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Advertisement for Philips electronics featuring a vacuum cleaner and a lamp. Text: 'Ideal gift for any occasion. Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 7,500'.

JP council held Ershad, Naziur reelected

Jatiya Party elected a 24-member new presidium at its second council held at the Engineers' Institution in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

HM Ershad, who has been the party chief since its formation, was re-elected as Chairman while Naziur Rahman Manjur as Secretary General for a two-year term.

Other members of the presidium include: Begum Rawshan Ershad MP, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Barister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Dr M A Matin, Sunil Gupta, Maj Gen (ret'd) M Shamsul Huq, Nazir Rahman Manjur, M A Sattar, Rajia Fayez, Dr TIM Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury MP, Col (ret'd) Zafar Imam, ABM Golam Mostafa, Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury, Maj Gen (ret'd) Kazi Golam Dastagir, Advocate Khandaker Mahbob Hossain, ABM Shahjahan, ABM Ruhul Amin, Hawa Kader, Kazi Firoz Rashid, GM Quader MP, Col (ret'd) HMA Gaffar, Advocate Fazle Rabbi MP, Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar and Zahangir Mohammad Adel.

Earlier, Kazi Zafar Ahmed proposed names of HM Ershad as Chairman and Naziur Rahman Manjur as Secretary General and 24 presidium members. As there was no alternative proposal, they were elected unopposed, said a party press release.

Ctg BNP holds rallies in support of today's hartal

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 17: Chittagong City and North District units of BNP and their front organisations held rallies and brought out processions here today in support of tomorrow's countrywide hartal called by BNP-led alliance.

The hartal has been called to protest deterioration of law and order, water and power crises and price hike of essentials. City BNP and its front organisations held a rally at Laldighi Crossing, presided over by Ctg City BNP president Mir Md Nasir Uddin, the speakers called upon the people to make the hartal a success. The rally was followed by a torch procession which paraded different city streets.

Ctg North District unit of BNP held a rally at Kazi Dewey Crossing with its president Golam Akber Khondoker in the chair, while City unit of Jamaat-e-Islami held a rally at Andorkilla Crossing. Both the rallies were followed by processions.

Hartal

From page 1

mass upsurge if it does not step down soon". Ghuliyar alleged that the government failed to increase power generation by a single megawatt in last three years.

He urged the party workers to launch a vigorous movement ignoring all threats and warned the government that it will have to bear the responsibility if it resorts to repression during today's hartal.

The city unit of Jatiya Party brought out a torch procession from the Mukhtangan. Jamaat held a rally at the Purana Paltan crossing and IJO on the premises of Purana Paltan mosque. Both the parties brought out separate processions.

New programme

From page 1

lam MP, a BNP representative on the liaison committee, told The Daily Star last night. Meantime, the government had deployed troops at WASA pump houses in Dhaka and Chittagong to help the administration ease the persistent crisis in supplying water in the two major cities. The move came after a mob attack on a water pump in the capital where people are regularly agitating against shortages.

Addressing a public meeting in the city yesterday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina acknowledged public sufferings due to the persisting power-water crisis and sought people's cooperation to overcome the problem.

Today's hartal is also designed to protest the water-power crisis, deteriorating law and order situation and price-hike of essentials.



Residents of Simpson Road in the Old City queue for water. The picture was taken yesterday. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Vajpayee govt falls

From page 1

"clinched" the issue of trial of strength that helped tilt the scale in favour of the Opposition. The entire opposition hailed the ouster of the BJP-led government in the trial of strength. Basu said "I am very happy that the BJP government has gone."

Senior Congress leader and party spokesman Arjun Singh said "the defeat of the confidence motion moved by Vajpayee brings to an end a very unifying chapter in the contemporary political history of India."

The nail-biting finish to the confidence motion today was preceded by dramatic political developments that saw fortunes of the BJP-led combine and the opposition swinging between hopes and despair.

The prospects of the Vajpayee government had looked bright last night after some small parties had declared support to Vajpayee government and brought it tantalisingly close to the majority mark of 272 in 542-member house.

Clashes

From page 1

they were intercepted at Paltan crossing. Police fired tear gas shells to disperse the activists who also pelted stones at passing vehicles.

Police picked up two IOJ activists. Pro-hartal activists also pelted stones at vehicles at Nayapaltan. Press Club and some other places. Witnesses said unidentified miscreants threw two petrol bombs near the Press Club allegedly from a microbus in the evening.

Chase and counter chase between hartal supporters and police took place near the Press Club and at Mohakhali, Demra, Mirpur, Rampura and Dhanmondi.

Scores of hand-made bombs were exploded during the clashes. Gun shots were also heard from Nilkhet and adjoining areas late in the evening. The liaison committee of the opposition alliance at a meeting last night condemned the 'police action' on the processions in Mohakhali, Demra, Mirpur and Dhanmondi areas.

West Bengal Chief Minister and CPI (M) leader Jyoti Basu said the Congress, as the largest party in parliament, should

People can't be bluffed

From page 1

precedence over personal interest and the path of vendetta must be replaced by mutual understanding. Referring to the formal oath taking by the provisional government of Bangladesh at Mujibnagar on April 17, 1971, President Shahabuddin said that event remains in the history as a bright milestone.

"The praiseworthy initiative by the then leaders encouraged the entire nation to actively join the struggle for independence," he said. The President said the war of liberation was a correct, timely and bold step.

He said the formation of provisional government with Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as President, Syed Nazrul Islam and Vice-President and Tajuddin Ahmed as Prime Minister was a firm and realistic move to advance the independence war.

The President said the constitutional base of the present independent and sovereign Bangladesh was framed on April 10, 1971 through Proclamation of Independence. On that day, he recalled, the elected MNAs and MPs formed the Constituent Assembly as per electoral mandate, declared the establishment of independent Bangladesh and formed the provisional government to conduct the war of independence.

"Can we even imagine in our country that such a self-criticism committee will be formed to find out the past mistakes of any party or government?" the President asked. He said since this country is small with a large population, problems are immense. Without economic emancipation, poverty cannot be alleviated. He said: "All will have to work unitedly so that developmental work does not suffer. The country's interest will take

New stands at Abahani stadium

A shopping complex in the offing, Dhanmondi residents fear

By Morshed Ali Khan

In a recent move, the Ministry of Housing and Public Works has amended the original allotment order to Abahani Club Ltd of part of the Dhanmondi Cricket Ground and has allowed the club to build a gallery along the Satmasjid road on the western side, sources in the ministry said.

The move has raised concern among Dhanmondi residents who said that the rear part of the galleries, facing the main road, was "sure to become a shopping complex". Abahani authorities had long been trying to obtain permission from the government to build a shopping complex along the Satmasjid road.

In an unprecedented move in August last year, the government allocated 9.7 acres (nearly 30 bighas) to Abahani Krira Chakra Ltd on a 99-year lease. The condition of the allocation was that no changes could be brought in to the existing sports facilities in the field. The allotment letter had clearly stated that no commercial structure or market could be built on the allotted land.

Residents said that the field is already equipped with two large galleries that remain empty. The gallery on the eastern side of the Abahani field, under the supervision of the Cricket Board, is sometimes used by people watching the official cricket matches. Several residents told this correspondent that they would resist any move to build the gallery which is "absolutely unnecessary. A senior citizen from road 12a said, "the gallery idea was nothing but an excuse to construct shops."

Hundreds of children use the Abahani field everyday and any move to take up part of it for construction of a semi commercial structure would destroy the environment of the area, residents said.

Indian national held with arms in city

Police yesterday arrested an Indian national from Gajnavi Road near Mohamadpur and recovered a revolver and a sword from his possession, reports BSS.

Mohamadpur police, acting on a tip-off, arrested Mohammad Selim, an Indian national from Gajnavi Road near Geneva camp and recovered a revolver from his possession. Police, later, recovered a three feet long sword from Geneva camp according to his confessional statement.

Police, BDR

hartal," said a senior police officer.

"Policemen were also directed to take action, even use arms according to the Penal Code, to protect life and public property," the official added. The DMP Commissioner warned of stern action against vandalism. Ten platoons of paramilitary BDR will be deployed during the hartal. They will stay behind the scene to assist the police in case of serious trouble.

Protesters block

From page 1

Ghosh thrice on Friday night after a case was filed with police against seven people. The barricade was withdrawn after Chairman of Faridpur Pourasava Hasibul Hasan and district police officials assured them of arresting the accused in three days.

Obituary

Matlub Mawla, a businessman, died at 9:30 pm yesterday at a clinic in Calcutta. He was 59, says a press release.

His body will be flown back to Dhaka today by a Biman flight. His *nama-e-janaza* will be held at Gulshan Jame Masjid after Asr prayers the same day.

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Financial crisis

GSS closes operation

By Staff Correspondent

All the offices of Gana Shahjaya Sangstha (GSS), one of largest NGOs in the country, were closed sine die on Thursday. A resolution adopted by the GSS Executive Committee on Tuesday says: "In view of severe liquidity crisis due to non-availability of funds for Phase IV as yet, it is no longer possible to run GSS offices. Therefore, it has been resolved that all GSS offices shall remain closed w. e. f. 15-04-99 until further notice."

The head of the GSS administration in a memo issued to 'all GSS workers' on Tuesday also said: "It is not possible to meet the day to day expenditure of the organisation due to dilly dally (of donors) in financing the Fourth Phase (of the GSS programmes)."

All the GSS offices, therefore, will remain closed from April 15 this year until further order," says the memo. GSS has some 6,000 workers across the country. The memo however said that the schooling programmes and other field level activities of GSS which will not require any immediate financing will continue.

DU raid

From page 1

Khokan group of BCL and were staying outside the hall. Jewel, known as Kala Jewel on the campus, belongs to Ratan-Tomi faction of BCL. He used to stay at Mohsin Hall since Ratan-Tomi group 'captured' the hall in 1997.

When contacted, Ramna police said the all the seven were arrested on charges of illegal stay at the hall, possessing arms and creating anarchy on the campus. Two arms cases were lodged in this connection.

Vice-Chancellor of DU Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, talking to The Daily Star, said the authorities would take punitive measures against terrorists staying in the halls and creating anarchy on the campus. All the identified and listed terrorists will be booked. None will be spared, the VC said.

Bekanntmachung Für Deutsche zur Wahl zum Europäischen Parlament

Am 13. Juni 1999 findet die Wahl der Abgeordneten zum Europäischen Parlament aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland statt.

Deutsche, die außerhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland leben und im Bundesgebiet keine Wohnung mehr innehaben, können bei Vorliegen der sonstigen wahlrechtlichen Voraussetzungen an der Wahl teilnehmen.

Für ihre Wahlteilnahme ist u. a. Voraussetzung, daß sie

- 1.1 seit mindestens drei Monaten in den übrigen Mitgliedstaaten der Europäischen Gemeinschaft eine Wohnung innehaben oder sich mindestens seit dieser Zeit dort gewöhnlich aufhalten (auf die Dreimonatsfrist wird ein unmittelbar vorausgehender Aufenthalt in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland angerechnet)

oder

- 1.2 a) in Gebieten der übrigen Mitgliedstaaten des Europarates leben oder b) in anderen Gebieten leben und am Wahltage seit ihrem Fortzug aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland nicht mehr als 25 Jahre verstrichen sind,

und vor ihrem Fortzug nach dem 23. Mai 1949 aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland mindestens drei Monate in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland gewohnt oder sich dort sonst gewöhnlich aufgehalten haben;

2. in ein Wählerverzeichnis in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland eingetragen sind. Diese Eintragung erfolgt nur auf Antrag. Der Antrag ist auf einem Formblatt zu stellen; er soll bald nach dieser Bekanntmachung abgesandt werden. Einem Antrag, der erst am 24. Mai 1999 oder später bei der zuständigen Gemeindebehörde eingeht, kann nicht mehr entsprochen werden (§ 17 Abs. 1 der Europawahlordnung).

Antragsvordrucke (Formblätter) sowie informierende Merkblätter können bei

- den diplomatischen und berufskonsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, - dem Bundeswahlleiter, Statistisches Bundesamt, 65180 Wiesbaden, - den Kreis- und Stadtwahlleitern in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

angefordert werden.

Weitere Auskünfte erteilen die Botschaften und berufskonsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland.

Hinweis: Die Anträge auf Eintragung in das Wählerverzeichnis werden von der Botschaft an die in der „Deutschenliste“ gemeldeten Personen nach Eingang direkt versandt werden.

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Dhaka, den 31. März 1999

Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Dhaka

1 Zu berücksichtigen ist auch eine frühere Wohnung oder ein früherer Aufenthalt in dem in Artikel 3 des Einigungsvertrages genannten Gebiete (Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt und Thüringen zuzüglich das Gebiet des früheren Berlin (Ost).

Ershad urges Khaleda

From page 1

stepped down in the face of mass upsurge in December 1990. He said mass upsurge has already begun against the government as people from all walks of life have manifested their anger in the face of power and water crises and terrorism across the country.

The former President said the government in its three years of rule has crippled the economy, failed to maintain law and order and put the independence and sovereignty of the country at stake.

He blamed the government for the acute power and water

PM: Power crisis

From page 1

"We generated 700 MW power more and the private sector also came up but, still can't match the increasing demand for power. I can tell you this much - we're trying hard", Hasina told the meeting.

Turning to the political situation, the AL chief blamed the opposition parties - BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami - for not taking the course of dialogue to resolve issues. Referring to the recent killings in Jessore, Kushtia, Atrai and Meherpur, the Prime Minister said, "Terrorism will lead the opposition parties to nowhere."

"They (opposition parties) are now in search of issues to dislodge the government but people have already rejected their call for movement by participating in the municipal polls in an overwhelming majority", she said.

The discussion was participated by, among other, senior AL leaders Zillur Rahman, Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdul Jalil and Mohammad Hanif.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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