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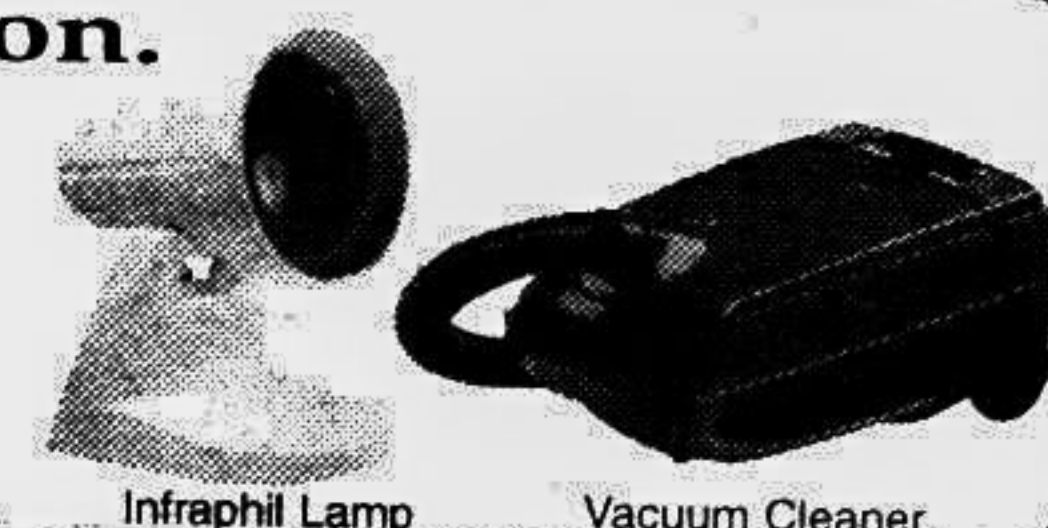
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## People won't respond to opposition's movement: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the people would not respond to the opposition's "movement for protecting the killers of Bangladesh," reports UNP.

"Opposition movement is to protect the killers, so this movement cannot be successful, people will not respond to their out-governments movement," she said while inaugurating Bangladesh Krishak League council meeting at Ramna Batamul in the city.

The Prime Minister asked the Krishak League leaders to strengthen the organisation to protect the interest of the peasants.

### Larma

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"We are planning a big ceremony to mark the historic day," the minister added. Tribal headmen, elders, UP leaders, members of the three hill district councils and guests from Dhaka will attend the ceremony, he said.

The minister said, assumption of charge by the RC Chairman-designate will be an important event since it will help full implementation of the CHT peace agreement and spur development of the region after decades of insurgency.

Earlier on Monday, the PCJSS (Parbatya Chhagran Jana Sanghati Samity) announced that its Chairman JB Larma would assume the charge of the interim RC following the Prime Minister's assurance that all "inconsistencies" in the CHT agreement would be removed.

The government in an announcement on September 6, 1998 designated JB Larma as Chairman of the interim RC. But the PCJSS had been undecided about it, saying that a number of "contentious" issues like amendments to the three district council acts and resettlement of the displaced persons remained to be sorted out.

Meanwhile, informed sources said that the government would examine if there were any inconsistencies in the hill district council acts. "It will not be a problem to iron out the remaining differences between the two sides," a source said.

If needed, amendments will be placed before the Parliament, they added.

The council, presided over by Krishak League President State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf, was also addressed by Awami League General Secretary LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, AL President Member Amir Hossain Amu, Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, former Krishak League President Advocate Rahmat Ali MP, Indian peasant leader Pro Mohinder Samersashkakra.

She said her government will hand over power to the caretaker government before election to allow the people cast their votes in a free and fair atmosphere.

Emphasising the importance of fair polls for strengthening democracy, she said without democracy the economic emancipation of the people will not come. Without democracy the peasants will not get their economic freedom, she said.

The Prime Minister said the government has taken all possible steps for the welfare of farmers.

The PM said the government is also taking steps for the farmers to get fair price of their products and called for setting up more agriculture-based industries.

Assuring adequate incentives for the agro-based industries, she said government has taken all possible steps for increasing investment in this sector.

### Last match

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Bangladesh, who will make their maiden appearance in the world's most prestigious one-day competition, qualifying as champions of the 1997 ICC Trophy, have been placed in Group B along with Australia, West Indies, Pakistan, New Zealand and Scotland.

Skipper Aminul and company will take on New Zealand in their first World Cup match at Chelmsford on May 17. The following match, against West Indies, will be played in Dublin, Ireland, on May 21.

Bangladesh will then move to Scotland to meet them in Edinburgh on May 24. The last two matches against Australia (at Chester-le-Street) and Pakistan are scheduled for May 27 and 31.

## Ctg lawyers continue boycott of CMM's court

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, May 11: The lawyers of Chittagong district Bar Council continued boycott of CMM's court for the second day today.

The lawyers began boycott programme for an indefinite period yesterday demanding withdrawal of CMM (Chief Metropolitan Magistrate), Chittagong for his alleged involvement in various corruption, including granting bails to some criminals.

### Shazneen murder

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case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 1995 with Gulshan thana after the murder.

Earlier, Latifur Rahman had filed a murder case with the same thana. The murder trial has already begun at the Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court.

In charge sheets for both the cases, police accused seven persons -- domestic help Shahid, contractor Hasan, supervisor Badal, carpenter Shani Ram, guard Humayun Kabir and maids Parveen and Minu. Of the accused, guard Humayun Kabir died of a cardiac arrest on January 11.

## Work stoppage at BSMMU from today

By Staff Correspondent

Government employees of Bangladesh University Sheikh Mujib Medical University will observe a four-hour work stoppage on May 12 and 13 demanding immediate implementation of their five-point demand.

It was announced on Monday at a rally addressed by Mohammad Abul Kashem, President of co-ordination council, Nazrul Islam, Vice-President and Sandha Kobi Shekhar, General Secretary.

The employees also submitted a memorandum to Establishment Secretary to press home their demands.

The demands include publication of government order for "option" given to employees of the university to allow them to work until end of their services at the university according to the university bill, payment of salaries, bill, pension and other financial benefits through AGB, formation of a local pension cell, guarantee of all types of leave for employees and free treatment for employees and their dependents.

Earlier, they went to the secretariat in a procession and held a brief rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

## Said police source murdered in Chittagong

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 11: Shawkat Hossain, 31, reportedly a port worker and a source of police, was killed by some unidentified miscreants in the city last night.

The miscreants picked up Shawkat from his residence at Fakirhat under Bandar thana. They cut tendons of his legs and hands and left him in a drain at Agrabad CDA colony.

Double Mooring thana police recovered the body of Shawkat from the drain this morning.

Shawkat's wife Bilkis filed a case accusing two persons with Double Mooring thana today.

## Sarbahara Party leader shot dead

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, May 11: A leader of outlawed Sarbahara Party was gunned down by some unidentified assailants at Jai Bangla Bazar under Muladi thana this morning.

Jewel Khan, 28, was attacked by the armed gang at the bazar at 10:30 am.

They shot Jewel point blank and fled the scene. Jewel died on the spot, police and witnesses said.

## Khaleda

From Page 1

ernment," the former prime minister said.

Terming the government blind, deaf and dumb, mad and repressive, Khaleda said it seems that this government would not quit power normally. To topple the government, she said, the current movement should have to be intensified and the countrymen have to be ready for any kind of sacrifice.

She said people of all walks of life again expressed their no-confidence in this, "incompetent, falling and anti-people" government through observing the hartal peacefully.

She said the government failing to solve various crisis again resorted to repression on opposition yesterday. Senior leaders, women activists and even journalists were not spared from baton charge, tear gas and bomb attack during the half-day hartal.

The Opposition leader said BNP leaders Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain MP, Abdullah Al Noman, Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Amanullah Aman MP, Barrister Mahbubuddin Ahmed Khokon and many others were injured in the police assault.

Police also brutally beat up Joyanal Abedin Faruq MP and tore apart his clothes. Moreover, a number of women leaders were injured and assaulted by police, Khaleda said.

## Tofail warns Khaleda

From Page 1

careful about this man," the minister said, recalling his own encounters with the former dictator.

"JP will lose nothing, but BNP will lose a lot out of the so-called Khaleda-Ershad unity," he said, referring to opposition boycott of municipal elections.

The BNP has not benefited from the boycott, he said. "It will lose again if it stays away from the upazila polls."

"Ershad wants BNP to be finished. And his party does have the base to fight these elections. Khaleda Zia would have to pay for her association with Ershad."

Ershad would trap Khaleda into boycotting the upcoming upazila election, which would bring a disaster for the BNP, the AL leader predicted and affirmed that the opposition would lose its political battle with the government.

"We want all the parties to participate in the election. We're sure that many from the opposition parties including the BNP will be in race as they did in the case of recent municipal elections, even if these parties boycott it."

Asked on the opposition demand for removal of the Chief Election Commissioner ahead of the upazila polls, he said, "There is no chance (for the CEC's removal)."

Tofail Ahmed however admitted that power posed a problem but that the government would soon be able to deal with the electricity crisis and the law and order situation.

"The power crisis will be over in a year when generation of 500 megawatts in additional power will be possible. Steps are underway to contain the law and order situation."

The minister blamed the BNP for its "deliberate attempts" to destabilise the law and order situation in the name of anti-government movement.

The minister however refused to accept that the deterioration in law and order situation was a recent phenomenon. But he admitted that some acts of terrorism like the killings in Kushtia and Jessore had panicked the people.

## Rajshahi WDB

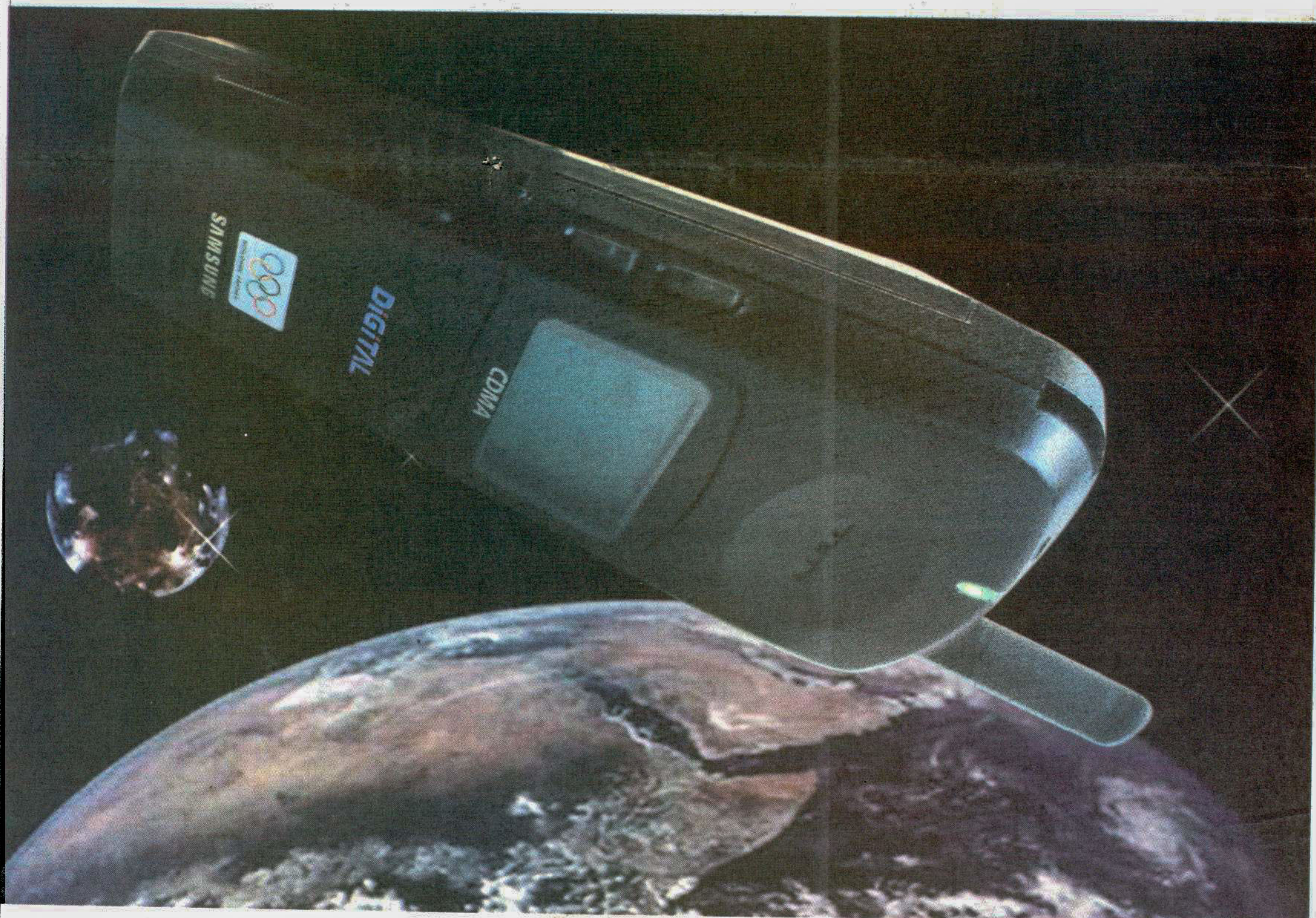
From Page 1

colony but they are simply on-lookers, they claimed.

WDB officials have filed a GD with Shah Makhdom thana and informed the RMP Commissioner in written, but police is yet to arrest anybody, they claimed.

There was virtually no work in the WDB office today also because the remaining officials and employees are feeling insecure, they said.

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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