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### 2 killed, 100 hurt as tornado hits 18 villages in Kurigram

KURIGRAM, May 2: Tornado lashed 18 char villages on the Brahmaputra basin in Nageswari thana early today, leaving two people dead and more than

100 injured, reports APB. The dead were identified as Hekmat Mistri, 42, of Shingmari village, and Sona Miah,

58. of Mollapara. About 300 cattle were lost and some 4,000 houses damaged as the tornado hit the villages with a speed of about 120 km per hour, local people and offi-

cial said. Standing crops on hundreds of acres of land were damaged. The tornado rendered some 2.000 families homeless in the worst affected Kedar Bollover Khas, Kaliganj and Nageswari

Sadar union. They were report-

edly living under open sky

without food. A number of schools and madrassahs and some local of-See Page 12 Col 7

#### Minister hands over 16 partymen to police

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, May 2: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf has set 'an example of political neutrality' by handing over 16 leaders and

workers of Fultala Thana Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League to police Saturday night. They were wanted in different cases and handed over to the

law enforcers at a simple ceremony at the Khulna Circuit House, said police Super Ataul The accused are: Rezaul Kabir, Aslam Khan, Mrinal Hazra, Abu Taher Ripon, Bidhu Bhuiyan, Nazimuddin Molla,

Raushan Ali, Alamgir Molla,

Maruf Molla, Bappi, Sahab Ali

Bhuiyan, Shaheen Morol, Litu

#### Bhuiyan, Saiful Morrol, Moksad Gazi and Bishnu. BCL confce in Ctg attended by minister ends

# in pandemonium

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, May 2: A conference of the ruling partybacked Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) attended by a minister ended in a pandemonium amid gunfire at Fatikchhari Degree College maidan yesterday evening, police and wit-

The minister was unhurt and he left the venue under heavy police escort.

nesses said.

Police said two rival groups in BCL traded gunfire in and around the conference venue while Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mosharraf Hossain was addressing it at around 6 pm.

Police lobbed tear gas shells and chased the trouble-makers. Panicked people ran away from the meeting venue.

Police recovered a gun and See Page 12 Col 8

Inside Today

#### Article NATO's Enigmatic Balkan War

Column: Perspectives by Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz

Page 4

#### **Focus**

A meeting with Dr Abdul Quadeer Khanthe architect of nuclear Pakistan

Page 5

#### **Business**

Japan, IFC, OPEC Fund pledge to continue aid to Bangladesh

Lanka offering free trade deal to Pakistan

DSE, CSE price quotations Pages 6, 7 & 8

## **Prayer Timings**

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	4-35
Zohr	12-45	1-30
Asr	4-45	4-55
Maghrib	6-30	6-33
Esha	7-45	8-00

### JP (Mizan-Manju) also to boycott

INTERNET: http://www.dailystarnews.com

# Meherpur-1 polls now a ruling party show

By Nurul Kabir

The by-election in Meherpur-1 constituency of the Jatiya Sangsad due to be held tomorrow is virtually going to

be a ruling party show. The major opposition par-ties -BNP, Jatiya Party led by former president H M Ershad and Jamaat-e-Islami - had decided to boycott the by-polls much earlier.

Besides, Jatiya Party led by Communication Minister in Sheikh Hasina's cabinet Anwar Hossain Monju decided yesterday not to take part in the polls. The party took the "in protest against the Election Commission's refusal to defer the polls, especially when the court is yet to give a final verdict on the issue of its election symbol plough.

The Supreme Court yesterday extended the time-limit of one of its previous order that stayed the operation of a High Court judgement directing the authorities concerned to allocate plough as election symbol of Mustasim Billah. Billah is the candidate of the JP (Monju). The full bench of the SC's Appellate Division, headed by Justice Mustala Kamal, fixed May 4 as the next date of hearing on the issue, said our SC correspondent.

The fresh date of hearing. however, coincides with the byelection date.

The HC verdict was delivered

by a division bench comprising Justice Kazi Ebadul Hoque and Justice Mozammel Hossain, on April 28 following a writ petition by Mustasim Billah. The court directed the Election Commission, Returning Officer and Assistant Reurning Officer concerned to allocate 'plough' to Billah.

**BAISAKH 20, 1406 BS** 

Immediately afterwards, H M Ershad filed a petition before the 'Chamber Judge' for 'provisional stay' of the HC verdict. The judge stayed the verdict till the matter is heard in the Appellate Division on

Yesterday, a delegation of JP (Monju) went to the EC yester-See Page 12 Col 8

# Petrobangla's U-turn over controversial gas pipeline project

By Sharier Khan

Petrobangla, which earlier opposed the controversial Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP), has initiated a survey to determine the route for construction of a regional gas pipeline in greater Khulna tions from higher authorities. sources said.

Petrobangla has also "finalised bid documents" for the WRIP with US company Unocal which proposed the project, although the documents are supposed to be prepared by a consultant which is yet to be appointed under a US assistance. the sources said.

The Energy Ministry has shortlisted three companies for appointment of a consultant and has sent the names to USA for suggestion. The consultant is also supposed to scrutinise

the WRIP components. The 150-km proposed pipeline under the WRIP is designed to connect Shahbazpur Gasfield in Bhola with Khulna.

Alongside this, unsolicited negotiations for setting up of four proposed power plants in Bhola, Barisal, Khulna and Gopalgan with a total capacity of 350 MW are also at "final stage". the sources said.

Meanwhile, Unocal has

signed an agreement with oil giant Shell Oil, seeking cooperation in "areas of mutual inter-

components. Experts of Petrobangla and even the World Bank said that the WRIP was being pursued without adequate feasibility study. Petrobangla experts had been resisting it saying that by signing this "uneven contract" Bangladesh would lose at least 2 billion dollars.

est" in Block 10 including

Shahbazpur Gasfield and WRIP

Petrobangla detected several significant loopholes in the proposed WRIP. These include high pipeline tariff offered (one dollar per unit of gas transmitted), duration of pipeline ownership (initially proposed for 99 years) and inconsistencies in its power projects.

The US Department of Energy earlier observed that the WRIP was a complicated project, which might affect Bangladesh's interest if it is not scrutinised properly. It maintained that its "pricing" needed to be reviewed and procedural transparency ensured. It also said that Bangladesh did not have the necessary expertise to scrutinise WRIP and therefore, it suggested appointment of a See Page 12 Col 3

#### JP (Mizan-Manju) protests Election Commission's 'rigidity'

By Staff Correspondent Jatiya Party (Mizan-Manju) will not participate in the Meherpur-1 parliamentary byelections due to be held tomorrow, the party announced yes-

Party nominee Mutasim Billah's candidature was 'withdrawn' protesting the Election Commission's 'rigidity' as regards shifting of the polling date, leaders of the party said at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

Additional secretary general of the party Monirul Haq Chowdhury said that they had appealed to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) for rescheduling of the polls in view of a scheduled hearing on Billah's election symbol in the Supreme Court . " The court would hear our writ petition on May 4, the very day the by- election is scheduled to be held." he

"But, the Election Commission did not accept our plea", he

Others present at the press conference were party presidium members Sardar Amjad Hossain and Syed Tareq. joint secretary general Sadeq Siddiqi and publicity secretary Abul Bashar Abul.

# Stop construction work, filling up of lake: HC

MUHARRAM 16, 1420 HIJRI

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court yesterday di-rected Rajuk to take measures for suspension of all construction work and filling up of the lake and lakeside areas in Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara Model Town for three months.

DHAKA MONDAY MAY 3, 1999

A Division Bench of the HC gave the directive following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (BELA), said a BELA press release.

The Bench comprising Justice K M Hasan and Justice Md

Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara areas Abdul Kuddus asked Rajuk to not be declared to have been prepare and submit a detailed made in violation of the Town and complete statement regard-Improvement Act, 1953, against, ing allotment of plots and fillpublic interest and why they ing up of the lake and or lake-

side areas within three weeks. It also issued a rule nisi upon the Ministry of Works and Rajuk to show cause as to why the allotment of plots in the lake and lakeside areas in Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara shall

should not be directed to restore public property in a manner

best suited to public interest. The court ordered stoppage of construction work and earth filling at plot 26 on Road-71, plots 28 and 10 on Road -76. plot 9 on Road -78 in Gulshan .

plot 76 on Road -11 in Banani and on the western side of plot 56 on Road-11 and plot 45 on Road-12 in Baridhara.

16 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 6.00

Bela filed the writ petition in cooperation with Gulshan, Baridhara Welfare Society, alleging unlawful allotment of plots in the lake and lakeside areas threatening the very existence of the lake.

The petition was moved by BELA lawyers including \$ Rizwan Hasan, Iqbal Kabir and Ehsan Habib.



The Sammilita Nari Samaj took out a procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of - Star photo the May Day.

# Pay hike for industrial workers effective from July, '97: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday announced pay hike for industrial workers with retrospective effect from

July 1997, report agencies. "The increased wage scales will be fixed after placing of the National Wages and Productivity Commission recommendations and will be effective since July 1997," she said at the inaugural function of May Day programme at Osmani Memorial Hall in the city.

Hasina said efforts were also on to solve the labour problems of jute and textile mills through tripartite negotiations among the government, owners and workers.

The Prime Minister assured that her government is taking step to meet all legitimate demands of the workers in

The Prime Minister said keeping in mind the concept of open-market economy and globalisation the government was trying to groom the work-

Beximco lawyers yesterday

told the High Court that classi-

fication of its loans would affect

banks as it would affect the

company's business and re-

Sohel F Rahman, Salman F

Rahman, MA Quashem and

Igbal Ahmed -- were served

with notices earlier under the

banking law after they failed to

repay loans. Two of them are

directors of AB Bank and two

tition challenging the notices. Barrister Nazmul Huda, ap-

pearing for MA Quashem and

Igbal Ahmed, told a Division

Bench of the High Court that

these directors had set up the

banks and they have interest in

Justice Ebadul Huq, pointed out

that it was also true the banks

Senior judge of the Bench.

The four later filed a writ pe-

others are of IFIC Bank.

Four Beximco directors --

payment of loans.

force of the country by imparting proper training and educa-

"We have taken necessary steps to raise skilled labour suiting international standards," she said mentioning government move for setting up eleven Technological Training Centres across the country at a cost of Tk 100 crore.

In addition, she said, in five divisional headquarters five TTCs for female workers will be constructed soon. The government is also trying for employment generation in the country.

Referring to the setting up of labour-intensive industries in the country, the Prime Minister said the government had taken steps to set up EPZs, industrial parks and more small and medium-scale industries.

In this regard, she called upon the private entrepreneurs to take initiative for industrial investment availing government's incentives for private-

financed the entrepreneurs to

for the two other Beximco direc-

tors, said that the banks acted

illogically by asking for re-

payment of the entire amount

of loans after the directors de-

The lawyers also said that

faulted to pay one instalment.

Beximco Group had no liabili-

ties with any bank excepting

the loans of three companies

tion should be devised making

sure that 40,000 to 50,000 em-

ployees of the companies guar-

anteed by Beximco are not

that he was looking for a legal

point in the written submission

point he was trying to make was

See Page 12 Col 1

thrown out of employment.

They also said that a solu-

Justice Ebadul Huq then said

Alam then said that the

Earlier KZ Alam, appearing

run businesses.

guaranteed by it.

of the lawyers.

Beximco lawyer tells court

Classification of loans to

affect banks, company's

business, repayment

By M Shamsur Rahman

level industrial growth. Special incentives will be given for those who will establish industries far away from

the capital, she said. At the May Day rally at Paltan Maidan in the afternoon the Prime Minister said the workers would get priority in the denationalisation process of mills and factories.

The workers of the mills and factories to be denationalised could purchase those units through cooperative or other united efforts The rally was organised by

Jatiya Sramik League, the labour front of the ruling Awami League.

Ministers and party central leaders as well as various front organization leaders attended the rally. The Prime Minister told the

rally that she had directed the authorities concerned to expedite the recommendations of the Wages and Productivity See Page 12 Col 3

### Two teenage girls raped

By Staff Correspondent The owner of a furniture shop was arrested allegedly for raping a teenage girl in IG Gate area in the city yesterday morn-

In another incident, a girl of nearly 13 years was violated allegedly by two youths at a Chonpara slum under Rupganj thana in the early hours of yesterday, hospital sources said.

The 14-year-old girl was raped when she and her mother went to the furniture shop of a Tajul at about 10 am to purchase a furniture, police said.

While the mother was talking to the owner, her daughter said that she needed to go to a toilet. Tajul said that his house was just beside the shop and that the girl could use the toilet there. The mother allowed her daughter to go with Tajul in good faith.

When the girl went to the house. Tajul locked the door and raped her.

Police arrested Tajul soon after the incident. A case was filed with Shyampur thana.

See Page 12 Col 2

## Vajpayee against making Sonia's 'foreign origin' an issue in polls

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, May 2: India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has declared that a sustained campaign against main opposition Congress Party's prime ministerial candidate Sonia Gandhi would be a key component of campaign strategy in the coming general elections.

The BJP spokesman Krishan Lal Sharma said his party would put up a "formidable" candidate against Sonia Gandhi in case she decides to contest the coming elections. Sonia, the Italian-born wife

of India's former premier Rajiv Gandhi, plunged into politics late last year but did not jump into the electoral fray when the previous parliamentary polls were held in February-March 1998 although she had led the Congress campaign in it.

Some of BJP's allies, espea blistering campaign against

the "foreign origin" of Sonia Gandhi.

The leaders of Telugu Desam, which rules Andhra Pradesh where main opposition is the Congress, have in recent days sharpened its offensive against the "foreign origin" of the Congress president and said it is not possible for anyone not born in India to become the prime minister of India.

Telugu Desam leader and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said his party could not agree to Sonia Gandhi becoming the prime minister of India. "Our forefathers participated

in the freedom struggle so that the people of India would be able to rule by themselves without a foreign heading the gov-ernment, he told "The Hindu" newspaper in an interview. However, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee told "In-

See Page 12 Col 8

Mass processions today

# Half-day hartal likely on May 11 or 13

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance will call a half-day hartal across the country on May 11 or 13 to protest electricity, water and gas crises, deterioration of law and order, terrorism, price hike of essentials and government's alleged failures.

The hartal is likely to be an nounced after today's mass procession programme, party sources said. A countrywide

dawn-to-dusk hartal was ob served on the same issues on

April 18. The decision to call hartal was taken at a meeting of the liaison committee yesterday at the central office of the Jamaate-Islami. Jamaat Secretary General Matiur Rahman Nizami presided over the meet ing, sources said.

Earlier, the parties had See Page 12 Col 7

World Cup news SL to issue coins

of WC in '96 COLOMBO, May 2: Sri Lanka's Central Bank today announced the issue of a commemorative silver coin to mark the country's winning of the Cricket World Cup three years

on its winning

ago, reports AFP. The limited-edition coin is released just ahead of this month's World Cup tournament in England where the Sri Lankan team will try to defend the title even though South Africa is tipped to be the favourites. The 1,000-rupee (14 dollar)

silver proof coin has the 1996 trophy on one side and on the other an unidentified Sri Lankan batsman driving the ball while the wicketkeeper Central Bank said the coin will also mark this month's

World Cup. The coins will be available for sale at a 200 rupee premium from Tuesday. BUET: A section

of students, teachers call for reopening

By Gobinda Bar Students of outgoing Level-4 and Term-2 batch of BUET yes terday submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor demanding special arrangement for holding their examinations

immediately. BUET Teachers' Association (BUETTA) also wants reopening of the university immediately provided the culprits responsible for the attack on teachers and damage university property on April 25 and 26 are identified and punished, sources in the association told The Daily

Star yesterday. Meanwhile a number of students of different batches at the BUET made telephone calls and some others came to The Daily Star office yesterday to communicate their demand for reopening of the university immediately and holding of examinations before the world cup cricket begins on May 14.

Condemning the heinous attack on teachers' residence they said their academic life would be at a stake if the university is not reopened immediately.

Meanwhile, talking on the April 25-26 incidents, some students claimed that a section of the students were "provoked" by the arrest of three students on charge of making petrol bombs on the night of April 26,

See Page 12 Col 4

#### সিকিউরিটিজ ও এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION JIBAN BIMA TOWER (15 & 16 FLOOR), 10, DILKUSHA C/A, DHAKA -1000,

### ORDER

Ref: SEC/Sec-7/99-140

Dated: 28th April 1999

In exercise of its power under section 2CC of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969 (Ordinance No XVII of 1969) as amended by the Securities and Exchange (Amendment) Act, 1997, the Securities and Exchange Commission hereby imposes the following conditions:

All public listed companies shall after submission to them the duly executed instrument of transfer (Form 117) of securities together with the related certificate(s) of securities complete all the transfer formalities:

(i) Within 7 (seven) days after submission of the duly executed instrument

for transfer of the securities in all cases excepting Book Closure; (ii) Within 15 (fifteen) days after submission of the duly executed instrument

for transfer (Form 117) of the securities in case of Book Closure. All public listed companies shall split any lot of securities into the market lot within 21 (twenty-one) days of submission of application by the shareholder for such split together with the related certificate(s) of securities and the splitting fee, if any, payable under the Articles of Association of concerned company for

such split. Power to close the Company Register by the public listed companies shall be regulated as per the provisions under section 42 of the Companies Act, 1994. This order supersedes all other previous order/orders issued in this respect and shall

> M A Syed Chairman

GD-348

take effect immediately.

#### cially the Telugu Desam Party of southern state of Andhra dia Today" magazine in an in-Pradesh, have already launched