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'No electricity, so no fuel supply,' an employee signalling at a filling station in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## 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 "understanding" 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 yesterday.

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 hydrocarbon reserves in Bangladesh.

The sources said Cairn first made the announcement about the agreement in the London Stock Exchange as a requirement.

## Why Labour won

From Page 1

are more pro-Europe than anti-Europe. The significant support for the Liberal Democrats points to the same. The wipe-out of the Tories suggest that common voters are not as insular or insecure as Tory right-wingers. 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 for it.

## 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. I think a pre-budget meeting would result in a much acceptable 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.

## People have lost confidence in govt: Mannan Bhuiyan

From Page 1

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has underscored the need for pursuing "right politics" by his party and strengthening it at the grassroots level to stand by the people "now distressed by the present government's anti-people activities."

He was addressing the newly-elected office-bearers of BNP's Barguna unit who met him at the party's Purana Palatan central office in the city yesterday evening.

Mannan Bhuiyan said, "Our 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."

He reiterated his party's allegations against the government that it was conspiring to jeopardise the national sovereignty and independence, repressing the opposition political activists and politicising the administration. "The AL is back with its former characteristics... There had been no change in its nature," he added.

## India score 199 for 7

From Page 1

A fluent half-century by Ajay Jadeja helped India score 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 said.

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 allegations, 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 petitioners, the court stayed all proceedings of the cases.

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

## 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 E.

A hilsa carrying eggs is less nutritious than the one with no eggs. The eggs absorb most of the nutrients and also weaken the fish's muscles.

## PM seeks continued Chinese assistance

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 friendship 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 Institute of Foreign Affairs, who called on her at Ganobhaban in the evening.

Qing, who is leading a five-member 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 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to China in 1953 and 1957 and that of premier Chou En Lai to erstwhile East Pakistan in 1956.

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

## Ershad

From Page 1

request."

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

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 said.

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.

## Journalist Nazimuddin Manik dead

From Page 1

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

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

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-e-janaza was held at a mosque at Mohammadpur and the second one at the Jatiya Press Club premises.

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 4 pm.

Born at Shyampur in Sudhampur 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 Poygam, Purbadesh and Ganakantha. Manik, who had been freelancer in last few years, was the Dhaka correspondent for a newspaper in Japan.

Leaders of BPUJ 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 Rezauddin 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 club.

A condolence meeting and *milad mahfil* will be held at 11 am on Monday at the Jatiya Press Club. His qukhwari 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 Shantibahini 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 Shantibahinim attacked the outposts.

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 weapons.

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 spot.

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 Shantuo Lama, 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 apprehending more attacks as the group failed to gain any achievement from this late-night attack.

Brig Selim said the BDR jawans who fought back the tribal insurgents with age-old arms should be rewarded.

## Work for setting up 'art village' in Sonargaon begins

From Page 1

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 Obaudul 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

From Page 1

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 yesterday afternoon.

Anwara Begum, Hasina Begum 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 Kandupati brothel.

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## Metropolitan courts

From Page 1

the next fiscal.

According to the draft proposal 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 conducted 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 1979.

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 added.

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 member 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 image.

They have formed a nine-member convening committee that would like to convene an extraordinary general meeting of the bourse members to replace the bickering leadership. They had been making such efforts in the wake of the scam

## 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 Tazi, 30.

Police seized both the vehicles 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 Dhaka-bound bus knocked an auto-rickshaw in which they were travelling. They were identified as Sumi, 8, and Abul Hossain, 50. Monwara Begum 30 was admitted to orthopaedic hospital.

**অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে বিএসআরএস এবার নতুন দিগন্তে...**

- \* শিল্পায়নে বলিষ্ঠ অবদান রাখার পাশাপাশি অদ্য ০৪ঠা মে, ১৯৯৭ থেকে বিএসআরএস শুরু 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।
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