par-Meeting over, Abdus Samad

for making Parliament ineffec-

House," he said. Samad Azad also refuted BNP Secretary General Abdus

As regards the modality of a

Russia

লেখক পুরস্কার নামে একটি দ্বি–বার্ষিক পুরস্কার পরিচালনা করে আসছে। এ-পুরস্কারের উদ্দেশ্য বাংলা ভাষায় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি চর্চায় তব্রুণ বিজ্ঞানকর্মীদের উৎসাহিত করা এবং বাংলা ভাষায় জনপ্রিয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিষয়ক গ্রন্থকারদের বিশিষ্ট অবদান ও তাদৈর সৃষ্টিশীল প্রতিভার স্বীকৃতি। বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি ক্ষেত্রে বাংলা ভাষায় রচিত শ্রেষ্ঠ একটি জনপ্রিয় গ্রন্থের জন্য এই দ্বি-বার্ষিক পুরস্কার দেওয়া হবে। পুরস্কারপ্রাপ্ত লেখক কুড়ি হাজার টাকা এবং

রয়েছে এবং যিনি বিজ্ঞান ও প যুক্তি সংক্রান্ত কোনো পেশায় রত, যেমন – শিক্ষা, গবেষণা, সংগঠন ও সেবা এবং বিজ্ঞান– সাংবাদিকতা, তেমন বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক লেখকদের বই এই পুরস্কারের জন্য বিবেচনা করা হবে। ১৩৯৯-১৪০০ সালে প্রকাশিত তাদের বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিষয়ক জনপ্রিয় বইয়ের তিনটি করে কপি 'সচিব, বাংলা একাডেমী, ঢাকা-১০০০' এই ঠিকানায় ১৪০১ সালের জ্যৈষ্ঠ মাসের মধ্যে একটি নির্ধারিত ফরম প্রণ করে জমা দেওয়ার জন্য আহবান জানানো হচ্ছে। প্রতিযোগী লেখকের বয়স ৩০ চৈত্র ১৪০০ তারিখে ৫০ বছরের বেশী হবে না। তবে মহিলা বা অন্য কোনো বিশেষ ক্ষেত্রে এই বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য। ১৪০১ সালের শ্রাবণের শেষ সপ্তাহে ১৩৯৯–১৪০০ সালের পুরস্কার-প্রাপকের নাম ঘোষণা করা হবে।

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