PM seeks continued

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People have lost

confidence in govt:

Mannan Bhuiyan

By Staff Correspondent

dul Mannan Bhuiyan has un-

derscored the need for pursuing

"right politics" by his party and

strengthening it at the grass-

roots level to stand by the peo-

ple "now distressed by the pre-

sent government's anti-people

newly-elected office-bearers of

BNP's Barguna unit who met

him at the party's Purana Pal-

tan central office in the city

victory under the leadership of

Begum Khaleda Zia is certain

since the people are with us. The

people have already lost their

confidence in the government."

legations against the govern-

ment that it was conspiring to

jeopardise the national sove-

reignty and independence,

repressing the opposition polit-

ical activists and politicising

the administration. "The AL is

back with its former character-

istics... There had been no

change in its nature," he added.

BNP calls

From Page 1

played a partisan role during

the last several election. "So,

under him, the future polls may

not be free and fair", she alleged.

League government again

wanted to turn the country into

a 'bottomless basket' destroying

ernment also wanted to turn

Bangladesh into a subservient

state and a market of Indian

goods through ruining the in-

dustries as per its pre-poll

batching conspiracy to hand

over Chittagong port to India,

Chittagong City BNP Abdullah

Al Noman, the meeting was ad-

dressed by other party leaders

including Mir Nasiruddin, Oli

Ahmed, Sarwar Jamal Nizam,

MP, Jafrul Islam Chowdhury

MP, Mirza Abbas, Akbar Hos-

sain, Khondakar Mossarraf

Hossain, Amanullah Aman,

Morshed Khan, Salauddin

suddin Quader Chowdhury MP,

Moudud Ahmed, Amir Khosru

Mahmud Chowdhury, Najibul

Bashar Maizbandari and Red-

While the meeting was in

progress, some party activists

were seen agitating near the

podium demanding that one of

their leaders be allowed to ad-

repeatedly requested the agita-

tors to keep quiet, but in vain.

Later, police forced the agitat-

From Page 1

protesting students, belonging

to BNP-backed JCD and Awami

League's BCL, who allegedly

blasted bombs and hurled

shells and rubber bullets to dis-

perse the agitating students dur-

Union held a protest rally at the

GP market of the town and de-

manded punishment of those

the election following a letter

from the district magistrate

stating that law-and-order sit-

uation might be created center-

Hilsa

From Page 1

study the hilsa fish is much

tastier, contains more protein

and is more nutritious in the

rainy season. Besides, a full-

grown hilsa during this season,

has plenty of vitamin A, D and

nutritious than the one with no

eggs. The eggs absorb most of

the nutrients and also weaken

the fish's muscles.

A hilsa carrying eggs is less

ing the polls.

The authorities postponed

responsible for the "attack."

Police also fired teargas

Later, All Party Students

stones at the law enforcers.

ing the hour-long clash.

ing youths out of that place.

Pirojpur

Some leaders on the podium

Quader Chowdhury MP, Gia-

the BNP chief claimed.

Besides, this government is

Presided over by convenor of

She claimed that the gov-

its economy.

"blueprint".

wan Ahmed.

dress the meeting.

She alleged that the Awami

He reiterated his party's al-

Mannan Bhuiyan said, "Our

He was addressing the

activities.

vesterday evening.

BNP Secretary General Ab-



'No electricity, so no fuel Supply,' an employee signalling at a filling station in the city yesterday.

# Cairn forms alliance with Shell

Cairn Energy, which discovered huge gas in the Bay of Bengal, has formed alliance with oil and gas major Shell Exploration for comprehensive joint

operations in Bangladesh. Competent sources told UNB that Cairn, the-based oil and gas explorers, and Shell Company reached an "understand ing" for oil and gas exploration and production in Bangladesh.

A key aspect of the agreement is that both companies would bid on a 50:50 basis on new acreage applications in Bangladesh, the sources, preferring anonymity, said in Dhaka vesterday.

They said detailed operation plans, prospective investments and other issues would be worked out later.

Under the agreement, announced in London on Tuesday. the two companies will also carry out their syndicated search for and production of oil and gas in parts of India.

Cairn would take on the role of exploration operator and Shell development operator. This equal-share alliance would also extend to the exploration and development of hy-

drocarbon reserves Bangladesh The sources said Cairn first made the announcement about the agreement in the London

ment of the British law and accordingly, informed the Bangladesh government and the Petrobangla.

Cairn Energy struck a gas reserve in the Sangu gasfield in the Bay of Bengal, 45 kilometre off the port city of Chittagong, which sharpened the international focus on Bangladesh's energy sector.

### Indian HC driver dies after drinking alcohol

By Staff Correspondent A driver of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka died al legedly after drinking alcohol at his residence in Dhanmondi yesterday.

Ram Pal. 40, was found unconscious at his house in the morning. Family members called a doctor who declared Ram Pal dead at about 8:30 am police said last night.

Dhanmondi police took the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy after which the body was handed over to the High Commission authorities who later sent the mortal remains to India, police said.

### Stock Exchange as a require-Why Labour won

From Page

are more pro-Europe than anti-Europe. The significant support for the Liberal Democrats points to the same. The wipeout of the Tories suggest that common voters are not as insular or insecure as Tory rightwingers. They are more tolerant, more moderate and a more caring society.

Liberal Democrats have been absolutely positive about a single currency. More cautiously, Labour has adopted a wait and see stance, ensuring that the British interests are served and protected first. Conservatives did not completely rule out a single currency either, but were more inclined against it than

#### PM: Honesty

From Page 1

dressed by Finance Minister SAMS Kibria and Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, FBCCI Vice President Kazi Md Shafiqul Islam, Presidents of Metropolitan Chamber, Dhaka Chamber, Chittagong Chamber, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Finished Leather and Leather Goods Exporters Association and Electronic Manufacturers Association also spoke.

The finance minister said the government's drive to recover default loans in the past 10 months had resulted in the recovery of Tk 1500 crore.

"We have started the second phase of financial sector reform to reduce the rate of interest. Currently the rate of interest is high due to the huge of default loans."

He added that the economy should operate on the basis of consensus. "That is why we have invited leaders of all major parties including Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan of BNP to attend a pre-budget meeting. think a pre-budget meeting would result in a much accept-

able budget. He urged industrialists and entrepreneurs to invest in sectors like electronics, computers and software. "We should go for newer ideas for investment," he

said. Tofael Ahmed said regional grouping had been popularised as a means for regional development in the world. "Almost all countries are members of more than one regional groups. But we don't seem to agree on

such propositions.' Tofael urged the Opposition to keep the economy above political designs.

The burden of meeting the

demands of social welfare were

so heavy that the Conservatives

had to gradually withdraw so-

cial facilities in education,

health and other sectors. The

people felt they weren't getting

these benefits, which they took for granted, from the Conservative government. Whatever achievements John Major and his government might have had, were drowned in the tidalwave of the demand for change. And

therein lies the success of the Labour Party. In seventies, and even in the

early eighties, Labour Party was identified as a strong left-wing radical Labour union or trade union kind of movement. They were not bothered about wealth generation, they were just concerned about wealth distribu-However, with Tony Blair at

the helm, the Labour Party moved to the centre over the past three years. Blair is a rather non-traditional Labour leader. He was born in Scotland to a middle class family. His father was a politician. He went to an exclusive private school and later to Oxford University where he became a socialist. And that was the beginning.

Tony Blair recognised that the public mood shifted particularly after the demise of the communist bloc. Everyone in Europe has moved right. He also realised that to come to power, one would have to assure the middle Englanders that one was not going to destroy their wealth. Their prosperity could not be threatened. And this called for a change in the old

Blair's repackaging of the Labour Party has been a great success. New Labour has distanced itself from the union, has no radicalism. Blair managed to dispel all the hang-ups people had about the old Labour. It would be more shar-

ing and caring. The sheer scale of victory suggests two immediate responses: Firstly, Mr Blair can now afford to be his own man. In framing his cabinet over the weekend, there will be no need for concession to anyone. Secondly, the new Prime Minister can afford to be bold. He can set ambitious priorities and make

hard and controversial choices. The expectations are great. Tony Blair has not been tested by time and tide as yet. He has to tread his way carefully. As the Financial Times says of his win, "If Mr Blair wields it wisely and decisively, he has every chance of going on to win a second term."

#### Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought continued Chinese assistance to Bangladesh, particularly in constructing bridges, including one over the river Karnaphuli, reports UNB. She also hoped that friend-

ship and cooperation between Bangladesh and China would continue to be strengthened in the days ahead to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The Prime Minister was talking to Liu Shu Qing, President of the Chinese People's In-stitute of Foreign Affairs, who called on her at Ganobhaban in the evening.

Qing, who is leading a fivemember delegation during his current four-day visit to Bangladesh, was the Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka from 1980-82. Hasina recalled the visit of father of the nation Banga-

bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rah-

man to China in 1953 and 1957

and that of premier Chou En Lai to erstwhile East Pakistan in

Hasina mentioned that from the very beginning her government was seeking cooperation from all political parties, including the main opposition in

#### Ershad

From Page i

"It was beyond our expectation... We will ask Ershad during our next talks to clarify this (remark)," he said but did not

Ershad, while talking to a group of journalists at the party's Baridhara office on Thursday, said there was no crisis in the Jatiya Party and the misunderstanding has been resolved.

Ershad also reportedly said that those who challenged his leadership had come for discussion, claiming this as his achievement.

"It is not true that we are breaking the party... We are the founders of the party. When we founded the party Ershad was not there. So, the question of splitting the party (by us) does not arise at all," Shah Moazzem

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, the senior-most Vice-Chairman who regained his position after a squabble, said the talks are yet to take any shape.

"Sometimes, it seems we are heading for a solution; sometimes, it appears we are in a tangle again," said the veteran politician who led the Jatiya Party as acting chairman for nearly six years when Ershad was in jail.

#### India score 199 for 7

Sports Reporter

A fluent half-century by Ajay Jadeja helped India stock 199 for 7 after exhausting 50 overs in the fourth and final one-day international against West Indies in Bridgetown yesterday.

Sent into bat, India got off to a disastrous start, losing both the openers Shaurav Ganguly and skipper Shachin Tendulkar cheaply. But in-form Rahul Dravid and former skipper Mohammad Azharuddin (40) combined together to steer the team to a respectable total. In reply, West Indies, who were leading the four-match series 2-1, scored 28 for no wicket after 8 overs.

### DCC

From Page 1 ment organisations and land owners in the city areas to clean their ponds and drains by May 15 as these pollute the environment and help in breeding mosquitoes. The corporation would also

take lawful actions against these defaulters after May 15.

### Fujimori

From Page 1

"With the tour to South East Asia. Peru is expanding its vision beyond the Pacific basin, with the purpose of intensifying and diversifying its political, economic and trade interests," a Foreign Ministry press release

Fujimori will visit Bangladesh on May 25. He will meet with President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and sign technical cooperation agreements. He will visit India, where he

will meet with President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, on May 26-28 and be the guest of honour of two of India's largest business groups.

#### Share market

From Page 1 and try all cases relating to share market:

But the cases have been filed in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate who has no jurisdiction to deal with such allegation, pleaded the defence counsel.

"This is a great procedural defect. Moreover, no court can pass order to issue summons or warrant as per above provisions of the ordinance. But the CMM court has issued warrant of arrest which he cannot," Serajul Haque said.

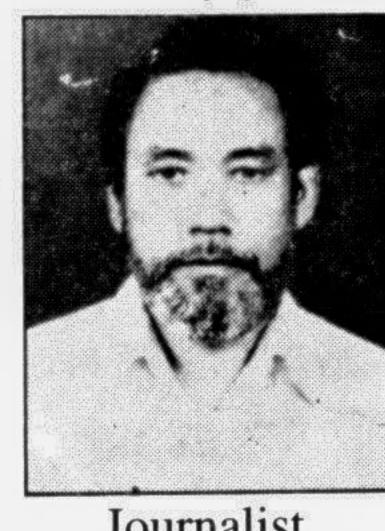
After hearing the petition-ers, the court stayed all proceedings of the cases.

On April 2, Executive Director of the Securities and Exchange Commission Abdur Rashid Khan filed the cases in the CMM court against 36 persons of 15 companies following probe report on the stock market scam.

Chinese assistance sharing views on important

national issues. About Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, Hasina said, "Though we have not yet got response from them for exchange of views, I am still hopeful that she will come for-

The Chinese leader hoped that the friendship between the two countries will flow like the streams of Hoang Ho and Brahmaputra. 'There will be no dearth of Chinese assistance and goodwill in Bangladesh's efforts towards progress."



#### Journalist Nazimuddin Manik dead

Nazimuddin Manik, a senior journalist, died of heart attack at his Mohammadpur Sher Shah Suri road residence early yesterday. He was 57, reports

The deceased left behind his wife, three sons, two daughters and a host of friends and relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

In a message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina condoled the death of the senior journalist. He was laid to rest at the Freedom Fighters Graveyard at

Mirpur in the afternoon. Earlier, his first namaj-ejanaza was held at a mosque at Mohammadpur and the second one at the Jatiya Press Club A large number of newsmen,

club members and admirers of the late journalist had a last glimpse of the deceased at the Press Club where his body was kept for two hours from 2 pm to Born at Shyampur in Sud

harampur thana of Noakhali district, Nazimuddin Manik began journalism career with a newspaper in Chittagong in 1962. Later, he served various dailies and weeklies including Banglar Bani, Khabar and weekly Chitra Bangla. He also worked for erstwhile

Povgam, Purbadesh and Ganokantha. Manik, who had been freelancer in last few years, was the Dhaka correspondent for a newspaper in Leaders of BFUJ and DUJ

condoled the death of Nazimuddin Manik. DUJ will hold a condolence meeting at the National Press Club at 5 pm today. Jatiya Press Club President

Reazuddin Ahmed and General Secretary Khandker Monirul Alam, on behalf of the club's managing committee, expressed deep shock at the sudden demise of the senior member of the A condolence meeting and

milad mahfil will be held at 11 am on Monday at the Jatiya Press Club. His qulkhwani will be held at his residence at 20/9 Sher Shah Suri road after Asr prayers on Friday.

#### Shantibahini

From Page 1

between the two sides in February, when Sontibahini insurgents, believed to be from a hardline faction, killed three policemen and a soldier in separate attacks, violating the ceasefire in the hills from August 1992.

UNB adds: Official sources said a band of 20-25 Shantibahinimen attacked the out-

The paramilitary BDR personnel numbering 10 fought an unequal battle for about four hours with their outdated rifles to overpower the outlaws who attacked the outpost with most sophisticated automatic

An army helicopter airlifted the dead and the injured. The bodies of the insurgents were handed over the police while the deceased BDR jawan was sent to his village home in Brahmanbaria district.

Chittagong Area Commander Major General Abdul Matin, Director General of BDR Major General Abdul Aziz and Bandarban regional commander Brigadier Selim visited the.

An army commander told UNB that a Shantibahini faction led by "Major" Shamiron, who does not want a peace settlement in the areas and is opposed to the peace process initiated by Shantu Larma, launched the attack on the BDR camp.

He said the third round of peace talks scheduled for April 30 was deferred to May 11 following pressure from 'Major' Shamiron's group.

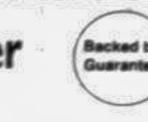
Giving his personal opinion about today's (Saturday's) incident the army officer said: "It was an attempt to demonstrate their armed supremacy and frustrate the peace process." He said they were appre-

achievement from this latenight attack. Brig Selim said the BDR jawans who fought back the tribal incurgents with age-old arms should be rewarded.

hending more attacks as the

group failed to gain any

### Blender with mill and chopper



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#### Work for setting up 'art village' in Sonargaon the next fiscal.

begins The work for establishing an "art village" — Rupasi Bangla — with an estimated cost of Tk 65 crore has begun at Sonargaon, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader said this while he was presiding over a meeting of the Folk, Arts and Crafts Foundation at Sonargaon yesterday.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced that an 'art village' centering the Sonargaon Folk Art Museum will be set up to uphold the cultural heritage of Bangla.

#### Cocktail hurled at brothel: 3 hurt By Staff Correspondent

At least three persons were injured when a gang hurled cocktails at a brothel at English Road in the old part of the city vesterday afternoon. Anwara Begum, Hasina Be-

gum and Biru Miah who sustained injuries from the splinters of cocktails were taken to a hospital at about 3:30 pm, police said. The gang of about four

unidentified people exploded the cocktails reportedly after an altercation with some sex workers in the Kandupatti brothel.

#### 25 injured in N'ganj clash From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, May 3: At least 25 people were injured in a clash between two groups of terrorists at Fatullah this evening.

The rival groups exchanged at least 15 gun shots and exploded more than 50 bombs during the half an hour clash at Dapa Idrakpur of Fatullah, police and witnesses said.

#### Ten killed From Page 1

Abdullah, 25, Ruposhi, 17, Fulbanu, 18, and Tazu, 30, Police seized both the vehi-

cles but the drivers escaped. In another accident, two children and their uncle were killed and their mother was injured seriously in Tarabo area near Kanchpur bridge at about 8:30 am when a Dhakabound bus knocked an autorickshaw in which they were travelling. They were identified as Sumi, 8, and Abul Hossain, 50. Monwara Begum 30 was admitted to orthopaedic hospi-

নতুন দিগত্তে...

# Metropolitan courts

From Page 1

According to the draft pro-posal prepared by the ministry, the trial of criminal cases by the judges of the sessions court of the Dhaka Sessions division is "probably not being con-ducted as per law" after the amended provision of the sections 7(4) and 9(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), became effective on August 10 in\*

The provision for setting up of Metropolitan Court of Sessions (MCS) was made as early as 1976, to be effective from 1979, under the same law which provided for creation of metropolitan magistracy and metropolitan police.

Earlier, it was reported quoting officials of the Ministry of Law that the provision for creating MCS was however, not complied with for over last 16 years for reasons best known to the authorities.

"The mandatory provision for creating the MCS has so far been ignored," observed the proposal of the ministry. "Unless the MCS is made an inseparable part of the metropolitan area, the dispensation of criminal justice and improvement of law and order cannot attain expected improvement."

Kazi Habibul Awal, secretary of the Law Commission, while explaining the legal position said, "Under the Section 9 of the CrPC, it is mandatory for the government to set up a Metropolitan Court of Sessions for the metropolitan area."

Other big cities in the region like Calcutta, Karachi and Mumbai have also set up separate courts in their respective metropolitan areas for administering criminal justice, he

Meanwhile, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, while inaugurating the second judicial administration training course for judges here yesterday, disclosed that the government is actively considering setting up of separate MCS in the two cities, reports UNB.

He said the MCS, which will be in addition to the existing district session courts, is required to maintain law and order to cope with the ever-increasing population in metropolitan cities, particularly capital Dhaka, which will grow to a megacity by the year 2010.

## Pressure mounting on DSE

From Page 1

board.

The sources said they discussed a formula providing for resignation of the four members, who included those who had been accused in the scam case, when the board meets on Monday. Later, the other five would

resign after new members were coopted to convene an extraordinary general meeting which would elect a new board of the DSE. A proposal is also under consideration to expand the board, raising its membership to 18, including six nominated by the government, the sources said. The constitution of the DSE is also likely to be changed, if their formula is accepted, they added.

Enayetur Rahman, a mem ber of the DSE, has convened a meeting at a city hotel near the bourse this evening. He enjoys the backing of a number of DSE members who feel time has come to shake up the DSE totally, not only to shuffle its board but also to polish its im-

that would like to convene an

extra ordinary general meeting

of the bourse members to re-

place the bickering leadership.

They had been making such ef-

forts in the wake of the scam

They have formed a ninemember convening committee

surfacing after an independent probe committee carried an investigation into the market during a bull run last year.

Meanwhile, the kerb market traders staged demonstration yesterday. The market recovered a little

in the past few days, maintain-

ing the upward trend yesterday as buyers rushed to reap the harvest following the declining share prices that touched even the blue chips, some of which turned grey points, when trading closed de-

It rose by another 20.59 spite massive power failure in the early afternoon at 978.07 points from the previous closure at 957.48 on Wednesday. The All Share Price Index in Chittagong Stock Exchange, however, fell slightly.

#### 2 extortionists arrested

Police arrested two alleged extortionists from Tongi bus stand vesterday, reports BSS.

The arrested are Mostaque Chowdhury and Jahangir Hos-Police said they are the ring leaders of an organised gang and collected illegal tolls from

the capital city and Gazipur dis-

অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকান্ডে বিএসআরএস এবার

- শিল্পায়নে বলিষ্ঠ অবদান রাখার পাশাপাশি অদ্য ০৪ঠা মে,১৯৯৭ থেকে বিএসআরএস তরু করছে বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকের জগতে প্রত্যয় দীপ্ত অভিযাত্রা।
- অদ্য ৪ঠা মে, ১৯৯৭ রোজ রোববার কর্মব্যস্ত মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকার (৫৬-৫৭) শরীফ ম্যানশনে উদ্বোধন হচ্ছে সংস্থার বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকের প্রথম শাখা। অদূর ভবিষ্যতে চট্টগ্রামে সংস্থার বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকের শাখা খোলা হবে।

একবিংশ শতাব্দীর যাবতীয় ব্যাংকিং চাহিদা পূরণে নিবেদিত আমাদের সকল প্রয়াস।

> मीर्घर्भग्रामी शिल्ल अन श्रमान মার্চেন্ট ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম

বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকিং কর্মকান্ড সব্মিলে দেশের অর্থনীতিতে বিএসআরএস এখন নতুন প্রাণের সঞ্চারে অঙ্গীকারাবদ।



# वाश्लापम चिन्ध्र अप प्रश्रु

অর্থনৈতিক অহাগতির বিশ্বত সোপান

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