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# The Daily Star

**NESTOMALT**  
 MALTED FOOD DRINK  
 কর্মব্যস্ত মানুষের জন্য স্বাস্থ্যকর পানীয়

VOL. VII NO. 98 REGD. NO. DA 781 BAISHAKH 18 1404 BS. DHAKA THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1997 ZILHAJJ 23 1417 HIJRI 12 PAGES REGULAR PLUS MAGAZINE: PRICE TAKA 9.00

## 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 artists 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in a press release issued yesterday, said following the failure of yesterday's (Tuesday's) programme the government has withdrawn its earlier permission for today.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 See Page 12 Col 3

## '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 urea with feeders, 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 feeders for the cows. This urea supplies ammonia producing more microbes 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.

## Inside Today Article

**Resignation of the CEC: Why or Why Not?**  
 Column: Currents and Crosscurrents by M M Rezaul Karim Page 4

## Focus

**May Day: Making a point of progress** Page 5

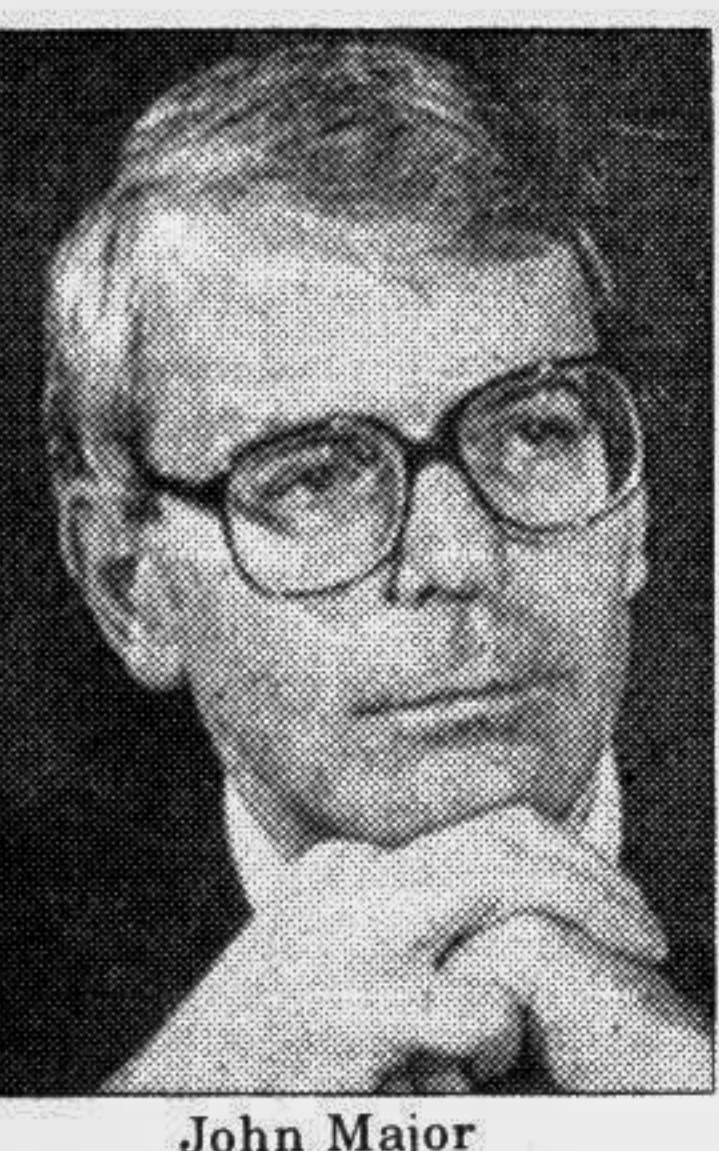
## Business

**Sonali Bank's move to recover bad loans: List of 100 major defaulters drawn up**  
**DSE price index continues to rise** Pages 6, 7

## Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a one-page special supplement on the occasion of the May Day Page 9

## Britain goes to polls today Major appeals for last chance as Blair looks set for victory



John Major

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 for change 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-



Tony Blair

## Haripur power plant Five int'l cos attend pre-bid meeting

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Energy Minister Noor Uddin Khan has said the government will facilitate setting up of a series of power plants with private sector participation in the near future.  
 The Minister was inaugurating a pre-bid meeting yesterday for developing a 300mw power plant on 'Build-Own-Operate (BOO)' basis in the private sector at Haripur.  
 With the increased supply of natural gas from April next year, setting up of more private power plants would be 'profitable' both for the people and the entrepreneurs, he said.  
 "We believe the cost of power will become cheaper then."  
 Representatives of five power companies — AES Transpower, BANAMCO Ltd, Midland Power, Occidental Energy Ventures Corp and Van Dar Horst — attended the meeting. These companies had earlier been shortlisted by the Power Cell of the Energy Ministry to participate in the bidding for the proposed Haripur Power Plant. The request for proposals (RFPs) for this plant will be opened on May 30.  
 "We have initiated the private power generation process by opening up the 300-450mw Meghnaghat power plant and the 300mw Haripur plant, to the private sector. We have also taken decisions regarding a 200mw unit in Khulna and another in Sirajganj."  
 Energy Secretary Dr Toufiq E Elahi Chowdhury said that gas sector was also being opened for private sector investment. The government has already worked out various policies and a set of incentives for private sector participation both in power and gas sectors.  
 "We have even taken the decision that the government's exploration unit — BAPEX — See Page 12 Col 8



## Historic May Day today

The historic May Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world today with a fresh pledge to protect rights of working class and increase production in mills and factories, reports UNB.  
 Government as well as different labour and socio-cultural organisations, professional groups and political parties have taken elaborate programmes to mark the day with due respect.  
 On the eve of the workers' solidarity day, President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina See Page 12 Col 5

## 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, Shoaib 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.  
 Now flushed with cash from the Tk five 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.  
 Often it caused problems for the clients who, after receiving project loans, had to go to another bank to open LCs, he explained. The BSRS MD was hopeful about its foray into commercial banking, pinning it on people's trust on state-owned banks.  
 He said the BSRS is also going to float its second Tk 10 crore mutual fund in June.

## 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 Gonabhaban at 8 pm.  
 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 See Page 12 Col 7

## PM claims at Netrokona rally Food output this yr to go up by 10 lakh tons

NETROKONA, Apr 30: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said here today that by the year 2002 Bangladesh would produce 2.5 crore tons of foodgrains in the country, reports BSS.  
 Addressing a huge rally, organised by the Bangladesh Krishak League in celebration of its silver jubilee at the Muktarpara playground here, she said that a Taka 977 crore project had already been taken to achieve the target.  
 She said that an estimated 2.07 crore tons of foodgrains would be produced in the country this year which is 10 lakh tons more than that of the previous year. "We want to encourage farmers to grow more and contribute to the national growth rate," she said, adding, "We also want to give them fair price of their produces at the same time."  
 The prime minister said that her government had constituted a technical taskforce soon after coming to power for the development of agriculture and increasing food production in the country. "We have also fixed fair prices of paddy and wheat for farmers," she said.  
 Referring to the smooth distribution of fertiliser by her government, the prime minister said the previous BNP government had appointed party-men as dealers, causing great miseries to farmers. She said that 18 farmers were killed by police for demanding fertiliser. She said fertilisers were smuggled out to India and the farmers were put in great trouble.  
 She said that her government had already conducted a survey in See Page 12 Col 7

## Tk 5 lakh stolen from four businessmen inside BB

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Four businessmen were robbed of Tk 4,80,320 when they went to deposit Treasury chaulans at the Bangladesh Bank in the city yesterday.  
 Kamal Wares, one of the businessmen, told The Daily Star last night that they were asked to move from one counter to another as the cashiers declined to accept their chalan.  
 Finally they made a desperate bid at Counter Number six of See Page 12 Col 4

## 2 senior govt officials file GD against each other

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Two senior assistant secretaries of the government have filed separate general diaries (GD) with Lalbagh thana accusing each other of issuing threats to his life, police said last night.  
 The officials Jahangir Alam and Enamul Kabir are neighbours at the Azampur Staff Quarters under Lalbagh thana. They filed the diaries in the morning and in the evening Tuesday.  
 See Page 12 Col 6



An injured woman being carried from the scene of a protest yesterday in New Delhi against Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, named in a massive corruption scandal. The woman was injured when police used water canon to disperse the protestors. — AFP photo

## 'Bride trade' along western border with India

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 30: A novel business in women, the so-called 'bride-trade', legally unchallenged but socially unacceptable, has been causing concern in the western border areas contiguous to India, reports UNB.  
 Girls of marriageable age are lured to take Indian husbands across the border and engaged in various unsocial and immoral activities.  
 A team of experts, comprising executive director of EQUALITY NOW, Surita Sandoshan, Prof Iahrat Shamim of Dhaka University and Deputy Director of USIS, Robert Kerr, visited a project on awareness building against 'bride-trade' at Shibganj thana here on Tuesday.  
 The team was informed that law enforcing agencies had not been very strict in applying the law against the people involved in the trade, letting hundreds of women move out to neighbouring India.  
 These women are being persuaded to cross the border as wives of Indian citizens, said Mohammad Yahia, project coordinator of Association for Community Development (ACD).  
 Some members of the victim families of Binodpur and Monakosha unions of Shibganj and returnee-women narrated their bitter experience to the team. Sayema, 22, and Jorina, 16, of village Toppa of Binodpur, who were abandoned by their Indian husbands, were also present.  
 The project coordinator stated that on the average 200 women from Shibganj thana were being married out every year. Poverty is the main cause of such large-scale exit, most families in the thana cannot make living from the mango groves, which is their only source of income.  
 "The law enforcing agencies, particularly those engaged on the land borders, are reluctant to take action against agents of the illegal trade for humanitarian ground and other reasons," according to a research worker, Uttam Kumar. But effective enforcement of the present law relating to trafficking in women could help check the trade, he added.

## Bangabandhu murder Writ challenging trial venue rejected

**By SC Correspondent**  
 The writ petition challenging the sitting of Sessions Court in a building adjacent to the Dhaka Central Jail for trial of the Bangabandhu murder case has been summarily rejected yesterday.  
 The division bench of the HC comprising Justice M M Haque and Justice Md Hasan Amin yesterday by an order rejected the writ petition filed by Lt Col (rtd) Syed Farookur Rahman.  
 The court by the order observed that the government has legal authority under section 9 (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure of set up such court by a Gazette notification.  
 Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman moved for the petitioner, while Attorney General K S Nabi represented the government.

## Indemnity (Repeal) Bill: Hearing of appeal May 11

The Appellate Division will hear and appeal filed against the dismissal of two writ petitions challenging the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill, reports UNB.  
 May 11 has been fixed as date for hearing the appeal by the full bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.  
 See Page 12 Col 5

## Khaleda tells farmers' rally Unite to resist this subservient govt

SHIBPUR (Narsingdi), Apr 30: Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia today said it would not be wise to allow this government to hang on to power and urged all to build a united resistance against it, reports UNB.  
 "There is no more time to waste... we have to protect our hard-earned independence at any cost. Let's all unite and build a strong resistance against the subservient government," she said.  
 The BNP Chairperson said Bangladesh apparently lost its sovereignty on all counts as the country is being run at the dictate of aliens.  
 "The foreign policy of our country is now totally dependent on a country and the government is running the country as per the dictate of its masters," she said. "The economy of the country is also almost dependent on that country."  
 Begum Zia was addressing a mammoth farmers' rally at Shibpur Shaheed Asad Government College ground in the afternoon. Tens of thousands of people attended the Dhaka divisional peasant conference organised by Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal.  
 She said if the country is run at the dictate of others some more days, "We will lose our independence and sovereignty and Bangladesh will be a protectorate within a very short time."  
 Amid cheers and repeated clappings, Begum Zia alleged the ruling party did not come to power with people's verdict rather they sat on power with the help of their mentors to destroy the country.  
 "Their masters planted them in power to make Bangladesh into a protectorate, subservient. This party came to power through a coup," said the former prime minister who lost power See Page 12 Col 4

## DSE index rises further

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 It seemed to be an 'inside deal'. The brokers are buying but delaying purchase of their clients' order, one buyer preferring anonymity told The Daily Star.  
 Meanwhile, a high level meeting at the Prime Minister's office reviewed the stock market situation on Tuesday night. The meeting, convened by Polit- See Page 12 Col 1

**Raqibul Huda granted bail for 2 months**  
**By SC Correspondent**  
 Additional Inspector General of Police Mirza Raqibul Huda has been granted bail for two months by the High Court in the Chittagong mass-killing case.  
 The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice MA Matin yesterday granted the bail.  
 After his arrest on January See Page 12 Col 3

## শেয়ার বাজারে বিনিয়োগ সম্পর্কিত কতিপয় পরামর্শ

- বাজার নিম্নমুখী হলে ভয় পেয়ে বা গুজবের বশবর্তী হয়ে হঠাৎ করে শেয়ার বিক্রয় করা বাঞ্ছনীয় নয়। কেননা শেয়ার বাজারে মূলধনী লাভই একমাত্র বিবেচ্য বিষয় নয়। শেয়ার বাজারে বিনিয়োগের মাধ্যমে স্বল্প ও দীর্ঘ মেয়াদী বিভিন্নভাবে বোনাস/রাইট শেয়ার ও লভ্যাংশ পাওয়া যায়। যে সমস্ত কোম্পানীর পারফরমেন্স ভাল সে সমস্ত কোম্পানী সব সময় সাধারণতঃ ভাল লভ্যাংশ প্রদান করে থাকে।
- যদিও শেয়ার বাজার কখনও ঝুঁকিমুক্ত নয় তথাপি নিম্নমুখী বাজারে সচেতন হয়ে শেয়ার ক্রয় কবলে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে লাভবান হওয়া যায় ও বাজারে স্থিতিশীলতা বজায় থাকে। তাছাড়া বাজারে যখন মূল্য কম থাকে সাধারণতঃ তখন কোম্পানীর সম্পদ বা আয়ের সাথে মূল্যের অধিকতর সামঞ্জস্যতা থাকে।
- যেহেতু শেয়ার বাজারে কম বেশী ঝুঁকি সব সময়ই থাকে তাই সম্ভবের সর্বটুকু শেয়ার বাজারে বিনিয়োগ করা উচিত নয়। কোন একটা নির্দিষ্ট কোম্পানীতে বিনিয়োগ না করে কয়েকটি কোম্পানীতে বিনিয়োগ করলে তথু ঝুঁকিই কমে না, লাভের সম্ভাবনাও বাড়ে।
- মিউচুয়াল ফান্ডের বিনিয়োগ সাধারণতঃ কম ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ। তালিকাভুক্ত কোম্পানীর প্রাথমিক ও বাইট শেয়ার বিনিয়োগের উপর আয়কর রেয়াত পাওয়া যায়। তাছাড়া শেয়ারের উপর অর্জিত মূলধনী লাভ সম্পূর্ণ আয়কর মুক্ত।
- তালিকাভুক্ত কোম্পানীর শেয়ার ষ্টক এক্সচেঞ্জে বিক্রয়যোগ্য বিষায় এর তালিকাভুক্ত (লিকুইডিটি) রয়েছে।
- বিনিয়োগ সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের পূর্বে সংশ্লিষ্ট কোম্পানীর আর্থিক অবস্থা, ব্যবসা পরিস্থিতি, ব্যবস্থাপনা দক্ষতা, সুনাম ও শেয়ার মূল্য ও আয়ের সম্পর্ক ইত্যাদি বিবেচনা করে শেয়ারে বিনিয়োগ কবলে ঝুঁকির সম্ভাবনা কম থাকে।

## সিকিউরিটিজ ও এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন