'Hartal issue to

be resolved

thru' consensus'

(JSD) said the hartal issue should be resolved through con-

sensus in political process, not

through court proceedings, re-

A High Court bench on

ports UNB.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

Docs express mixed reaction to new Health Policy

Leaders of the physician community yesterday expressed mixed reaction to the Health Policy recently approved by the

with some aspects of the Draft Health Policy, it now welcomes the approved new Health Policy.

Employing one doctor in every union, establishment of community clinics and providing autonomy to the govern-ment hospitals are some of the positive features of the Health Policy which would ensure Primary Health Care (PHC) along with better medicare services, he suggested.

Referring to the autonomy related issues of the government healthcare institutions, Prof Mahbub said, "The Health Policy does not recommend handing over the government

hospitals to NGOs. "Hospitals so long had been providing medicare facilities to tients would receive treatment free of cost," he added.

As a party to the committee entrusted with the responsibility of preparing the Draft Health Policy, BMA views the policy as a pro-people" one and expressed the hope that despite some limitations, the policy would be able to meet the basic health needs of people, he added.

Dr Zahidur Rahman, member secretary of the Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB), however, alleged that the Health Policy is "not pro-peo-

the lot of cultivators did not

"Besides addressing the en-

Focussing on different as-

vironmental issues, we should

think about the people involved

pects of the issue, Dr Debapriya

Bhattacharya said the shrimp

cultivators do not pay the exact

price for the resources they use.

market failure is usually

closely associated with policy

He said the incidence of

Debapriya Bhattacharya

prepared a study co-authored by

Dr Mustafizur Rahman and Dr

tion varies from 0.23 to 0.33 per

cent of the GDP in 1994, the

farms are cultivated by the en-

trepreneurs who are non-resi-

dents in the area and they do

not have any social obligations.

Those who resist shrimp culti-

vation are often become subject

negative environmental conse-

quences originate because of the

government's flawed policies.

Maiden int'l

flight to land

The study said many of the

to torture and violence,

Total cost of shrimp cultiva-

It said most of the shrimp

Fahmida Akhter Khatun.

CHEF GUEST : BEGUM SPECIAL GUEST: 1

Lions Clubs International, District 315 B2, Bangladesh, presenting a crest to Begum Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, at its annual convention '99 at a city hotel yesterday. - Star photo

Workshop on sustainable shrimp culture

By Staff Correspondent

change.

failures.

study said.

in shrimp culture.

Speakers at a workshop has increased significantly, but have expressed concern over the adverse affect on environment due to large-scale shrimp cultivation in the country.

The effects include land degradation due to salinity, health hazards and destruction of mangroves, they pointed out.

Speaking at the workshop as chief guest, Environment and Forest Minister Sajeda Chowdhury said a policy package should be formulated involving all the parties concerned to make the export-oriented shrimp culture environmentfriendly.

Presided over by Prof Rehman Sobhan, Chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the workshop on "Environmental Consequences of Structural Adjustment: Towards Sustainable Shrimp Culture in Bangladesh" was held at CIRDAP auditorium in the city on Thursday. Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Executive Director of CPD, and Dr Hussein Abaza, Chief of Economics Unit, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also spoke at the inaugural session.

Prof Rehman Sobhan said although shrimp cultivation

New DUDS

apex body

By DU Correspondent

Jasim Úddin Hall and Saikh

Imtiaz Shimul of Bangabandhu

Hall have been elected president

and general secretary of the

Dhaka University Debating

votes to elect the new president

and general secretary of the 17-

member Society for the next

TSC seminar room on the DU

rully youths of Jagannath Hall

led by Amal and Pankaj at-

tacked the office of DUDS at

about 1 pm and damaged its

ers were the close associates of

Subrata Sarkar Puru who con-

tested the election for the post

ternoon, leaders of the DUDS

Two arrested for

pouring hot water

on tea boy

By Staff Correspondent

charge of pouring hot water on

Tuesday noon.

from them.

Two people were arrested on

The two — Raihan, 25, son of

According to police, a gang of

Sirajul Islam and Titu, 22, son

of Abu Taher, were arrested

from Demra area on Thursday

three tried to leave the shop af-

ter taking tea without paying

the bill. As the boy repeatedly

requested them to pay money,

the youths poured hot water

from the kettle that was on the

dergoing treatment at the

Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

the shop, lodged a case with

Demra thana in this connec-

Video production

workshop in Ctg

from May 31

From CU Correspondent

week-long video production

workshop will begin at the

Chittagong Alliance Française

auditorium from May 31. The

Forum for Development Jour-

nalism and Communication

(FOCUS), a non-government or-

ganisation has organised the

Salauddin Lavlu will conduct

the workshop where TV engineer Ahmed Sabbir and video

editor of the Impress Telicom

Ltd, Junayed Halim will be pre-

requested to contact with FO-

CUS office and the seminar of

Journalism Department of

Chittagong University within

Interested participants are

sent as the trainer.

Noted TV actor and director

workshop.

May 20.

CHITTAGONG, May 14: A

The injured boy is now un-

Farid Uddin, the owner of

Later at a meeting in the af-

Sources said that the attack

furniture and window panes.

campus yesterday.

of general secretary.

condemned the attack.

A total of 51 voters cast their

The election was held at the

Meanwhile, a group of un-

Society (DUDS) respectively.

Tariqul Islam Litan of Kabi

Rain, squally wind likely

squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions. It may also occur at few places over Barisal and Rajshahi divisions and one or two places over Khulna division with moderately heavy falls at places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours

recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 20.6 degree Celsius at Dhaka

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity

recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: City/Town Temperature in Celsius Morning Dhaka Chittagong Raishahi 23.0 Khulna Barisal



Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal brought out a procession in the city on Thursday protesting the police action on its activists during the opposition-called hartal on Tuesday.

in Sylhet today From Staff Correspondent SYLHET. May 14: Biman Bangladesh will operate one of

its international flights directly to Sylhet from Dubai tomorrow, officials said.

An Airbus carrying 221 passengers from the UAE capital will land at Sylhet MAG Osmani International Airport at About 8.30 am in a maiden trip. Initially, the Airbus will be operated on Sylhet-Dubai route

on Saturdays, officials said. High officials of the national flag carrier will receive the incoming passengers of the BG-052 Airbus Flight at the Osmani Airport, the sources said. The aircraft is scheduled to leave Sylhet Airport at 9.45

With the operation of the international flight, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's announcement of making Sylhet Osmani Airport as an international one has been translated into a reality.

Sinister quarter trying to tarnish image of govt:

an eleven-year-old tea boy at a Local Government, Rural shop near Kajla filling station Development and Cooperatives under Demra thana in the city Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said a sinister quarter is Tea boy Rubel sustained setrying to tarnish the image of rious burn injuries when a the government, and jeopardise group of youths poured hot wapeace and political stability in ter on him as he asked for bill the country, reports BSS.

"It is being led by the Leader of the Opposition," he said in a speech to party workers at Bajitpur in Kishoreganj district on the occasion of joining of a large number of leaders and workers of different political parties to Awami League.

Presided over by the newly elected Chairman of Bajitpur Pourasabha, Mesbahuddin Ahmed, the function was also addressed by Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate as speciai guest.

Foil conspiracy to seize power through backdoor'

By Staff Correspondent Communications Minister and Jatiya Party (M-M) secretary general Anwar has called for resisting the politics of seizing power through the backdoor. "And those wno plundered

to book to ensure rule of law", the minister said while addressing a huge gathering at the Pirganj Government High School ground in Rangpur on Thursday, says a press release. He said government can be

public property must be brought

changed through elections. Those who want to change government but boycott elections are not pursuing healthy politics, he added. The minister said, "The

culture of defaulting loan must be eradicated if we want to build a country free from poverty." Among others, central

leaders Sardar Amjad Hossain, Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu, Tajul Islam Chowdhury, Noor Mohammad Mandal, and Golam Faruk Ovi addressed the meeting.

- Star photo PM's intervention in setting up Malaria Instt

Minister Sheikh Hasina on

Thursday, Bahadur portrayed a infested hills

up a malaria institute in Bandarban, the worst malaria-affected area, in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

tricts round the year and many

"No initiative has been taken by the Health Ministry to set up a malaria institute here though I have communicated officials concerned personally and over telephone time and again," he alleged. Bir Bahadur wrote to the PM

Two computers

donated to

ICDDR,B

Hybat Jan Chowdhury, a former senior official of the in-

ternational civil service work-

ing in Humanitarian Affairs,

has donated two sets of comput-

ers with printers and acces-

sories to International Centre

for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, (ICDDR,B),

The donation was made on

reports BSS.

Thursday.

year for the district to purchase medical supplies.

Jatiya Party (Mizan-Manju) will be held at the party's central office at 7/10A Block-D. Lalmatia in the city today at 11am instead of 5pm, says a press release.

present socio-economic and country and discuss organisational matters.

Communications Minister and Secretary General of Jatiya Party (M-M) Anwar Hossain

addressing a public meeting at Sadullahpur in Gaibandha on Thursday.

agement Talukder Abdul Khaleque as special guest, president of Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industries SM Nazrul Islam, president of Mongla Port Users Association Syed Mostahid Ali, President

dubious method of tall talks and signboard propaganda about the Rupsha Bridge construction the present government believes in actual work. The minister was speaking as chief guest at a dinner ar-

ranged in his honour on behalf of the Federation of Bangladesh Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association at local Khulna Club last night.

construct of bridge over Rupsha

river in Khulna and assured

that the construction of Rupsha

Bridge would start soon, reports

He said that unlike the pre-

vious governments who had

given bluff and took recourse to

Presided over by President of Khulna C and F Agents Associ-

Luxembourg PM

greets Hasina

congratulated Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina for receiving

the UNESCO 1998 Felix Houp-

houet-Boigny Peace Prize,

embourg in a letter to

Bangladesh premier expressed

his deepest esteem for her

courageous action to end the in-

surgency in the Chittagong Hill

Hasina's action enabled a

"peaceful settlement of the cri-

CUJ condemns

attack on

journalists

Leaders of Chittagong Union of

Journalists (CUJ) yesterday

strongly condemned the attack

on reporters and photojournal-

ists in the capital during oppo-

sition enforced hartal on Tues-

and Nurul Ameen, president

and general secretary of the

CUJ, said the assault on jour-

nalists on duty is infringement

The union leaders urged the

The CUJ leaders said it is un-

government to take effective

measures to stop recurrence of

fortunate that actions against

those who assaulted photojour-nalists at M A Aziz Stadium in

Chittagong in September last

Jamaat warns

govt against

resistance to

road march

ning Sunday, reports UNB.

at party office in the city.

by BNP has organised a three-

day long march in different di-

rections from the capital May

16-18 demanding immediate

resignation of the Awami

League regime and midterm

elections under a caretaker gov-

ernment on charge of its failure

to tackle power-gas-water crisis

government decision banning

motor convoys across the high-

march on May 16 for Jhenidah

from the Engineers Institution

after an inaugural address by

its Ameer Professor Golam

Azam, said Nizami. After a

night halt at Jhenidah, the

marchers will restart for

Satkhira via Jessore on May

will start for Khulna and the fi-

25 street rallies and three big

meetings at Jhenidah, Satkhira

and Khulna will be held. Prof

Golam Azam will address the

public, said the Jamaat secre-

position marches through Bangabandhu Bridge, Nizami

said such prohibitions would

the ban for a smooth run of the

government in power any

longer as it totally failed to run

the country properly," Nizami

He demanded withdrawal of

"People don't want to see the

backfire.

long march.

told newsmen.

Condemning the ban on op-

nal rally would be held there.

On May 18, the long march

During the long march, some

security Bangabandhu Bridge.

Jamaat warnings followed a

Jamaat will start its long

and other problems.

year have not yet been taken.

on the freedom of the press.

such incident in the future.

In a statement, Ataul Hakim

CHITTAGONG, May 14:

Prime Minister Sheikh

The Prime Minister of Lux-

reports BSS

Tracts region.

sis," Juncker said.

day, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg has

among others by State Minister for Relief and Disaster Manand Secretary respectively of the federation M Salimullah and Alhaj Abul Fazal Talukder.

Tofail reiterates govt commitment

Construction of Rupsha

Tofail Ahmed said that "We are passing through a period of globalisation and liberalisation when we have to work unitedly for economic prosperity despite political differences.

He said that if the Awami League government fails to fulfill the aspirations of the people they will not vote for us. It is not necessary to call hartal, destruction and demonstration

for change of the government and advised the opposition not to take any destructive policies.

Referring to the importance of Mongla Port, availability of gas, special concession for im-port and export and special privileges to foreign entrepreneurs the Commerce and Industries Minister said that Bangladesh has a great future prospect and could stand out as one of the prosperous nations in Asia in the twenty first cen-

He called for maintaining peace in the country for achieving economic prosperity.

Earlier in the day the Commerce and Industries Minister addressed an Awami League workers meeting jointly orga-nized by Khulna City Unit and District Unit of Awami League at its central office premises.

Kibria's call to make food procurement

S Kibria yesterday called upon procurement drive a success for creating buffer-stock and keeping its price within the capacity of the buyers, reports

There is a bright possibility of success for the drive because of this year's bumper Boro production and increased government allocation for this purpose. Kibria said at a meeting with divisional and district level officials at Sylhet Circuit

The Minister, however, warned the officials involved in food procurement saying no irregularity or indolence of the concerned officials would be tolerated.

and disbursement of agricultural loans, the Minister directed the officials to be active in this regard.

could be recovered, it would be possible to give more loan in the next year," Kibria added. Acting Divisional Commis-

sioner, DIG of police, Deputy Commissioner, SP, General Managers of Bangladesh Bank and Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Food Controllers of the division's four districts and concerned high officials were pre-

GSS workers condemned

By Staff Correspondent Gano Sahajja Sangstha (GSS) Karmi Sammelan Parishad yesterday condemned the agitation programme of a section of workers of the defunct organisation and said they were creating anarchy in the name of movement, said a press release of the organisa-

"false propaganda against the GSS executive director," the former GSS workers at a meeting at Mirpur in the city expressed their firm determination to "foil any conspiracy to split the organisation.

The Parishad, comprising workers who accepted decision of the Executive and Advisory Council regarding the organisation's closure, also submitted a memorandum to the executive committee demanding action

Among others, convenor of the Parishad Mostafa Panna, SS Rahman, Swapan Bhattyacharya, Gisauddin Sarkar, Hasina Habib, Badiuzzaman and Benazir Ahmed addressed the meeting.

new type of radio

The First Bangladesh Technologies (FBT) handed over radio sets to a number of NGOs including BRAC, Proshika and GUP on May 4 for trial and test-

The FBT, whose objective is to provide innovative and alternative technological solution, is introducing a new type of radio set for use in rural Bangladesh.

The Wind-up Radio, which runs mainly on wind-up mechanism, is easy to operate by every one. These radio sets can be used for empowering people in rural communities where there is no electricity and people

corporate special technology that harness self-powered en-

The free-play Wind-up Radio offers a reliable and effective means to get radio broadcasts messages to them on either education, agriculture or primary and preventive healthcare, said a press release.

Obituary

Renowned businessman and philanthropist A Nabi Padamsee died on cardiac arrest at BIRDEM Hospital in the

Mosque after Jumma prayers. His qulkhawani will be held

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday warned the government of dire consequences if it puts any road blocks to the planed road march of the opposition begin-"It would not be tolerated if the government tried to create obstacle to the opposition's long march," said Jamaat secretary general Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami at a press briefing The opposition alliance led

at a tolerable limit throughout the year, reports UNB.

He was addressing the installation ceremony of Titas Gas Officers; Welfare Association at the Engineers' Institution in the city yesterday. The State Minister said discipline would soon be restored

in gas and power sector through undertaking integrated programmes at the direct guidelines of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He said the farmers har-

supply was ensured for the irrigation pumps during the He asked the officials to eradicate corruption, irregularities and system loss from elec-

tricity and gas sector. Any failure in this regard would be dealt with iron hand, said Prof Rafig. Additional Secretary of the

Ministry Syed Tanvir Hossain and Petrobangla Chairman Mosharraf Hossain spoke on the occasion.

Army, Navy

Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, Bir Bikram returned home on Thursday night after a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China, reports BSS.

Army Staff visited the Chinese

Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam returned home yesterday after an official visit to the Republic of Singapore, Thailand and South Korea. He was leading a three-

During his stay in Singapore Admiral Islam met Minister of Defence and Chief of Singapore Navy and discussed matter of mutual interests.

- Star photo Exhibition (IMDEX-99).

Women and children of the Kezuri union of Faridpur district observed a hunger strike in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday seeking Prime Minister's intervention in protecting them from the attacks of terrorists. Star photo Rajshahi Govt

'Crash programmes undertaken to keep gas, power supply situation at tolerable limit'

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Prof Rafiqul Islam yesterday said the government has undertaken crash programmes to keep the gas and power supply situation

vested a bumper crop in the current boro season as electricity

chiefs return Chief of Army Staff

During the visit, the Chief of

Defence Ministry, National Defence University, Xian Electronics Research Institute, Oriental Peral TV Tower and other important civil and military installations. Besides, he visit the Head Office and Arms Exhibition Hall of the China North Industries Corporation. Another BSS report adds: Chief of the Naval Staff Rear

member delegation.

He also attended the international Maritime Defence

College students hurt in police action

RAJSHAHI, May 14: Three activists of left-leaning Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) were injured in police action when they tried to observe a hunger strike at Rajshahi Government College on Thursday, campus sources said, reports APB.

The wounded students — Mizanur Rahman, Tanmoy Sanyal and Lakhyan Sarker were undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hos-A chase and counter-chase

incidents also took place be-

tween the BSU activists and po-

lice when they were resisted from holding the hunger strike in front of the college's administrative building at about 9 am. The student activists had called the programme to press home their demand for increasing seats in the First Year Honours courses.

Earlier on Wednesday, a group of unruly students ransacked the offices of the principal, vice-principal and administrative building of the college. Teachers of the college observed a work-abstention programme on Thursday to protest the incident.

When contacted, the college principal said activists of a student organisation were demanding introduction of quota system in the admission pro-

AI lauds human rights in CHT

RANGAMATI, May 14: The Amnesty International (AI) has lauded the significant improvement of human rights situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts following the signing of the historic peace accord, reports BSS. A three-member team of the organisation after a two-day

trict told the journalists last night at the local Press Club that violation of human rights in the hills has reduced significantly. Headed by Abbas Faiz of the Regional Programme-South

visit to the Rangamati hill dis-

Asia of the AI, the team included an Al researcher Corey Levine. Faiz said his team had dis-

cussions with the local district administration, judicial officers, officers of law-enforcing agencies, local elite and cross section of people to help raise awareness about protecting human rights in the hill dis-

Thursday ruled pro and antihartal activity as cognizable of-Noor-e-Alam Ziku and Hasanul Haq Inu, president and general secretary respectively of JSD, in a statement yesterday said: "Solution of any political issue involving the country,

sought in the court." The JSD leaders observed political programme like hartal took roots in the subcontinent in protest against antipeople and repressive colonial

nation and people should not be

"A political solution to the problem can be possible in a bicameral parliament with an upper house formed with representatives of various professions and women in a participatory system replacing the colonial one," said the JSD statement.

drive a success

Finance Minister Shah A M the officials to make the food

Discussing the collection

"If all the disbursed loans

Movement of some

Terming the allegations as

against the agitators.

FBT hands over sets to NGOs

ing, reports UNB.

normally do not have access to good quality batteries. Besides, these radio sets in-

city yesterday. He was 45, reports UNB. Nabi was laid to rest at Banani Graveyard after namaze-janaza at Gulshan Central

today after Asr prayers at House 44, Road 1, DOHS Banani.

Bridge to start soon everyone at the same cost, but President of Bangladesh the new Health Policy envisages Medical Association (BMA) that the affluent patients would KHULNA, May 14: Minister ation Mahbubul Alam Hiron, share the cost of treatment Prof Rashid-e-Mahbub told BSS for Commerce and Industries the function was also addressed while the low-income group pathat although BMA had differed Tofail Ahmed reiterated the government's commitment to

Advocate Salahuddin Abdullah, new district Governor of

Weather

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to

till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met Office predict. Country's highest temperature 37.4 degree Celsius was

The sun sets today at 6.34 pm and rises on Sunday at 5.16

Humidity in percentage Evening Sylhet Cox's Bazar 33.0



in Bandarban sought

BANDARBAN, May 14: A ruling party MP from the hill district, Bir Bahadur, has sought Prime Minister's intervention to set up a malaria institute here to save people from the killer disease, reports UNB. In a fax message to Prime

"bad shape" of health care in the district and spread of malaria in particular in the mosquito-Besides improvement in general health facilities, the MP said it was imperative to set

Malaria is spread by specific types of mosquitoes which bite people even at daytime. The disease is common in the hill dis-

affected people die every year.

bed Bandarban Sadar Hospital to a 100-bed one had already completed, but initiatives were yet to be taken for upgrading its medical service. In absence of anesthesists. no operation is conducted in the hospital. There is no radiologist

that work for upgrading the 50-

in the hospital to prepare medical test reports. There is no specialist physician in general surgery medicine department, and eyeear-nose and no blood bank ei-

Forty-seven posts of doctors have been lying vacant for long with only 20 physicians attend ing the patients against 67. He also requested the PM for measures to build a cross-dam

Thanchi Thana Health Complex from river erosion. The MP sought extension of the 10-bed health centres each in Ruma and Roangchhari thanas into 31-bed health

to save the newly constructed

complexes and an ambulance for Roangchhari thana. He demanded one crore taka in government allocation every

JP(M-M) presidium meets today

By Staff Correspondent The Presidium meeting of

The meeting will review the political situation of the