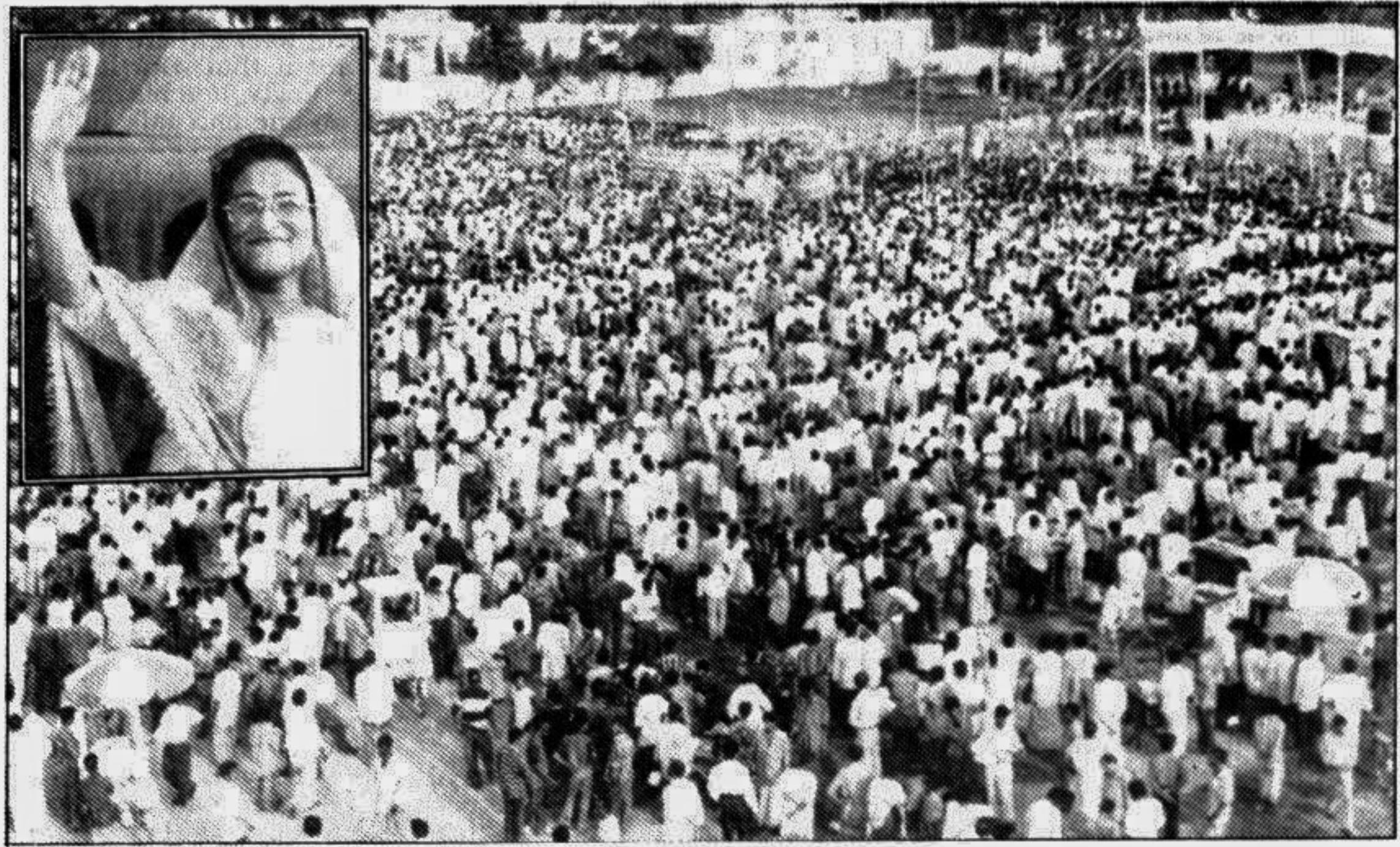


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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (inset) addressing a Jatiya Sramik League May Day rally in the city on Friday.

PM urges BNP to shun path of terrorism

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday called upon opposition BNP to 'shun the path of terrorism and violence' and work for the interest of the people, reports UNB.

The BNP has become mad after losing power and resorted to terrorism and killing to create unrest in the country," she said while addressing a rally at the Paltan Maidan in the afternoon.

Jatiya Sramik League, the labour front of the ruling Awami League, organised the rally on the occasion of historic May Day.

The rally was also addressed by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Awami League leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Abdul Jalil, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Labour Minister MA Mannan, State Minister for LGRD Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Dr Mostala Jalal Mohiuddin, Abdul Manan and Sramik League leaders Fazlul Huq Montu, Shahjahan Khan MP and Habibur Rahman Akhund, Sramik League President Abdus Salam Khan presided.

The Prime Minister said when BNP was in power it had killed innocent people, including workers and farmers. It has again resorted to killing and terrorism to take revenge against the people, she alleged.

She said the BNP is unleashing terrorism everywhere, even in Parliament and in educational institutions, including the Dhaka University."

But the people want peace and stability and the present government is striving hard to restore peace everywhere, Hasina said.

"We also want to ensure peace on the campuses... if needed, we'll ban the student politics."

Referring to the BNP's rowdyism in Parliament, Hasina said when the ruling party was striving to make parliament the centre of all activities, the BNP MPs, led by Deputy Leader of the Opposition and former Speaker, attacked the Speaker and damaged public property.

Gayoom leaves

From Page 1

said that sub-regional cooperation within SAARC was agreed upon at the Male summit. It was agreed upon that such cooperation might be useful and added that the Maldives welcomes such initiatives.

BSS adds: Referring to his discussions with Bangladesh leaders on bilateral issues, he said the two countries who share many commonalities decided to enhance further cooperation for mutual benefit.

Responding to a question, he said, "once SAFTA comes into effect by 2001 we will have free access to each other's market and there would be more commercial trans on leading to greater prosperity."

Earlier, President Shabuddin Ahmed spoke of the excellent relations Bangladesh maintains with the Maldives. He said, "the Maldives very soon after the country became an independent state."

Nari Samaj

From Page 1

women and children.

Nari Samaj, a forum of women organisations, in a press release yesterday said that it would organise street rallies and hoist black flags at places where incidents of repression took place.

Expressing deep concern at the increasing incidents of repression on women and children in the country, Nari Samaj said its programme would be launched in the Jatiya Press Club at 11 this morning.

Occidental

From Page 1

A final decision regarding the package of compensation is scheduled to be taken at a meeting in Dhaka between officials of Occidental and NTC on Sunday, the official added.

Meanwhile, the workers of the Malnichara Tea Estate, also located near the gas well and owned by private company, resumed their work today after a three-day work abstention following Tuesday's gas leakage.

Officials of Malnichara said that they will finalise the compensation claims within a day.

Occidental officials at the well site refused to comment on the compensation issue saying that the authorities in Dhaka will look into the matter.

Meanwhile, the flaring of gas continued for the third day today. It is likely to continue for another few days till the well is balanced and the leaked gas is purged, sources said.

JCD activists

From Page 1

and classes were being held though the attendance of students was thin.

The Vice Chancellor, meanwhile, met the leaders of some student organisations active on the DU campus over last two days.

A meeting of the Vice Chancellor with BCL leaders was in progress till 9.30 last night.

Tremor

From Page 1

was 572 km north off Calcutta, they said.

Reports from Itanagar said the Arunachal Pradesh capital and its neighbouring areas were rocked for five to seven seconds, while the duration of tremor in several areas in Manipur was four seconds.

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

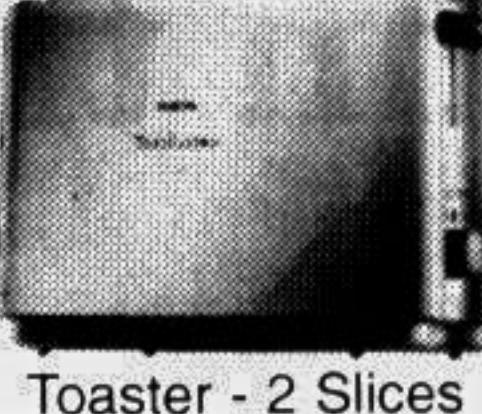
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The World on Time

Bills to be placed today

From Page 1
bills, seeking to implement the CHT peace agreement.

The parliamentary party of the ruling Awami League is due to meet at the Sangsad Bhaban at 9 am today, to decide on its strategy to face the Opposition on the CHT bills. Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will chair the meeting.

Talking to The Daily Star, Rahmat Ali, Chairman of the Sangsad Special Committee that scrutinised the CHT bills, hoped that the lawmakers would concentrate on the legal aspects of the bills instead of trading political rhetorics.

The Opposition BNP and Jatiya Party had already given their notes of dissent on the RC bill saying it contradicts with certain constitutional points.

However, the special committee report on the CHT district council bills did not contain BNP's note of dissent saying the note was not received on time. Both the reports were placed in the House on Wednesday.

Besides, the Secretariat also received some notices from the AL lawmakers who want to counter the Opposition proposals on the bills.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia met some of

her top aides in the party at her Minto Road official residence last night to discuss the party's strategy on the CHT bills.

BNP lawmaker MK Anwar told The Daily Star last night that his party would participate in the process of passing the CHT bills. "But we hope, good sense will prevail upon the government to accept at least some of our amendments", he added.

A meeting of the JP parliamentary party yesterday decided to be vocal in the House for the amendments the party has proposed on the RC bill.

Meanwhile, the Opposition lawmakers have submitted a large number of notices to the Sangsad Secretariat, suggesting amendments to the CHT bills, eliciting public opinion on those and sending those to the select committee. The Secretariat is now working round-the-clock to sort out the notices and is trying to reduce their number by bringing similar notices under a single head, the sources said.

Besides, the Secretariat also received some notices from the AL lawmakers who want to counter the Opposition proposals on the bills.

Silent procession in city

From Page 1

Dhanmondi Tutorial, South Breeze, Mastermind, Green Herald and several other schools. Nilufar Manzur, Principal of Sunbeams School, Zeenat Chowdhury, Principal of South Breeze and Nafid Alam of Dhanmondi Tutorial.

The explosions took place at 11 am while they were making crude bombs, police said.

The explosion left three youths injured and of them Pradip died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

A meeting of the Awami League's Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held at 9 am today at the Sangsad Bhaban, reports BSS.

Jabbar Khan's daughter found dead in her Uttara flat

By Staff Correspondent

A daughter of former Speaker late Abdul Jabbar Khan was found dead inside her flat at Uttara in the city on Friday.

Police identified the dead as Sabera Sultana, 44. Her body was found partially decomposed inside her bedroom.

It could not be known immediately how Sabera died. Police said they were waiting for the autopsy report.

Quoting her neighbours and relatives, police said she had been suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure. She died two or three days before the recovery of her body, police thought.

Sabera lived alone as a tenant at the third floor flat of a three-storey building at Section-3 in Uttara.

Her neighbours informed police yesterday morning that a small smell was coming from inside the flat. Police broke open the door of the flat and found her body lying on the floor in her bedroom.

Sabera's body was handed over to her relatives, after the autopsy at Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue yesterday.

Police said they will file an unnatural death case with Uttara police.

Sabera was laid to rest at the Banani Graveyard after namaz-e-Janaza at Gulshan Central Mosque after Zohr prayers yesterday.

Her Qulhwani will be held at her Uttara residence at road no 113, House No 22 after Asr prayers Tuesday.

Police said they will finalise the compensation claims within a day.

Occidental officials at the well site refused to comment on the compensation issue saying that the authorities in Dhaka will look into the matter.

Meanwhile, the flaring of gas continued for the third day today. It is likely to continue for another few days till the well is balanced and the leaked gas is purged, sources said.

Garments

From Page 1

turers Saiful Islam, Anisul Huq, Ozair Abdullah, jute sector leader Shahadat Hossain and representatives of ILO and UNICEF took part in the round table.

Political stability came up as the second most important condition for the survival and growth of the garment sector.

Global Sobhan Chowdhury initiating the discussion on the point said political stability must be maintained not for the continuity of the present government but it is essential for the future governance of the state to bring about continued economic prosperity. Political instability affects all endeavours for national development, the speakers opined.

Quddus said, "It is unfortunate that the manufacturers are being held hostage by the bankers." Despite meeting a lot of unjust demands of the bank officials, the manufacturers cannot escape harassments, he alleged.

Anisul Huq, a leading manufacturer, said the government has not yet taken effective measures to establish backward linkage industries and develop textile industries to cope with the coming realities the garment sector will have to face after phasing out of the multi-fibre agreement by 2005. It will be mandatory for Bangladesh, a signatory to GATT and WTO, to use locally made fabrics for its garment export.

On Friday, several activists of the group stormed into Husain's apartment in this western metropolis, after a local newspaper reported that a 20-year-old painting, 'Rescued Sita', was again displayed at an exhibition in another city.

CID sources said Shahid had good relationship with Mokbul, a carpenter at the house. Investigators interrogated Mokbul but did not get any useful information from him.

Meanwhile, a CID team led by an Inspector is likely to visit Shahid's village, Bhanga Durgapur in Mokbulganj district today or tomorrow. The team will collect information about Shahid's family, background and other details.

CID was also examining whether more than one sharp weapon was used in killing her. Police have so far recovered one knife, the edge of which was about five inches.

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CID officials said they may visit Chittagong and Mymensingh for investigation.

Meanwhile, the materials seized by Dhaka Metropolitan Police from Shahid's room as evidence were handed over to the CID.

The hotel owner and the staff told CID they could not imagine that Shahid was a fugitive alleged killer.

CID officials said they may visit Chittagong and Mymensingh for investigation.

Meanwhile, the materials seized by Dhaka Metropolitan Police from Shahid's room as evidence were handed over to the CID.

BOMBAY, May 2: Members of a radical Hindu group faced charges of trespass before a local court today after they ransacked the house of a Muslim painter to protest his depiction of a Hindu goddess, reports AP.

Maqbool Fida Hussain, India's most famous painter, has been the target of several attacks over years by members of the right-wing Bajrang Dal Party, which enforces its brand of Hindu culture at music concerts, art exhibitions and cultural performances.

On Friday, several activists of the group stormed into Husain's apartment in this western metropolis, after a local newspaper reported that a 20-year-old painting, 'Rescued Sita', was again displayed at an exhibition in another city.

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