VOL. VII NO. 99 REGD. NO. DA 781

ZILHAJJ 25 1417 HIJRI

BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN, MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE OF DIFFERENT TYPES.

WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF

ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,

NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE

199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA. TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 6.00

ALCWC approves

22 dist bodies,

draft GS report

By Staff Correspondent

League Central Working Com-

mittee (ALCWC) held here on

Thursday gave approval to

party committees in 22 districts

and the general secretary's re-

port to be presented at the tri-

ennial council session of the

party, scheduled for May 6-7.
AL President and Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina

presided over the meeting that

began at the Gonobhaban at 8

PM. AL general secretary Zillur

Rahman told The Daily Star

last night that Thursday's meet-

ing, adjourned at 11:30 pm, will

resume again on Sunday night

According to a party press

The meeting also reviewed

Situation tense

RU application

release, meeting of the 65-

member ALCWC will continue

the preparations for the two-

till holding of the AL council.

at the same venue.

day council.

A meeting of the Awami

Blair greeted

Ties to grow further, hopes Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday congratulated Anthony Blair MP, the new British Prime Minister, on his historic victory in the general election, reports UNB.

"This success is indeed a glowing tribute to your able leadership and reflects the confidence of the people of Britain in you to lead them into the next century," she said in a message and wished Blair all success in the discharge of 'your heavy responsibilities.

Bangladesh and Britain have a long historical and traditional ties, she said and recalled the support given by the people of Britain, in particular the Labour Party, in the country's liberation struggle as well as in consolidating democracy in Bangladesh.

"I have no doubt that these ties will be even further strengthened during your tenure, Hasina said in her message to

Khaleda Zia

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia congratulated Blair and his party for a landslide victory in the general See Page 12 Col 5

Insurgency won't be allowed, Dhaka assures Delhi

NEW DELHI, May 2: Bangladesh has assured India that it would not allow insurgent groups to operate from its territory, a report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs presented before the Lok Sabha said today, reports BSS.

Efforts are underway to improve relations with the neighbouring countries and to persuade them not to allow insurgent groups to operate from their land, the report said, adding that significant progress in this regard has been made with Bangladesh.

Commenting on the general law and order situation in the country, the report said the home secretary stated before the committee that the situation in the north-eastern region of India has been somewhat volatile because of "persistent external support by Pakistan." The area of concern, the re-

See Page 12 Col 2 Four terrorists

Rewards for information announced

By Staff Correspondent

The Home Minister announced rewards of Tk 1.25 lakh for information leading to arrest of four terrorists wanted in number of case, filed with different thanas in the city, according to a DMP press release yesterday.

Tk 50,000 will be given for helping the arrest of Aslam alias Sweden Aslam, son of late Zinnat Ali of West Raza Bazar under Tejgaon thana.

Besides, rewards of Tk 25,000 each will be given to those who will help arrest of three other abscoading accused - Joseph, son of late Abdul Wadud of Noor Jahan Road under Mohammadpur thana; Bikash and Prokash, sons of Bimal Chandra Biswas of South See Page 12 Col 8

Inside Today -

Article

Some Suggestions for the AL **Council Meeting**

Column: The Third View by Mahfuz Anam

International

UK election: Conservatives blame each other for rout Page 5

Star Literature

Making more and more sense of T S Eliot; Shahabuddin: behind the dynamics and Jean Giono, The song of the South Pages 6 & 7

Business

Share market passes trepidant week Page 8

Labour's biggest landslide in 50 years

DHAKA SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1997



BAISHAKH 20 1404 BS.

Labour Party leader and new British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife Cherie wave at party workers and supporters after their arrival at the Royal Festival Hall for a post-election celebration early yesterday-AFP photo

separate

Setting up of

to official sources.

prison' after the decree.

money loan courts and enact-

ment of tougher laws providing

for 'civil prison' for loan de-

faulters and stringent condi-

tions for appeal to higher court

have been proposed, according

The courts which will deal

exclusively with loan default

cases will have the authority to

put a loan defaulter in 'civil

made in a bill titled 'Money

Loan Court Act, 1997', prepared

by the secretary of the Law

Commission on request from

the Law Ministry, the sources

Law, Justice and Parliamentary

Affairs and the Ministry of Fi-

nance said that copies of the

Sources in the Ministry of

The proposals have been

Separate courts, 'civil prison'

for loan defaulters proposed

By Mizan Ali

The defaulter will have the

facility to appeal to higher

court within 30 days of the de-

cree of the Money Loan Court

(MLC). The appeal could be

made in High Court if the de-

creed amount exceeded Tk 25

lakh and to the District Judge's

Court if the amount did not ex-

ceed Tk 25 lakh, according to

the suggestions in the proposed

But the appeal will have to be made after depositing at least

50 per cent of the decreed

amount with the financial in-

stitution concerned 'in agree-

of judgement or appeal for the

second time, an amount of

money equivalent to 75 per cent

of the decreed amount minus

the amount paid at the time of

For any prayer for revision

ment' with the decree-holder.

two ministries.

LONDON, May 2: Tony Blair became Britain's youngest prime minister in 185 years today after his Labour Party crushed the Conservative Party which had been in power for 18 years, reports AP.

The Tories had been expected to lose but the scale of their defeat surprised both politicians and the public: It was the worst Conservative trouncing since 1832 and Labour's biggest election triumph ever.

Prime Minister John Major went to Buckingham Palace to

Editorial on page 4

tender his resignation to Queen Elizabeth II after announcing that he would step down as Conservative Party leader.

After Major left the palace, Blair arrived in the official prime ministerial car to "kiss hands" -- he doesn't really, but the language of court ceremonial hasn't caught up with contemporary practice. That custom confirmed him

as prime minister. After his brief audience with the Queen, Blair left the palace shortly before 1 pm (1200 GMT). Instead of driving to the door

of the prime minister's official Downing Street residence, Blair and his wife, Cherie, got out of the car on Whitehall, just outside the gates.

In a scene resembling a political festival and contrasting with Major's solemn departure just one and a half hours earlier, hundreds of flag-waving Labour supporters packed the normally tightly guarded street shouting, "Tony, Tony, Tony" and "Labour, Labour, Labour".

The Blairs leaned over the barriers on both sides of the street, hugging supporters. Blair kissed one white-haired lady and was kissed by several oth-See Page 12 Col 4

Final standings

LONDON, May 2: Following is a final breakdown of the number of parliamentary seats each party won in Britain's election and the share of votes each polled, according to

Conservatives 165 (165 held, 178 lost) Labour 419 (273 held, 146 gained)

Liberal Democrats 46 (18 held, 30 gained, 2 lost) Others 29 (19 held, 8 gained, 4 lost)

Average swing to Labour from Conservatives - 10.2 per cent majority for Labour - 179. Share of the vote - Labour 45 per cent, Conservatives 31 per cent, Liberal Democrats 17

Participation of

'outsiders' at

oil companies'

meet criticised

Star Report

mitted to the government on the

recently-held international

round tables on hydrocarbon

exploration in Bangladesh

criticised participation of some

15 out-of-the-list "private visi-

tors" in the conferences and

said they were viewed as "irri-

tants" by oil and gas companies.

government in London and

Houston of US from March 24

to April 3, were otherwise ap-

preciated, the report said. Some

60 companies participated in those round tables.

the two international round

tables in a confidential report

to the government conveyed the

dissatisfaction of different for-

See Page 12 Col 2

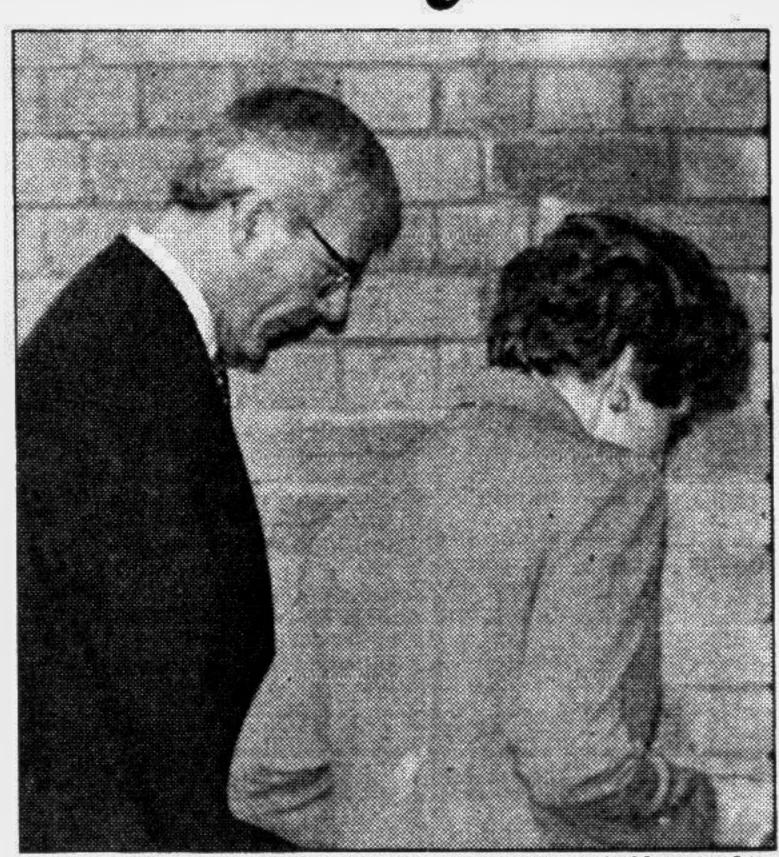
Gustavson — the organiser of

The round tables held by the

according to official sources.

A confidential report sub-

per cent.



British Prime Minister John Major and his wife Norma (L) leaves the counting center yesterday in Saint Ives in his constituency after the announcement of the general -AFP/UNB photo election results.

PM addresses rally at Tongi

Govt firm to protect interest of workers

TONGI, May 2: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is pledgebound to protect the interest of workers through reforms, report agencies.

"We have formed a wages commission and a full-fledged committee will be announced soon in the interest of the labour force," she told a huge workers' rally at Telephone Shilpa Sangstha ground here in the afternoon.

Jatiya Sramik League labour front of ruling Awami League, organised the rally on the occasion of historic May Day. People from all walks of life, including women and children, joined the rally with festoons and banners.

The Prime Minister said the government has attached high

priority to the interest of the labour force and is taking measures to improve their condi-

She said the government will give priority to any plan of the labourers to buy closed mills and factories to run those through cooperatives.

The government will extend allout assistance to those cooperatives which will buy and run the mills and factories, she

The prime minister assured the audience that besides rational salary and other benefits for the industrial workers, facilities like recreation for family members, education for the children and other amenities for their smooth livelihood would be considered while fi-See Page 12 Col 1

crossing while Noman group

into a workers rally.

turned its scheduled meeting

the party high command seri-

ously but so far nothing tangle

was done, local party leaders

committee of BNP and ex-

mayor Mir Mohammad Nasir

See Page 12 Col 8

Former convenor of the city

The matter was taken up by

Tight security for BNP meet at Ctg today

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, May 2: The authorities have planned to deploy 'extra police force' at the venue of the public meeting of BNP chairperson and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia scheduled to be held here tomorrow at the outer stadium to maintain tight security and foil any attempt to create violence, official sources said.

Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Motabber Hossain told this correspondent. "We are aware of intraparty rivalry in Chittagong unit of BNP and for that reason we have decided to deploy extra force at the venue of BNP meeting to ensure peaceful holding of meeting."

Intra-party conflict developed in Chittagong BNP as both Abdullah Al Noman, convenor of one-member city committee and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, newly-inducted into BNP from NDP, were locked in a tug of war to establish their hold on city politics, party insiders

The rivalry came to light when both the factions called separate meetings on the same day in the city and the party the insiders pointed out.

lic meeting at Bahaddarhat

high command ordered postponement of both the meetings, But the faction led by Salauddin Quader Chowdhury defied the order and held a pub-

'SAARC parliament' can boost Cricket stadium to be built in two phases

By Morshed Ali Khan

Despite administrative tan gles, the initial work on the proposed National Cricket Stadium at Maghbazar is now un-

derway Officials of the Public Works Department (PWD), which was recently 'handed over' the responsibility of construction, said the stadium would be completed in two phases. In the first phase, expected to be completed within a year, acquisition of land, earth filling, development of the field and some temporary

PWD official said. "After making the field with three natural pitches, we will fence it off and construct temporary sheds and washrooms for the players so that they can

facilities would be ensured, a

the official said. In the second phase, PWD would actually go ahead with the construction of a modern cricket stadium. "If necessary, we will seek foreign assistance to make the pitches and the outfield.

In a letter dated April 15, the Prime Minister's Secretariat asked the Youth and Sports Ministry to hand over responsibility of construction of the stadium to the Public Works Department (PWD). A copy of the letter was also sent to several departments, including the

In turn, the Sports Ministry asked the National Council (NSC), which had prepared an initial stadium project concept See Page 12 Col 7

forms couldn't be distributed From RU Correspondent RAJSHAHI, May 2: The situation at Rajshahi University remained tense as the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) continued its strike on the campus protesting the new admission

Most of the offices at the university remained closed and the Agrani Bank branch on the campus could not distribute a single application form for admission test as the ICS continued its strike since Saturday, according to sources at the university.

Heavy contingents of police have been patrolling the campus and a police camp has been set up at the Zoha Hall after vacating the resident students.

The ICS today extended its strike for more six days beginning from tomorrow, protesting the new admission system and what it called harassment of their leaders and workers, by police.

On Saturday last, the first day of the strike, at least 20 people were injured in clashes See Page 12 Col 3

I'll come again if invited, says Bappi Lahiri By Staff Correspondent

The 'Musica' had invited some Indian artistes to perform in a charitable cultural programme and there was no problem between the artistes and organisers, said Bappi Lahiri, before his departure from Dhaka vesterday. "I shall come again to per-

form, if such invitation is extended, said the renowned Indian singer while talking to a group of journalists at his hotel

Bappi Lahiri's wife and children and president of Musica Kambar Ali and Secretary General Faizun Nabi were also pre-

> "Circumstances had forced See Page 12 Col 3

भ्यात वाजात বিনিয়োগ সম্পর্কিত কতিপয় পরামর্শ

- বাজার নিম্নমুখী হলে ভয় পেয়ে বা গুজবের বশবর্তী হয়ে হঠাং করে শেয়ার বিক্রয় করা বাঞ্চনীয় নয়। কেননা শেয়ার বাজারে মূলধনী লাভই একমাত্র বিবেচ্য বিষয় নয়। শেয়ার বাজারে বিনিয়োগের মাধ্যমে বল্প ও দীর্ঘ মেয়াদী বিভিন্নভাবে বোনাস/ রাইট শেয়ার ও লভ্যাংশ পাওয়া যায়। যে সমন্ত কোম্পানীর পারফরমেন্স শাল সে সমস্ত কোম্পানী সর্ব সময় সাধারণতঃ ভাল লভ্যাংশ প্রদান করে থাকে।
- যদিও শেয়ার বাজার কখনও ঝুকিমুক্ত নয় তথাপি নিম্নমুখী বাজারে সচেতন হয়ে শেয়ার ক্রয় করলে 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 সৰ সময়ই থাকে তাই সঞ্চযের সবটুকু শেয়ার বাজারে বিনিয়োগ করা উচিত নয়। কোন একটি নির্দিষ্ট কোম্পানীতে বিনিযোগ না করে কযেকটি কোম্পানীতে বিনিয়োগ করলে তথু ঝুঁকিই কমে না, লাভের সম্ভাবনাও বাড়ে।
- মিউচায়াল ফান্ডেব বিনিযোগ সাধারণতঃ কম ঝুঁকিপুর্ণ। তালিকাভুক্ত কোম্পানীর প্রাথমিক ও রাইট শেয়ার বিনিযোগের উপর আয়কর রেয়াত পাওয়া যায়। তাছাড়া শেয়ারের উপর অর্জিত মৃলধনী লাভ সম্পূর্ণ আয়কর মুক্ত।
- তালিকাভুক্ত কোম্পানীর শেয়ার ষ্টকএক্সচেঞ্জে বিক্রয়যোগ্য বিধায এর তারল্যতা (লিকুইডিটি) রয়েছে।
- বিনিযোগ সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের পূর্বে সংশ্লিষ্ট কোম্পানীর আর্থিক অবস্থা, ব্যবসা পরিস্থিতি, ব্যবস্থাপনা দক্ষতা, সুনাম ও শেয়ার মূল্য ও আয়ের সম্পর্ক ইত্যাদি বিবেচনা করে শেয়ারে বিনিয়োগ করলে ঝুঁকির সম্ভাবনা কম থাকে।

সিকিউরিটিজ ও এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন



Singer Kangali Sufia rendering songs at a May Day rally organised by floating women labourers in the city. — Star photo

The conference on 'Harness-

ing the Eastern Himalayan

Rivers and Regional Coopera-

tion' has recommended creation

of "an assembly of politicians

or a SAARC Parliament" to

facilitate the process of in-

creased "interaction and coop-

eration" in the Ganga-Brahma-

The conference participated

by members of parliament, wa-

ter experts, economists, politi-

cians, research scholars and

policy planners of Bangladesh,

India and Nepal also recom-

regional trade.

mended reduction of tariff for

ference which concluded in the

city Thursday also recom-

mended introduction of "effi-

cient and easy trans-boundary

movement of people and goods

Speakers at the two-day con-

putra-Meghna (GBM) region.

Experts suggest

By Staff Correspondent

by reducing cumbersome rules and regulations." Abul Hasan Chowdhury

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs was the chief guest at the concluding session of the conference, jointly organised by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), Centre for Policy Research (CPR) of India and Institute of Integrated Development Studies (IIDS) of Nepal The conference was the fourth in a series organised by these organisations. The conference also recom-

mended "encouragement of a network of journalists for sharing information across bound-

filing of the appeal will have to be deposited in cash with the financial institution concerned 'in agreement' with the claim of the decree-holder. The proposed Bill, in seven chapters, has dealt with establishment of the proposed

execution, appeal, revision and second appeal Proposing the repeal of the Money Loan Court Act, 1990, the proposed bill suggested transfer of pending suits under

lished under the proposed Act. against orders and decrees of the Money Loan Court Act 1990,

money loan courts, powers and jurisdiction of courts, practice and procedure of the courts, and

the repealed Act to the corresponding courts to be estab-About appeals, pending before the High Court Division

See Page 12 Col 8

Mizan made first vice-chairman of JP again

By Staff Correspondent The three 'rebel leaders' of Jatiya Party met the party chief H M Ershad on Wednesday night at the residence of Naziur Rahman Manju, according to

party sources. We paid a courtesy visit on the chairman," Shah Moazzem Hossain, the spokesman of the rebel leaders' said while talk-

ing to The Daily Star last night.
"A date will be fixed later for discussing the political issues for which we stand now," he said adding that they had a See Page 12 Col 1

36 to vie for each JU Hons seat

By JU Correspondent At least 36 students will vie for each seat in the first year Honours classes in Jahangir-

nagar University (JU) this year. Sources in the Central Admission Committee told this correspondent that a total of 32,225 application forms were received on the last day on Wed-

A total of 8.067 students have applied in the 'Ka' Unit (Science Faculty) while 10,322

students submitted application forms in the 'Kha' Unit (Social Meanwhile, the Central

Science Faculty).

cooperation in GBM region aries, using modern means such as internet," research on re-

gional cooperation and mobili-

sation of internal and interna-

tional resources for invest-

The participants also emphasised on attaining "political convergence of will and vision for regional development" among the countries concerned.

"We must find ways and means to utilise resources of the GBM region to face the challenges of the future and convert the region into an area of prosperity," Abul Hasan said in his speech, lauding the three organisations for their pioneering role in identifying approaches to harness the water resources. I am confident that all the

governments will consider immediately start practising." See Page 12 Col 4

Chidambaram rejoins UF

cabinet

acclaimed former finance minister Palanianppan Chidam baram yesterday joined India's fragile ruling coalition and said his pro-reform budget would not face problems in parliament, reports AFP.

The Harvard-educated Chidambaram was sworn in along with five others at a ceremony at the presidential palace. Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral hinted that Chidambaram, who was the finance minister in the previous coalition government that collapsed April 11, would retain the same portfolio, the United News of India said.

NEW DELHI, May 2: Highly