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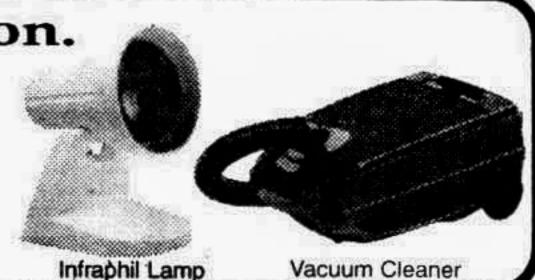
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### JP council held Ershad, Naziur reelected

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

HM Ershad, who has been the party chief since its formation, was reelected 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, Bar-

Earlier, Kazi Zafar Ahmed proposed names of HM Ershad as Chairman and Naziur Rahunopposed, said a party press release.

### 13 DB men

From page

In another development, a number of senior police officials hinted to The Daily Star that some more DB men would Road office within a week. Fourteen DB men, including Baten, have already been

The rest twelve transferred Hossain, ATM Faruk Ahmed. Quaiyum Shikdar, Abdul Latif Bhuyan, Abdul Halim Molla. Tofazzal Hossain, Hasnat Nazmul Alam, Abdul Kadir, Matiur Rahman, Nazir Hossain Dewan and Nasiruddin Ahmed Chow-

Road DB office only a few days

The investigating officer of Shafi murder case told this correspondent last night that

"If we need to interrogate any of the transferred officials. CID will summon them".

### Ctg BNP holds rallies in support of today's hartal

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 17: Chit-tagong City and North District ganisations held rallies and brought out processions here today in support of tomorrow's countrywide hartal called by

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 Kazir Dewry 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 proces-

### Hartal

down soon" Bhuiyan alleged that the government failed to increase

megawatt in last three years.

The city unit of Jatiya Party brought out a torch procession from the Muktangan.

Jamaat held a rally at the Purana Paltan crossing and IJO on the premises of Purana Paltan mosque. Both the parties brought out separate proces-

### New programme

From page 1

lam MP, a BNP representative on the liaison committee, told The Daily Star last night.

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.

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 waterpower crisis, deteriorating law and order situation and price-

crises and said it was created in

a planned way to destroy the

Pointing to the market, Er-

shad said even the commodities

like fish, vegetable, salt, spices.

books, paper, fabrics are now

coming from across the border

as the government failed to pro-

tect and promote the domestic

producers. "It is a calculated

move to serve the interest of the

the country's economy, he said

during last three years currency

was devalued 14 times, infla-

tion rose by 20 to 25 per cent

and forex reserves came down

the government for repression

on opposition leaders and workers. He regretted that BNP

MP was falsely implicated and

arrested in connection with the

killing of two Awami Leaguers

in Naogaon although an under-

ground party claimed the re-

He questioned why the rul-

ing party MP from Chhatak was

not arrested on charge of setting

up bomb making factory in his

house where explosion claimed

Anwar Zahid, Khandaker

Mosharraf Hossain and Abdul-

lah Al Noman of BNP, Mo-

hammad Kamruzzaman, Abdul

Kader Mollah and ATM

Azharul Islam of Jamaat, Mufti

Fazlul Haq Amini of IOJ, Advo-

cate Nurul Huq Majumder of

NDA and Shafiul Alam Prad-

han of JAGPA were present at

the inaugural session.

sponsibility of the killing.

Killing Case.

ership of HM Ershad.

Ershad was also critical of

Painting a gloomy picture of

country's economy.

alien masters.'

to US\$1.68 billion.

units of BNP and their front or BNP-led alliance.

### From page 1

mass upsurge if it does not step power generation by a single

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.

Meantime, the government

Addressing a public meeting

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 Opposi-

Mayawati said her party voted against the motion to pay back the BJP for its splitting the BSP's Uttar Pradesh unit two years ago.

The BJP attacked the BSP for "betrayal" and charged the Congress and left parties with "hijacking the people's mandate" given in 1998 general elections.

Minutes after the confidence motion was rejected. Vajpayee told reporters that the defeat of his government was attributable to some parties going back on their promise to support the BJP-led coalition.

Before the confidence motion was put to vote. Vajpayee, in his 75-minute reply to the marathon debate which lasted for 17 hours spread over three days, said the Congress had brought together parties which have no ideological affinity among them in the "sheer lust

for power. The voting on the confidence motion was preceded by a long night of political manouvering by parties on both sides of the political divide that saw

promises being made and re-First, it was Indian National Lok Dal, a party confined to northern state of Haryana, which made about-turn by voting in favour of the motion after having declared two days ago that it would oppose it. Then came the turn of the BSP

which only late last night had

announced that its five mem-

bers of Lok Sabha would ab-

stain from voting. Meanwhile, senior Congress and leaders of its allies went into a huddle to finalise the shape of the new government. A meeting of the Congress Working Committee, highest policymaking forum of the party, will meet tonight to discuss the strategy of formation of new

government. West Bengal Chief Minister and CPI (M) Teader Jyoti Basu said the Congress, as the largest party in parliament, should form the government in a day

.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 unedifying 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 pplaces. 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 processionists in Mohakhali, Demra. Mirpur and Dhanmondi areas.

# People can't be bluffed

From page 1 with others.

He lamented: "It is our misfortune that in our country no leaders confess their own mistakes. Their motto: Our party is right and our actions unchangeable. Whatever others do is wrong. Our party is patriotic. others traitors."

The President, citing an example from British political culture, said Labour Party He demanded release of all political prisoners, including Shah Moazzem, JP presidium leader Prime Minister Tony member, who was undergoing Blair coming to power after 20 trial in November 3, 1975 Jail years of Conservative rule had adopted many policies and pro-The conference sources grammes of the previous govclaimed that 21 out of 33 JP ernments, especially of Mar-MPs took part in the conference garet Thatcher. expressing loyalty to the lead-

On the other hand, he added, the defeated Conservative Party formed a fact-finding committee - Kitchen Table Conservatives headed by William Hague — to identify the mistakes of Margaret Thatcher and John Major's governments as well as to rectify those.

"Can we even imaging 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 develop-

mental work does not suffer.

The country's interest will take

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 MPAs formed the Constituent Assembly as per electoral mandate, declared the establishment of independent Bangladesh and formed the provisional government to conduct the war of indepen-

# 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 Dhan-mondi 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 shop-

Indian national

held with arms

in city

Indian national from Gajnavi

Road at Mohammadpur and re-

covered a revolver and a sword

from his possession, reports

ing on a tip-off, arrested Mo-

hammad Selim, an Indian na-

tional 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 confes-

Police, BDR

From page 1

hartal," said a senior police of-

. "Policemen were also di-

rected to take action, even use

arms according to the Penal

Code, to protect life and public

warned of stern action against

tary BDR will be deployed dur-

ing the hartal. They will stay

behind the scene to assist the

police in case of serious trouble.

points as 'troubled spots', in-

cluding Nava Paltan, Bijov Na-

gar and Nawab Yousuf Market.

oder

Police have identified some

The DMP Commissioner

Ten platoons of paramili-

property," the official added.

sional statement.

vandalism.

Mohammadpur police, act-

Police yesterday arrested an

ping complex along the Sat-

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,

Chhatak

From page 1

a six-hour rail, road and river

route barricade on April 28 was

Sunamganj-Chhatak Road and

on the Chhatak-Sylhet Rail

route, while there will also be a

barricade in the river route

which passes through the

Chhatak thana headquarters

Meanwhile, the elected rep-

resentatives of the thana held a

meeting in support of Manik at

the Thana Parishad Audito-

rium after today's hartal. UP

Chairman Nurul Amin presided

while the MP himself was the

chief guest. Chhatak Poura-

shava Chairman Abdul Wahid

MP in his speech demanded

immediate withdrawal of the

SP of Sunamganj. Manik said

the SP is responsible for the

March 15 blast and directly in-

volved with the conspiracy

Protesters block

From page 1

Ghosh thrice on Friday night

against seven people.

after a case was filed with police

drawn after. Chairman of

Faridpur Pourasava Hasibul

Hasan and district police offi-

cials assured them of arresting

the accused in three days.

The barricade was with-

Muhibur Rahman Manik

Majnu was special guest.

against him.

the speakers announced.

Barricade would be put up on

announced from the rally.

under the supervision of the Cricket Board, is sometimes used by people watching the of-ficial cricket matches. Several residents told this correspon-dent 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.

### US warplanes strike Iraqi targets

ANKARA, Apr 17: US fighter planes attacked anti-aircraft sites in northern Iraq today with bombs and missiles after they were threatened while patrolling the northern no-fly zone. US officials said, reports

It was the first confrontation in the area in about a month. US Air Force F-15Es and F-

16Cs dropped laser-guided bombs on anti-aircraft sites near the city of Mosul, said Capt. Manning Brown, a spokesman for Operation Northern Watch at Incirlik air base in southern Turkey. US warplanes also fired missiles at radar sites in the same area.

He said all planes left the area safely and that damage to the Iraqi targets was still being assessed

### 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 namaj-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Jame Masjid after Asr prayers the same day. Financial crisis

# GSS closes operation

By Staff Correspondent All the offices of Gana Sha-

hajjya 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 nonavailability 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 no-

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

The memo however said that the schooling programmes and other field level activities of GSS which will not require any immediate financing will con-

#### 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 Raton-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

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)

1.2 in Gebieten der übrigen Mitgliedstaaten des Europarates leben oder a)

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;

in anderen Gebieten leben und am Wahltage seit ihrem Fortzug aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland'

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.

178, Gulshan Avenue Gulshan, Dhaka Tel.: 02-884734-7 Offnungszeiten: So, Di bis Do: 10.00 bis 12.30 Uhr Dhaka, den 31. März 1999 Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland Dhaka

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 C-299

# des früheren Berlin (Ost).

#### rister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Dr M A Matin, Sunil Gupta, Maj Gen (retd) M Shamsul Huq. Naz-iur Rahman Manjur, M A Sattar. Rajia Fayez, Dr TIM Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury MP, Col (retd) Zafar Imam, ABM Golam Mostafa, Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury, Maj Gen (retd) Kazi Golam Dastagir, Advocate Khandakar Mahbub Hossain, ABM Shahjahan, ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader, Kazi Firoz Rashid, GM Quader MP, Col (retd) HMA Gaffar, Advocate Fazle Rabbi MP, Shah Mo-

hammad Abu Zafar and Zahangir Mohammad Adel. man Manjur as Secretary general and 24 presidium members. As there was no alternative proposal, they were elected

der. Of them, DB office canteen man Anwar is now at the Dhaka Central Jail after interrogation by CID.

be transferred from the Minto ADC Nuruzzaman and AC transferred from the DB office. DB men are inspectors Mokbul Delwar Hossain Mallik, Abdul

Of them seven have been transferred to Khulna Range. three to Rajsahi Range and the rest two to Sarda Police Academy. According to sources, some of the transferred 12 DB inspectors had joined the Minto

transfer of the DB officials would not hamper the investigation as they have already questioned the suspected ones.

Ershad urges Khaleda From page 1

mass upsurge in December 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

stepped down in the face of

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 inde-

pendence 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 not match the increasing demand for power. I can tell you this much we're trying hard". Hasina told the meeting.

Turning to the political situ-ation, the AL chief blamed the opposition parties - BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islar - for not taking the course of diangue 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 ma-

Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdul Jalil

and Mohammad Hanif.

jority", she said.

The discussion was participated by, among other, senior AL leaders Zillur Rahman, Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Syeda

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