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Metropolitan Court of Sessions in Dhaka, Ctg from next fiscal likely

By Staff Correspondent
 The government is planning to establish separate Metropolitan Court of Sessions in Dhaka and Chittagong cities, from the beginning of the next fiscal year, according to official sources.
 The proposal made in this connection by the ministry has already been signed by Abdul Matin Khasru, Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.
 The proposal will now be sent to the Prime Minister's Secretariat for her approval and then to the ministries of finance and establishment for necessary action, the sources added.
 Law Ministry officials said that they were expecting the completion of all necessary formalities by the beginning of next fiscal year.
 See Page 12 Col 7

Share Market scam cases: Proceedings against three firms stayed

All the proceedings of three criminal cases against three firms for manipulating the share market were stayed by the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.
 District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Rasul passed the stay order upon revisional petitions challenging maintainability of the cases.
 Salman F Rahman, on behalf of Beximco and Shine Pukur, and AKM Shamsuddoha, on behalf of Doha Securities, filed the petitions.
 Senior Advocate Serajul Haque submitted that as per provisions of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance 1969 district and session judge court is the original jurisdiction to file the original jurisdiction to file.
 See Page 12 Col 4

N' ganj bldg collapse: One dies at DMCH

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, May 3: A worker of the Adamjee Jute Mills, injured in a building collapse, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) early today.
 Siddhirganj police said the body of Ramzan Ali, 45, was handed over to the authorities of the mills after autopsy.
 At least 20 people were injured, seven of them critically, when a two-storied building at Bajui colony in the mills area collapsed Friday evening reportedly following a gas explosion.
 The other injured persons were under treatment in the DMCH and other hospitals.

Wajid Ali Panni made envoy to Malaysia

The government has decided to appoint Wajid Ali Khan Panni the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Malaysia, it was officially announced in the city yesterday, reports BSS.
 At present, he is the Vice President, Finance and Administration of the Independent University, Bangladesh.

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Shantibahini attacks BDR outposts in Bandarban: 3 killed

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 3: A fierce gunfight between Bangladesh Rifles and Shantibahini, which attacked two border posts at Thanchi in Bandarban district, left a BDR Lance Naik and two insurgents killed and another BDR JCO wounded early today.
 According to official sources, the Shantibahini 'regulars' in olive green 'uniforms' launched an attack on the Thanchi border outpost (BOP) in the early hours of today.
 But they retreated under counterfire from BDR and swooped on another BOP at Thanchi Bazar where a fierce three-hour gunfight continued until 4:30 am.
 Lance Naik Abdul Hamid, 38, died and Havilder Alamgir was injured, defending the Thanchi Bazar BOP.
 The attackers retreated into the deep forests under stiff resistance from BDR.
 BDR later recovered two bodies of the attackers in olive green 'uniforms' of the Shantibahini 'regulars'. Two sub-machine guns were also recovered from their possession, the sources said.
 Security forces tolled a general alert and fanned out in the forest clad hills, scouring the area for the rebels.
 Tension was prevailing in Bandarban when reports about the incident reached the district headquarter from the border.
 The gunfights the second in the district since peace talks resumed under the present government, took place while a ceasefire is in force and repatriation of the tribal refugees from camps in India has resumed.
 The attack came ahead of the May 11 talks, the fifth between the government-appointed National Committee on CHT and the Parbatitya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS), the political wing of the Shantibahini, to work out a peace deal in the hills.
 Similar attacks took place in Bandarban ahead of talks
 See Page 12 Col 5



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a Businessmen's Conference organised by the FBCCI at the Osmani Memorial Hall in the city yesterday. — PID photo

PM at businessmen's confce Ensure honesty in business to uproot corruption

By Staff Correspondent
 The conference held at the Osmani Memorial Hall was attended by chamber and other business leaders from across the country.
 The Prime Minister observed that to uproot corruption from the bureaucracy, the business community itself would also have to refrain from corrupt activities.
 "If you can ensure discipline and honesty in business, much of your problems could be easily solved," she noted.
 Sheikh Hasina said her government had inherited problems which could be solved with the cooperation from private entrepreneurs.
 "Political stability is a must for economic growth. From this realisation we had invited the opposition parties to join our Cabinet from the beginning," she went on.
 In the past, Awami League had called hartals in order to ensure a democratic system, she pointed out. "Now that this system has been ensured, parliament should be the place for all political agreements or disagreements," she noted.
 Presided over by FBCCI President Yussuf Abdullah Harun, the conference was also addressed by other ministers.
 See Page 12 Col 1

News Analysis

Why Labour won and the Tories didn't

Irtiza Nasim Ali writes from London
 It was not the election results that surprised the people of Britain, it was the staggering difference in votes between the two major parties. The 'modern man', as Tony Blair likes to describe himself, has inflicted the biggest defeat on the Tories since 1832.
 Europe, as it seems, has been a thorn in the flesh for the Conservatives. The issue caused serious rifts within the party. While some were moderate in their stand about a unified Europe, others staunchly maintained that Europe is for the Europeans and British are special. They tended to turn a cold shoulder to Europe. The Conservatives weren't very adept at hiding these differences among themselves and emerged with a rather disjointed image as a party.
 As Foreign Secretary and Chancellor, John Major had been more pro-Europe than the others. But once he became Prime Minister, he changed colours. He realised that his own party was broadly anti-European and for the sake of keeping his party together, he had to take on a more anti-European stance. When he signed the Maastricht Treaty, he ensured that Britain had that opt-out clause. He did not sign the social chapter which determines the minimum wage, and also the provisions that were there to protect the workers' interests in Europe. Britain did not accept that under the Tories.
 Here John Major and his stalwarts failed to read the minds of the Britons. The Conservatives felt that once Europe become a single monetary union, with one currency, Britain would essentially become a province, it would lose its sovereignty. A monetary union would mean losing control over fiscal and monetary policy. Everything would be unified under one central banking system. That means the financial and monetary policy will be decided collectively by Bonn and Brussels, not from London.
 Labour's landslide victory itself indicates that the people

Pressure mounting on DSE leadership to resign

By Special Correspondent
 Pressure is mounting on the leadership of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) to resign, paving the way for reconstitution of its board.
 DSE sources said leaders of two rival factions yesterday held talks to sort out the mess which a third group of DSE members feel had rusted the image of the bourse eroding investors' confidence.
 The Chairman has remained steadfast not to quit. He carries the support of six members of the board. Repeated attempts to contact him last night went in vain.
 His rivals having support of three members had been pressing for his resignation. Negotiations took place between Khwaja Golam Kuddus and Khorshed Alam, who lead the anti-Imtiyaz lobby, to find out a way for reconstituting the board. Repeated attempts to contact him last night went in vain.
 See Page 12 Col 7

Depression over Bay likely this month

One or two depression is likely to be formed in the Bay of Bengal during the current month, according to a Met office forecast, reports UNB.
 The Met office yesterday also predicted four or six light to moderate nor'wester over the Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Noakhali and Comilla during the period.
 Besides, two or four light to moderate nor'wester may sweep elsewhere across the country.
 The weathermen said the north-eastern region of the country is likely to experience flash flood during the later part of the month.
 About rainfall, the forecast said Sylhet division may experience highest 400-450 mm rain against the normal 465 mm during this month.
 Chittagong may have 250-300 mm rain against normal 303 mm, Barisal 250-200 against normal 296, Dhaka 200-250 against normal 258, Rajshahi 120-170 against normal 189, and Khulna division 150 mm against normal 145 mm during the period.

42 hurt as police, students clash at Pirojpur

PIROJPUR, May 3: At least 42 students and policemen were injured in a clash at Government Suhrawardy College premises today in backlash to postponement of students' union election, reports UNB.
 BNP-backed Jatiyata badi Chhatra Dal (JCD) called a half-day hartal in the town for tomorrow to protest 'police attack' on the students and press for announcement of a fresh schedule for the election.
 Witnesses said the trouble ensued after the authorities postponed the college student union election scheduled for tomorrow.
 Among the injured 30 are students and 12 cops. Four of the injured students — Nixon, Sabuj, Bahadur and Apurba — were admitted to Sadar hospital in a critical condition.
 Police charged baton on the students.
 See Page 12 Col 3

Hilsa can help reduce cholesterol

By Staff Correspondent
 Hilsa, the national fish of Bangladesh, can help reduce blood cholesterol, a senior scientist of the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) said in the city.
 His study of the fish has shown that Hilsa fat contains Omega-3 oil (a fatty acid) which can 'play a significant role' in curing coronary heart disease. Hilsa accumulates the fat from different algae of the sea, where it passes a major part of its life before coming to sweet water for laying eggs.
 According to the research
 See Page 12 Col 3

100 shanties guttled in city

By Staff Correspondent
 At least 100 shanties were gutted as a fire razed through a slum at Pallabi in the city yesterday afternoon.
 The fire that broke out at about 2:45 pm soon engulfed the slum at block-C in Mirpur-12. Fire service sources said adding five units of the fire brigade took about two hours to put out the blaze.
 The cause of the blaze could not be known immediately. However, local people said, it started from an electric short circuit.
 No casualty was reported till last night, police and fire brigade sources said.
 Police were guarding the affected area last night.

Rebel leaders resent Ershad's remarks

The rebellious Jatiya Party leaders yesterday expressed resentment over certain remarks by party chairman Ershad, but still said "the chance for a solution of the current crisis in the party is fifth fifty," reports UNB.
 Referring to a newspaper report yesterday where Ershad claimed that there was no crisis in the party, the rebel group spokesman, Shah Moazzem Hossain, said it was unfortunate that the party chairman declared the result "even before we start our formal discussion."
 After a meeting of the three rebel leaders at the residence of Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury in the evening, Shah Moazzem said "We did not expect such remarks and statements from the chairman... We have postponed our discussion following his
 See Page 12 Col 4

Transformer burst at Ashuganj causes major power disruption

Staff Correspondent
 generated in the country, the Ashuganj and Ghorashal power plants produce about 1200 MW electricity.
 Soon after the burst of the transformer, power generation from Ashuganj and Ghorashal tripped to a halt, the officials added. They, however, said that normal power generation at Ghorashal and Ashuganj was restored at about 10:30 PM.
 A four-member inquiry committee headed by the additional chief engineer (P&D) has been formed to find out the cause of the incident. The committee has been given seven days' time to submit its report, the officials said.
 The Kaptai station was operated on an emergency basis and auxiliary power was provided through the East-West interconnector and Ashuganj gas turbine to supply electricity to Dhaka city." BSS news agency said quoting an official hand-out.
 When contacted last night Energy Minister Nooruddin Khan said, "It is a mechanical failure. Such incidents also occurred earlier also."
 Towfiq Elahi Chowdhury, secretary of the ministry when contacted said, "With tripping that started at Ashuganj, the Ghorashal Power Plants were also affected because of cascading effect, and the plants there also tripped. It was a technical failure caused by an accident in a transformer."
 See Page 12 Col 4

Movement to save country: Khaleda BNP calls hartal in Ctg divn on May 6

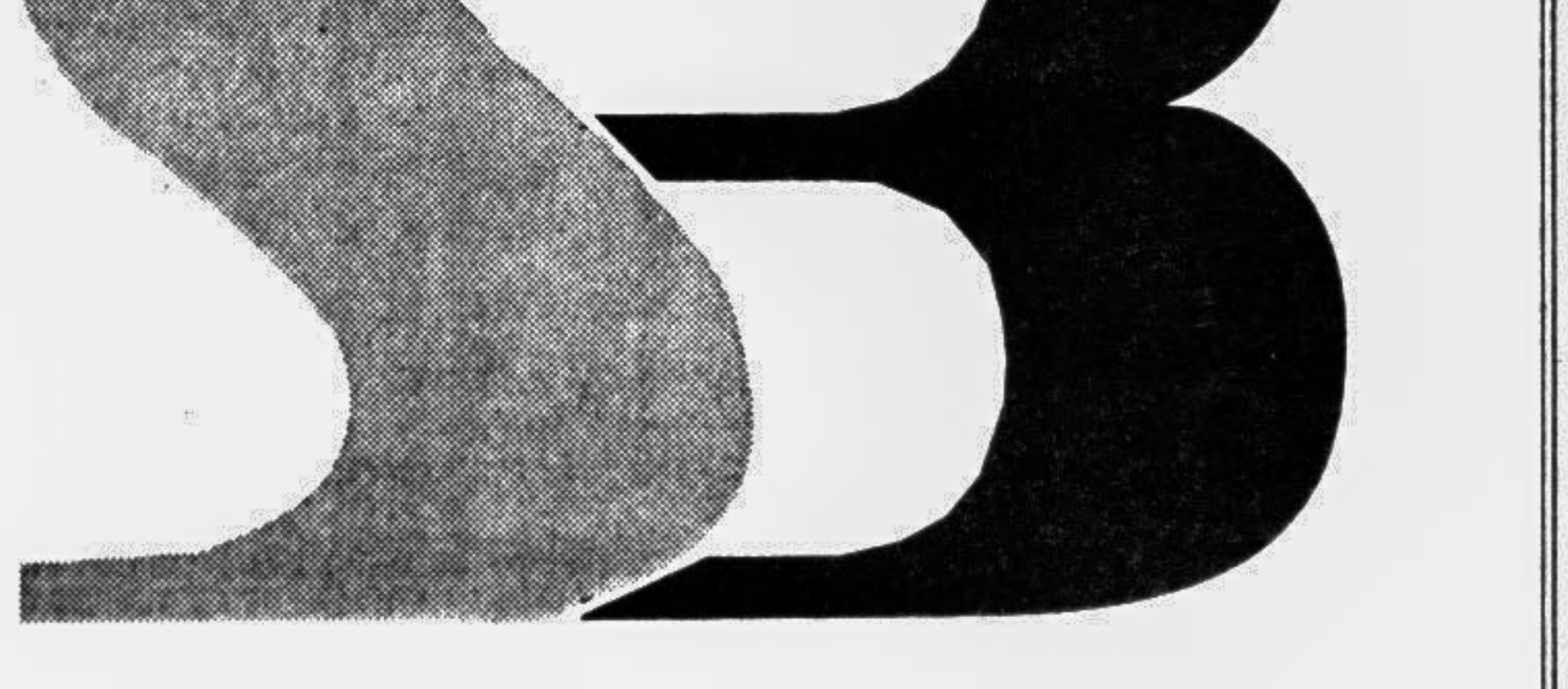
From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 3: Former Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Chittagong division on May 6 in protest against what she said the government's failure to take action against the killers of her party activists in Feni.
 Begum Zia was addressing a public meeting organised by her party at the outer stadium here this afternoon.
 "We gave the government one month's time to arrest and try the killers of BNP activists in Feni." But it did not take any step in this regard. This compelled us to announce such a programme," the BNP chief said.
 Urging the people to make the hartal programme a success, she said, "now let the terrorists know that there is no place for them in Bangladesh. In future we will give more programmes against this government."
 Begum Zia said, "as the declaration for independence of Bangladesh was given from Chittagong, so, we started our movement from here to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the country."
 Criticising the government she said, "it wants to be in power anyhow."
 The BNP Chairperson reiterated her demand for resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner.
 She alleged that the Chief Election Commissioner had
 See Page 12 Col 3

Ten killed in road accidents

At least 10 people were killed and 25 others injured in two separate road accidents in Gazipur and Kanchpur bridge area in the city yesterday, reports BSS.
 Police and hospital sources said four persons including two unidentified women were killed on the spot and 24 others injured when a bus collided head-on with a truck in Joydevpur area at around 9 am.
 Eleven seriously injured people were taken to Gazipur Sadar Hospital where three of them succumbed to their injuries.
 Thirteen injured passengers were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They are Hajera Begum, 30, Nasima, 17, Rahima, 20, Beauty, 20, Zaman, 13, Jahannesa, 40, Joyanal, 30, Hasna, 20, Abdur Rahman, 30.
 See Page 12 Col 6

Remove illegal constructions by May 15: DCC

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has requested the people concerned to remove all illegal constructions from roads, footpaths, drains, parks, playgrounds and the premises of different markets by May 15, reports BSS.
 The corporation would take lawful actions against the illegal occupants including their eviction from the corporation lands after May 15, a press release of the DCC said yesterday.
 The DCC also requested the government and non-government
 See Page 12 Col 4

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