

Govt cancels all
programmes
like 'Hot
Summer Nite'

By Staff Correspondent
The second day's programme of 'Hot Summer Nite' could not be held yesterday as the Ministry of Cultural Affairs cancelled permission for it given earlier.

The two-day programme which was scheduled to be participated by Indian artistes could not be held also on the first day, Tuesday, due to some problems of the organisers.

The organisers allegedly tried to hold the concert without paying due fees and not making proper arrangements with the authorities of National Stadium.

The organisers of 'Hot Summer Nite' in a press release issued yesterday, said following the failure of yesterday's (Tuesday's) programme the government has withdrawn its earlier permission for today.

Permission to hold cultural programmes in the last week of March was issued by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in the

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'Urea-fed cow's meat safe'

The urea-fed cow's meat is completely safe and edible, a government handout said last night, reports BSS.

The handout said government has termed news item titled, 'beware of urea-fed cow's meat' in a section of the press, as misleading and not based on scientific truth.

It said though the said news has cited some specialists but it was never found or revealed by Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute or other similar institutes in different countries that cow's meat which had taken urea with fodders, are injurious to human health.

The handout said, United States, Great Britain Denmark, Australia, New Zealand, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan as well as other countries of the world are using urea with cow's fodder.

It mentioned that very small amount of urea are being used with fodders for the cows. This urea supplies ammonia producing more microorganisms in the stomach that builds necessary protein and boosts meat and milk of the cow.

The handout said, increase of meat and milk through this procedure is completely safe and has no side effects.

Khaleda addresses public meeting at Ctg May 3

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 30: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia is scheduled to arrive in the port city on a day's visit on May 3, party leaders here said.

She will address a public meeting at the outer stadium. She is expected to return to Dhaka the same day.

HOLIDAY

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of May Day. Therefore, there will be no issue of the paper tomorrow.

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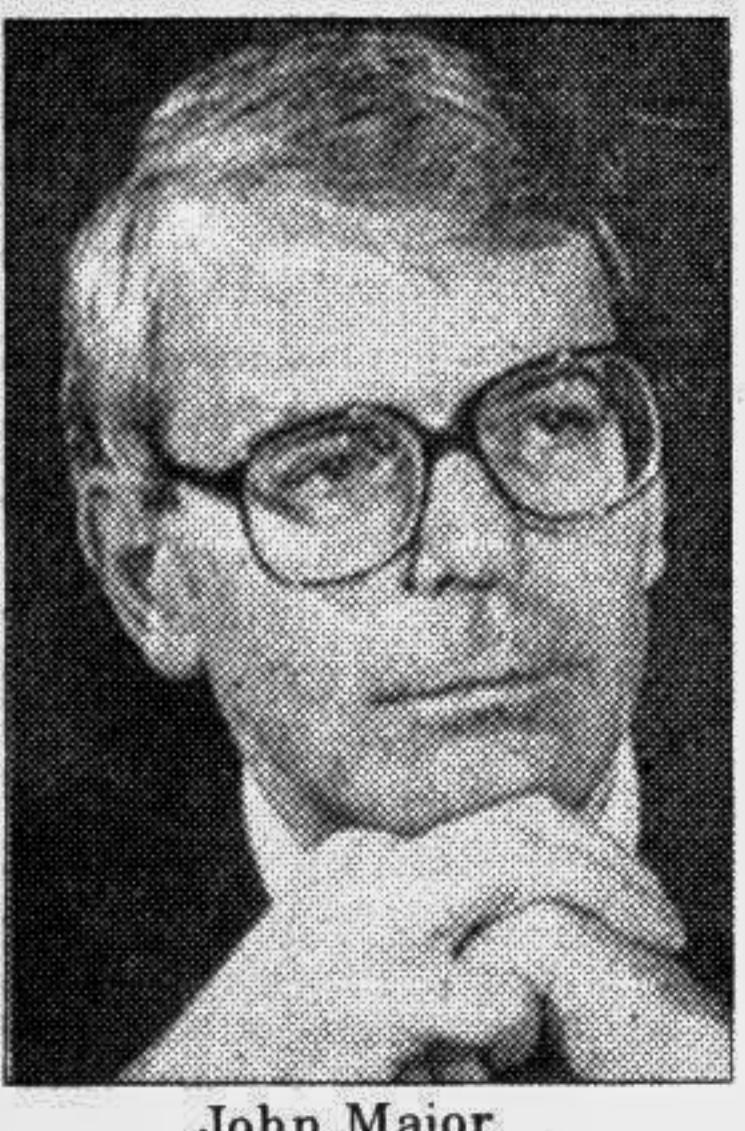
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Britain goes to polls today

Major appeals for last chance as Blair looks set for victory



John Major



Tony Blair

LONDON, Apr 30: Apparently a day away from defeat, Prime Minister John Major appealed today to Britons to give his long-governing Conservative Party another chance — 'warts and all,' reports AP.

"I understand why some people find the argument attractive," Major said before heading off to key districts near London on the final day of campaigning. "Eighteen years is a long time... and it's easy to overlook the achievements."

Opposition leader Tony Blair, his Labour Party holding a record eve-of-poll 20-point lead in one poll, headed off on an ebullient swing through Labour heartlands in Scotland and northern England.

"I ask for your vote because I believe in this country and I know and believe it can be better," the 43-year-old Blair said.

Major, 54, insisted he could still win.

At the end of a six-week campaign which has scarcely shifted the poll standings, few believed that Major had a hope of securing a record fifth successive term for the Conservatives. The party has been in power since Margaret Thatcher defeated the last Labour government in 1979.

Major, who succeeded Lady Thatcher in November 1990, pulled off a surprise election victory in 1992.

But this time, he looked set to go down to a combination of his failure to unite his fractious party, and a powerful challenge from Blair's new Labour, a revamped party stripped of so-

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BSRS starts commercial banking from May 4

By Shehab Ahmed

Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) is finally going for commercial banking from May 4, four years after receiving the licence for it.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria will open its first branch at the city's commercial hub in Motijheel. It is scheduled to open another branch at Chittagong. Shaobul Ahmed, Managing Director of BSRS, told The Daily Star last night.

The delay in entering into commercial banking by the state-owned industrial financing company was attributed by the MD to a varieties of 'technical' factors. It had been counting the cost like paying the rent for a premises it hired for the second branch at Chittagong for the past three years.

He said the BSRS is also going to float its second Tk 10 crore mutual fund in June.

Now flushed with cash from

the Tk 5 crore first BSRS mutual fund, oversubscribed by Tk 60 crore, the BSRS will cater mainly to its clients who had taken industrial project loans and subscribed the fund.

"We would like to serve our clientele who had obtained project loans to open their letter of credit for capital machinery, equipment, raw materials etc.," Ahmed said.

He further added, "the staggering sum they calculated on the basis of one per cent of our paid up capital. Similar fee was demanded of another state-run industrial financing company, the Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB), who sought the membership of the DSE."

According to the DSE demand, BSB would have to pay some Tk 1.20 crore, which sounds not only absurd as another state-run enterprise, the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh, is

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CWC reviews preparations for AL nat'l council today

By Reaz Ahmad

The Central Working Committee of the ruling Awami League meets tonight to discuss preparations for the party's triennial national council scheduled for May 6-7.

Prime Minister and AL president Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to chair the ALCWC meeting to be held at Gonobhaban at

This will be the last meeting of the 65-member ALCWC, the tenure of which is poised to expire, party sources said. The present committee was formed in September 1992 when the party held its last council.

A draft report of the party general secretary, prepared by a sub-committee earlier is likely to be placed before the ALCWC meeting for approval," Zillur

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