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Hasina tells Buddhist leaders Certain quarters want war-like situation to continue in CHT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said there is no example in the world that anyone resorts to movement against peace and wants unrest instead, reports UNB.

"Those staging demonstration against the peace accord on Chittagong Hill Tracts do not want peace and stability," she told the delegation leaders of the Buddhist community who called on her at Ganobhaban.

"We want to establish peace in every sphere of life, we want peace everywhere," Hasina said, calling upon the Buddhist leaders to continue their struggle for establishing peace.

Leaders of Bangladesh Buddhist Federation, National Buddhist Youth Federation, Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha and Youngmen's Buddhist Federation met the Prime Minister on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.

The Buddhist leaders hailed the CHT peace accord and applauded the Prime Minister for her arduous effort for establishing peace.

The Prime Minister said certain quarters are demonstrating against the peace accord as they don't want peace. They want unrest; they want that a war-like situation continues in the hill region.

"It's a peculiar demand of the opposition that the peace agreement will have to be scrapped," she added.

Hasina said it was expected from the opposition that they will support the peace accord. And they could have pointed out any inconsistency for rectification.

She said that instead of co-operating with the government, the main opposition had served nearly 5,000 amendment notices, an unprecedented event in the parliamentary history of the world.

Nonetheless, the Prime Minister said, the Speaker worked out a plan to allow maximum number of opposition members to take part in the discussion.

"And we were ready to accept their amendment proposals if found acceptable," she said. "But they walked out of Parliament."

Hasina said peace has been established in the hill tracts and now the development works will start in the region which remained neglected for long two decades.

She said Buddha throughout his life preached the message of peace and also worked to establish peace.

Buddhism is the religion of peace and amity, the Prime Minister said and called upon the Buddhist leaders to work unitedly for peace.

She said, "The present government believes in non-communal politics... people of all faiths are getting equal treatment from this government."

Buddhist community leaders, including Dr Sukomol Barua, ML Barua, Dr Barua Chowdhury, Kishore Kumar Barua, Dr Pranab Kumar Barua, Srmat Dharmarajit Mohathero, Bhikkhu Shilbhada and Kalyan Mitra Barua also spoke on the occasion.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma and Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah were present.



Bangladesh Bouddha Samity and Parbattya Bouddha Sangha brought out a peace procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of Buddha Purnima. — PID photo

Bank under pressure

From Page 1

to provide working capital. The loss and the interest accumulated due to the closure of the factory. We have sent a letter to the bank in this regard," the MD said. However, the bank authorities have rejected the allegation of the MD and said they had never closed the factory.

"Why should we stop a factory?" said a source in the bank. "It was none of our business. Orion had defaulted and its limits with the bank expired. They could not run the factory because of their own fault."

But documents obtained by The Daily Star contradict Obaidul Karim's claims. The documents show that the company's three loan limits expired on December 30, 1995. The bank's board then formed a committee on November 27, 1996 and it submitted a report which suggested that in addition to previous securities against Tk 27 crore loan, a further security of Orion Lab building worth Tk 6.10 crore and share certificates worth Tk 50 lakh have to be securitised with the bank.

After discussion, the bank extended two loan limits till May 31, 1998 and another loan limit till February 28, 1998 provided these preconditions are met. The additional interest of Tk 4.29 crore accrued as default on loan limit was allowed to be adjusted in 12 quarterly instalments with the condition that the company makes a down payment of Tk four crore by December 1997.

Orion did not comply with any of these conditions and instead is using political leverage to strengthen things.

Allegations against Orion Infusion run high. It is already facing punitive actions from the Dhak Stock Exchange (DSE) and its regulator Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

SEC has slapped a Tk 10,000

per day fine on Orion Infusion since August, 1997, for not paying declared dividends to shareholders. Orion Infusion has not paid this fine even after eight months and the fine has accumulated to over Tk 16 lakh. Now, Orion is again lobbying to wriggle out of SEC's clamp down.

On the other hand, DSE has suspended trading of Orion Infusion's shares since February and the company has not taken any initiative to lift the ban. As a result of Orion's management practice, general shareholders are suffering as they have suddenly found that their share certificates have turned into useless pieces of paper.

Penal action against Orion by the stock market watchdog is not new. It is learnt that the company was fined earlier in 1994 for misrepresenting facts when it went public.

But this is only the tip of the iceberg. There are much graver allegations against Orion Infusion. The management allegedly manipulated its annual reports, gave false statistics and information. Its share market operation smacks of manipulation.

Extortionists

From Page 1

Ali, father of two children, told this correspondent that he bought the single-storey house on a three katha land near Noorcherla bazaar from one Nirmol Barua. He added that their joint family inherited another house in the area where they have been living for more than three decades.

"After completion of registration of the house Sunday afternoon, we were chatting in the house when Aynal, a middle-aged man of the locality, came at about 4.30 pm."

"It is a practice to pay toll if anybody buys land in the locality. So you will have to pay Tk one lakh as toll," Aynal told me," Ali said.

Being refused, "Aynal threatened 'We will see you,'" Ali said.

About 30 minutes, a gang came in two minibuses and a car. About 15 of them got into the house, said Ali.

"They did not say anything at the time. They just started beating us with hockey sticks and stabbing indiscriminately," said Ali's brother, Noor.

"They left after about 15 minutes, threatening us with death if we lodge any case with police," Ali said.

Hearing screams, local people rushed to the scene and took them to the DMCH, they said.

Some members of the gang were seen moving freely in Noorcherla area and tension was prevailing there, local people told this correspondent last night.

However, police could not arrest anyone in connection with the incident till yesterday.

Baby murdered

From Page 1

Liton, son of the landlord, Jahangir, took Shahin from Ruma and since then, he was missing, police said quoting from the FIR.

Returning home, Jahangir asked her landlord about her baby. Jahangir threatened her and later said that Shahin might have fallen into the water, the mother alleged in the FIR.

The body of the baby was later recovered from the water by the local people Sunday afternoon.

Liton and Jahangir are absconding since the incident. Police arrested Suraya Begum, Liton's mother, in this connection.

The body was handed over to Shahin's family yesterday after autopsy at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue.

Clinton asks Albright to meet Netanyahu to explore next moves

WASHINGTON, May 11: Expressing regret over the collapse of plans for a Middle East peace summit, President Bill Clinton directed today Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington this week to explore the next moves, reports AP.

Clinton said the objective of the talks would be "to seek to overcome the remaining differences so that we can proceed immediately with accelerated, permanent status talks."

Netanyahu rejected US terms for a peace conference beginning today but will be in the United States this week on a speech-making trip. Clinton said Albright will report to him, after talking with Netanyahu, whether there is any basis for launching a peace conference in Washington.

2 gangraped

From Page 1

named Nasima who took the girl to her house in Mirpur Section-2.

Nasima forcibly locked the victim with one Shahjahan in a room on Thursday at about 3 pm. Then Shahjahan violated her inside the locked room, police added.

Since then Nasima confined the victim inside the house. On Saturday, Afzal and another unidentified person got inside her room at about 12 pm.

Nasima again locked the door from outside and both the persons raped her repeatedly, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, Mirpur police rescued the girl from the house Sunday and arrested Shahjahan, Afzal and Nasima.

Police yesterday produced the three arrested persons before the CMM's court praying for a 7-day remand.

In another incident, a 16-year-old girl was raped inside a furniture shop on Mazar Road in Mirpur on Saturday.

Nuru, a hoodlum of the locality, entered into her hut after breaking open its fence at the Badsah Mia slum at about 1 am. Wielding knife, Nuru abducted her to a nearby furniture shop, police quoting the victim said.

Nuru also with one Sohail allegedly raped her inside the shop. Nuru and Sohail have been absconding since the incident, police added.

According to police, victims of both the incidents were taken into safe custody. They are likely to be sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for medical examination today.

Two cases were filed with Mirpur thana under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 1995.

Germany Minister was not informed by DG

From Page 1

tion after having been denied a visa or asylum.

Erdmann refused to name all the countries involved, but he confirmed some of those listed in a report today by the Bild newspaper: Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Gambia, Sudan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

He also declined to say how many people awaiting deportation were affected by the refusal of their homeland to accept them, or to say how much aid money potentially could be affected.

The government's own development minister, Carl-Dieter Spranger, said he hadn't been consulted and didn't think such a tactic would work. Aid should be withheld only as a last resort, he said.

Opposition lawmaker Adelheid Troesch said cutting aid would only worsen conditions in such countries, leading to more refugees arriving in Germany.

Donors hold review meet today

From Page 1

enabling environment for empowering the extreme poor through a grand alliance of all stakeholders, namely government donors, NGOs, the civil society and local communities.

As part of necessary interventions required to reduce poverty, the donors suggested identifying the institutions, NGOs and development partners which have successfully reached the poorest.

"The government as well as the development partners may ensure higher priority to such institutions through allocations and support in capacity building."

The donors also said partially monetised food-assisted interventions are essential for addressing short-term survival needs for the extreme poor and for helping them graduate to a level where they can access both micro-finance opportunities and public service such as health and education.

The donors also feel that collaboration between the government and NGOs should be strengthened to expand non-

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Hunger strike

From Page 1

tion parties and different professional bodies for the programme.

Earlier, BNP lawmakers had staged a stormy walkout from the Jatiya Sangsad protesting the Speaker's decision limiting discussion on the CHT bills on May 3. Since then, they have not returned to the House.

The current session of the sangsad is likely to be prolonged today.

Meanwhile, the BNP went for a half-day hartal across the country protesting the CHT agreement and met the President to seek his intervention for making the Sangsad effective.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka city unit of BNP yesterday brought out processions from different wards expressing support for today's hunger strike by the party MPs, reports UNB.

The BNP city unit held more than one hundred wayside rallies in different parts and distributed pamphlets about the hunger strike.

JS session

From Page 1

sion, party sources said.

The BNP lawmakers will stage a day-long hunger strike at Paltan Maidan to press for scrapping of the "anti-Constitution, anti-sovereignty" CHT accord and related bills passed by the House last week.

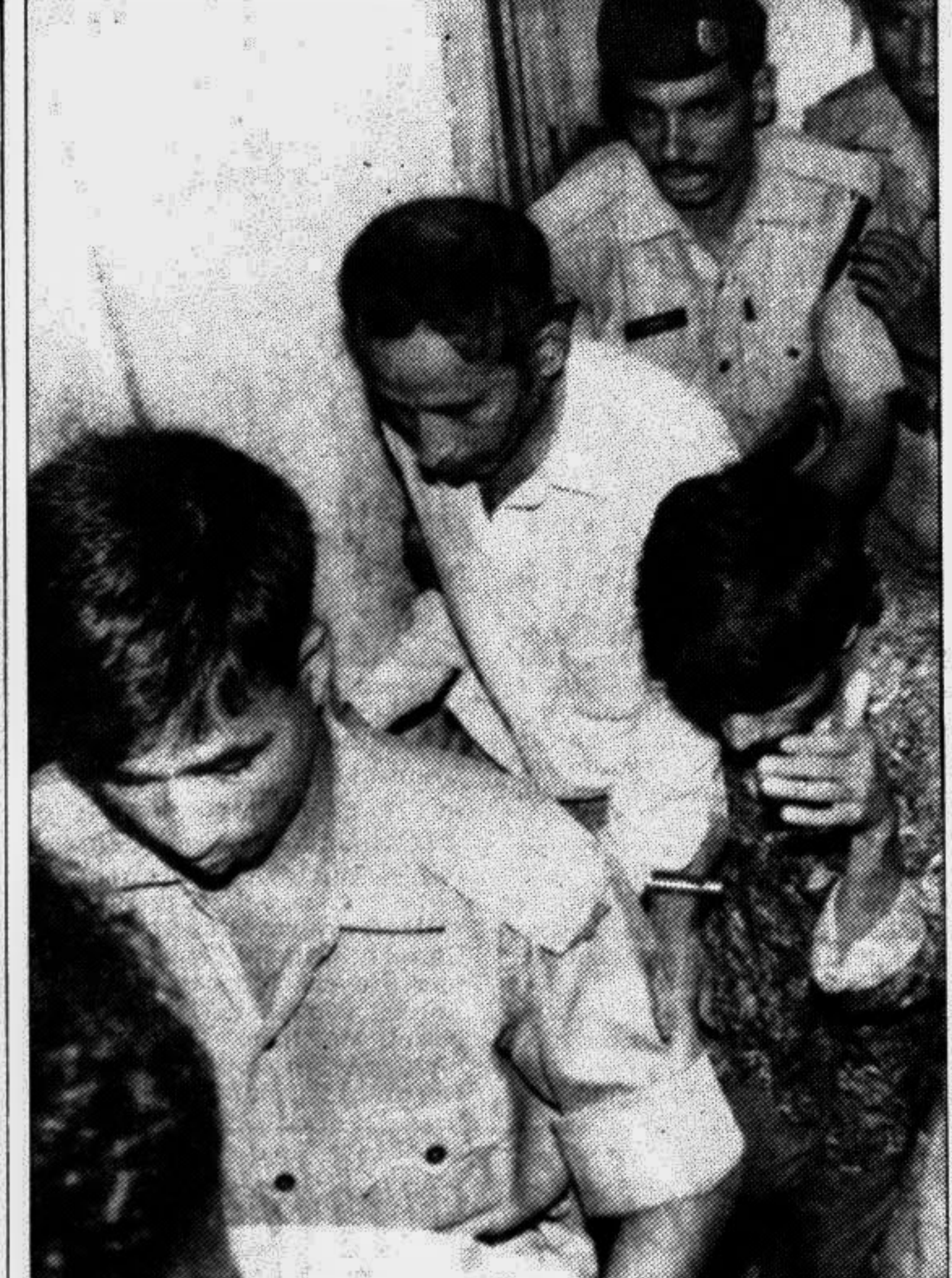
"How can we join the House by breaking the hunger strike?" BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said. He could not say whether the BNP MPs will return if the session is dragged on till Wednesday.

Till today, we have not taken any decision," Bhuiyan said.

BNP also did not attend the meeting of the JS Business Advisory Committee headed by the Speaker.

What's the use of attending such a meeting after the passage of the CHT bills," BNP leader M K Anwar said.

He said the Speaker could have convened the advisory committee meeting or discuss with the two Chief Whips before giving his ruling "disallowing" the opposition to discuss the CHT bills.



Two of the arrested in connection with the Shazneen murder being produced in the CMM's court yesterday. — Star photo

India conducts N-tests

From Page 1

It says they are discriminatory because they allow a few countries to hold and refine nuclear arms indefinitely with no commitment to disarm, while forcing all others to relinquish nuclear weapons.

The nuclear tests follow a spat of controversial comments by defence minister George Fernandes on the military threat posed by China.

India and China fought a brief border war in 1962, two years before Beijing held its first nuclear test. Many Indian analysts say China's decision to go nuclear spurred New Delhi's test a decade later.

Fernandes also reacted sharply last month to an announcement by Pakistan, which has been to war with India three times, that it had test-flown a long-range missile.

He accused Beijing, which has long enjoyed a close military relationship with Islamabad, of supplying Pakistan with the missile technology. Pakistan says it is capable of producing nuclear weapons but has never conducted a test.

Indian experts gave the tests a rapturous welcome.

"It's wonderful. I am hearing the news just now and I'm speechless," said Raja Ramanna, former defence minister and former head of India's Atomic Energy Commission.

But Islamabad lashed out at New Delhi, accusing it of sucking Pakistan into a "nuclear arms race."

Foreign minister Gohar Ayub Khan said that the country's defences would be made impregnable after India's trio of nuclear tests.

Quoting Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who is abroad, he said: "the prime minister assures the people of Pakistan that Pakistan's defence will be made impregnable against an Indian threat, be it nuclear or conventional."

"I condemn this very strongly and the international community and world must condemn this very strongly and put sanctions against India," he later told Reuters Television in an interview.

The foreign minister stopped short of saying that Pakistan would conduct a nuclear test of its own, but said "Pakistan reserves the right to take all appropriate measures for its security."

Sharif has been under pressure from right wing Islamic parties to declare Pakistan a nuclear state.

Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the architect of Pakistan's nuclear programme, told The AP in an interview last week that Pakistan could quickly assemble a nuclear bomb.

"If Pakistan wanted to do something it could do it much quicker than most people think," he said. "We don't make nuclear weapons, but the capability is there."

In the evening on the same day, Mozammel filed a case with Tejaon thana saying that his pistol was stolen.

Following the case, police arrested the woman on Sunday and recovered the pistol from the residence of her mother at Dhanua under Demra thana.

After preliminary interrogation police came to know about the incident and the woman then filed a case against Mozammel with Tejaon thana on Sunday.

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৯৬/৯৭ নিউ ইন্সটন রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০

Businessman
From Page 1
The woman somehow saved herself and took away Mozammel's licensed pistol while escaping from the room, police added.
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Shazneen murder

From Page 1

who were involved in renovation work at Latifur Rahman's residence, were produced before the magistrate after their lawyers moved a petition in this regard.

Meanwhile, a CID team was investigating the background and other details about Parvin and Minu at their village home at Bormi under Sreepur thana in Gazipur district.

Two maids at Rahman's Gulshan residence, Parvin and her cousin Minu had confessed on April 25 before the magistrate that they were witnesses to the Shazneen murder.

Two arrested in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 11: Khulna thana police today arrested Atiquzzaman Belal, 30, joint convenor of the city unit of Jatiyatabadi Sheechashehak Dal from his house here.

Police said Belal had made an attempt on the life of BNP district convenor and Ward Commissioner Shaiful Alam Mona.

In March last, Belal allegedly fired gunshots at Mona.

In another development, Khalishpur thana police on Saturday night arrested Motaleb Shaikh, 30, the main accused in the murder case of BNP leader and KCC Commissioner, Ikhtiaruddin Bablu.

First artificial heart ready to be implanted

LONDON, May 11: The world's first thumb-sized artificial heart is to be implanted in a human patient by British surgeons, the Sunday Times reported Sunday, says Xinhua.

The titanium mini-heart, developed in America, is the first of a new generation of implantable artificial hearts which may offer an alternative to scarce human organs in transplants, the newspaper said.

The powerful miniature electric heart is capable of pumping eight pints of blood a minute.

Benazir

From Page 1

Lawyers said that if Benazir is found guilty she could be sentenced to seven years in jail. She could also lose her seat in parliament if convicted.

The court order means Benazir could be arrested immediately upon her landing at the airport, they said.

Benazir's counsel Rabbani said he would move a petition seeking a court order to the authorities not to detain Benazir on her return to Pakistan.

AP says: The court also ordered her passport confiscated.

Benazir's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has been in jail since his wife's government was dismissed. Zardari, who often is blamed for his wife's downfall, has been charged with murder in connection with the shooting death of Benazir's estranged brother, Murtaza.