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Inside Today

Article



Focus on Pakistan
 Khar is back in news,
 this time with an inter-
 national scandal — M J
 Zahedi writes from
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Business

External balances hit
 record
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International



President turns into
 columnist
 Akalis urge Punjab
 governor not to install
 Congress govt
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Notice

Our regular feature Dhaka
 Day by Day has been
 dropped today for unavail-
 able reasons.
 — Editor

NEWS BRIEFS

20 injured in Sirajganj clash

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 22: At least
 20 people were injured two of
 them seriously in a clash be-
 tween two groups of villagers
 at Shialkhol in Sadar upazila
 today. The quarrel between vil-
 lagers of Shialkhol and
 Raghanaithpur and Small
 Shialkhol and Bidyanath broke
 out over work distribution of a
 project under Bangladesh
 Small and Cottage Industries
 Corporation (BSCIC), reports
 UNB.

Road barricade

JHENIDAH, Feb 22: The
 Dhaka-Khulna highway at
 Barobazar in Kaliganj thana was
 barricaded for two hours from
 10 am following the death of a
 primary school student in a
 road mishap today. Local peo-
 ple and students put the barri-
 cade demanding punishment of
 the driver of a Dhaka-bound
 coach which ran over Khodja
 (10), daughter of Abu Zafar,
 while she was crossing the
 road at Barobazar on her way to
 school. The driver managed to
 escape with the vehicle
 following the tragic mishap,
 reports UNB.

BNP extended meet Feb 25-26

A two-day extended
 meeting of the National Ex-
 ecutive Committee of
 Bangladesh Nationalist Party
 (BNP) will be held on February
 25-26 at 3 pm. Chairperson of
 BNP and Prime Minister Be-
 gum Khaleda Zia will preside
 over the meeting, reports BSS.

Venkataraman to visit China in May

NEW DELHI, Feb 22: Indian
 President Ramaswamy
 Venkataraman will visit China
 in May, the first ever visit by
 an Indian head of state to Bei-
 jing, the PFI said yesterday,
 reports AFP.

Cricketer dies

A young cricketer, injured in
 a cracker blast on the night of
 Shab-e-Barat (Tuesday), died
 at the Dhaka Medical College
 Hospital Saturday. Kamal Hos-
 sain (18), a second division
 cricket player of Shantinagar
 Club, received head injury
 while a cracker exploded near
 his residence at the Motijheel
 T&T Colony Tuesday night,
 reports UNB.

Abu Dhabi shareholders agree to compensate

BCCI depositors may get one-third of money back

LONDON, Feb 22: The Abu
 Dhabi majority shareholders of
 the Bank of Credit and
 Commerce International have
 agreed on a worldwide settle-
 ment which would give deposi-
 tors about one-third of their
 money back, the main liquidator
 said Friday, reports AP.
 Brian Smouha, of the ac-
 counting firm Touche Ross and
 Co, said the first installment of
 the settlement would be paid
 early next year.
 He said the agreement
 would return between 30-40
 percent of each depositor's
 loss.
 Seventy percent of the
 creditors would have to agree
 for the deal to go forward, and
 it would require the approval
 of courts in Britain, Luxem-
 bourg and the Cayman Islands,
 the source said.
 Regulators seized the bank
 on July 5 on evidence of long-

term widespread fraud. The
 seizure affected 1.1 million
 depositors who had \$19.5
 billion on deposit at the
 Luxembourg-registered bank.
 Under the settlement an-
 nounced Friday, depositors
 would have to waive the right
 to sue the bank or its majority
 shareholders, said a source
 close to the negotiations, who
 spoke on condition of
 anonymity.
 The majority shareholders
 are put between \$1.7 billion
 and \$2.2 billion in cash in a
 pool that will be dis-
 tributed to the participants in
 the scheme, the source said.
 The bank's liabilities are
 estimated at \$10 billion.
 The majority shareholders
 will take on the liabilities of
 the United Arab Emirates
 branches of BCCI, SA, the
 source said.

The shareholders are not
 pursuing claims against the
 bank for "the very large sums
 which have been misappropri-
 ated by the bank," the source
 said.
 An Abu Dhabi report says,
 depositors of the BCCI at the
 home branches will get a bet-
 ter deal than the proposed
 compensation scheme, senior
 banking officials said Saturday.
 Officials dealing with the
 BCCI case said the majority
 shareholders would take on
 the liabilities of the bank's
 eight branches in the United
 Arab Emirates, paying the de-
 positors an initial 40 percent
 compensation in April and
 possibly as much as 80 percent
 later.
 Compensation for BCCI de-
 positors in the country was
 being dealt with separately from
 the global BCCI affair, they
 said, speaking on condition

they not be named.
 Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al
 Nahyan, the UAE president
 and ruler of its capital emirate
 Abu Dhabi, and his family, own
 77 percent of the BCCI shares.
 The Al Nahyans are con-
 tributing between \$1.7 billion
 and \$2.2 billion to the
 compensation pool, which will
 give depositors in 40 countries
 about one-third of their money
 back under the deal an-
 nounced Friday in London.
 Reuters adds: Shareholders
 including the ruler of Abu
 Dhabi are ready to put up 2.2
 billion dollars to compensate
 people in many countries who
 lost money when the BCCI was
 closed down.
 But depositors who would
 get only 30 to 40 percent of
 what they are owed said such a
 deal should not be accepted
 until it was certain that more
 money could not be found.

Security paper mill project rejected

Bangladesh Bank has finally
 rejected the idea of setting up
 the proposed security paper
 mill, saying the internal de-
 mand of paper notes will de-
 crease in the coming days, re-
 ports UNB.
 The bank, which had
 drafted the project profile of
 the mill, now says the internal
 annual demand growth for the
 paper notes was miscalculated
 at 10 per cent which should
 not be more than five per cent.
 Moreover, according to the
 bank, the internal demand of
 notes will further be reduced
 after the planned introduction
 of coin up to Tk 10, which ac-
 counts for about 70 per cent of
 total notes circulation.
 The Bangladesh Bank's re-
 jection of the project came in
 reply to a letter from In-
 dustries Ministry asking to
 clarify its position on the set-
 ting up of the proposed mill.
 The bank's clarification has
 now thrown setting up of the

country's first-ever security
 paper mill into uncertainty and
 virtually made it impossible to
 avail an already-obtained 12
 million dollar IDB credit for
 the project.
 The proposed mill has the
 capacity to produce 3,000 tons
 of papers annually against an
 annual demand of 450 tons,
 which is "more than actual re-
 quirement."
 The bank said cotton waste
 and raw material for the prod-
 ucts required by the mills will
 not be available and maintain-
 ing adequate security measures
 will not be possible for the
 bank notes.
 "Production of bank note
 papers along with other secu-
 rity papers is not desirable for
 security reasons", it said.
 Bangladesh Bank annually
 imports about 1500 metric-
 tons of security papers worth
 about Tk 80 crore. It proposed
 setting up the security paper
 mill in 1982.

Another UNHCR official comes next month

By Farid Hossain

The United Nations High
 Commissioner for Refugees
 (UNHCR) will send another
 top official to Bangladesh early
 next month to boost its relief
 work for the Rohingya
 refugees.
 Jamshed Anwar, head of
 UNHCR's Asian Desk, is ex-
 pected to arrive in Dhaka ear-
 ly next month, a UNHCR of-
 ficial said on Saturday.
 High Commissioner Sadako
 Ogata granting 1 lakh dollar for
 the refugees has already dis-
 patched a 10-member mission
 to see how the UN agency can
 help the people driven from
 their homes in Myanmar's
 (Burma's) western province of
 Arakan. The High Commis-
 sioner has also allocated
 another one million dollar for
 the refugees.
 More than 1 lakh Rohingya
 Muslim refugees have fled
 Arakan to take refuge in Cox's
 Bazar and Bandarabana districts
 since July last year.
 The refugees say they are
 escaping massacres and rapes
 by Myanmar's military gov-
 ernment.
 S Wjeratne, the Officer-in-
 Charge of the visiting UNHCR
 See Page 12 Col 6

Vow to translate martyrs' dreams

By Staff Correspondent

The nation Friday observed
 the Shaheed Dibosh with a re-
 newed pledge to translate the
 dreams of the martyrs.
 On this day in 1952, some
 valiant sons of the soil em-
 braced martyrdom as the then
 Pakistani regime tried to sil-
 ence the voice demanding
 recognition of Bangla as one of
 the state languages.
 Various political organisa-
 tions, freedom fighters, stu-
 dent groups, socio-cultural
 organisations and professional
 bodies across the country
 chalked out elaborate pro-
 grammes to mark the day. The
 programmes included placing
 of wreaths at the Shaheed
 Minars, offering of prayers at
 the grave of the martyrs, bare-
 foot processions, discussions
 and cultural functions. The day
 was a public holiday. The na-
 tional flag flew atop all public
 and private buildings.
 In the capital, it was all
 flowers and bare-foot process-

sions in the Central Shaheed
 Minar premises as the clock
 struck February 21.
 Prime Minister Begum
 Khaleda Zia was the first to
 place wreaths at the Minar
 amid tight security. She was
 accompanied by Ministers,
 MPs and the central leaders of
 the Bangladesh Nationalist
 Party.
 However, the President did
 not place wreaths at the
 Shaheed Minar.
 Quran Khwani, milad mahfil
 and munajat seeking salvation
 of the souls of the martyrs
 were organised at the mos-
 ques. Newspapers brought out
 special supplements high-
 lighting the day while state-
 run radio and TV put out spe-
 cial programmes.
 Awami League chief and
 Leader of the Opposition in
 Parliament Sheikh Hasina
 placed wreath at the Central
 Shaheed Minar at about 12
 See Page 12 Col 3

Non-government teachers call off strike

The Central Union Com-
 mittee for Teachers' Move-
 ment and Bangladesh Edu-
 cational Institutions Employ-
 ees Federation have called off
 their strike and all other
 programmes including the
 teachers' rally of February 24,
 reports BSS.
 The decision was taken at a
 meeting of the representatives
 of the Committee and the
 Federation with Prime Minis-
 ter Begum Khaleda Zia held at
 her Sugandha office Sunday.
 The Prime Minister gave a
 patient and sympathetic hear-
 ing to their problems.
 In view of the role on non-
 government teachers in the
 overall context of education in
 the country, the Prime Minis-
 ter announced that the govern-
 ment had decided to pay
 seventy per cent of basic pay
 to the teachers and employees
 of non-government schools,
 colleges and madrasas in the
 new national pay scale with
 effect from July 1, 1992.
 Regarding other problems
 See Page 12 Col 6



FLORAL HOMAGE: Two DUCSU volunteers keeping the wreaths presented by people of all walks of life in tidy pile at the Central Shaheed Minar in the Ekushey morning Friday. More pictures on page 8. — Star photo

Some out to foil uplift programme : PM

DINAJPUR, Feb 22 : Prime
 Minister Begum Khaleda Zia
 today accused a certain quarter
 of hindering the government
 efforts aimed at ensuring wel-
 fare of the people, reports
 UNB.
 "They are trying to destroy
 the country with assistance
 from alien forces", she said
 while addressing a big rally at
 the site of the proposed
 Dinajpur Medical College this
 afternoon. She planted a
 mango sapling in the premises
 of the college the foundation of
 which was laid by President
 Zia in 1979.
 Presided over by District
 BNP Convenor Khurshid Jahan
 Huq, the rally was also ad-
 dressed by Law Minister Mirza
 Golam Hafiz, Education
 Minister Jamiruddin Sircar,
 State Minister for Commu-
 nications Fazlur Rahman Patal
 and Deputy Minister for Health
 Serajul Huq.
 Soon after she flew here
 from the capital this morning,
 the Prime Minister laid founda-
 tion of the Circuit House and

later inaugurated re-excavation
 of 4.5 kilometer Garveshari
 canal.
 Indirectly hitting at Awami
 League, the Prime Minister
 told the rally that election held
 in February last year had
 proved none can go to power
 with the help of alien forces.
 She did not spare Jatiya
 Party either and said they
 smuggled out the national
 wealth during their "autocratic
 rule".
 The country which was lib-
 erated through supreme sacri-
 fice should now be rebuilt
 unitedly, Begum Zia said and
 sought cooperation of all in
 implementing the develop-
 ment programmes of the gov-
 ernment.
 She stressed the need for
 optimum exploitation of na-
 tional resources for economic
 progress. She particularly
 mentioned extraction of coal,
 limestone and hard rocks.
 The Prime Minister assured
 her audience that the Jamuna
 Multipurpose Bridge Project
 See Page 12 Col 1

Govt agents terrorising AL workers : Hasina

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Feb 22: Sheik-
 kh Hasina has said that
 government agents are terroris-
 ing inside Awami League.
 The Awami League Chief
 and the Leader of the Oppo-
 sition in Parliament also
 blamed these agents in the
 guise of party workers for
 killing Badal, the Organising
 Secretary of the party's stu-
 dent front.
 She was addressing a re-
 ception accorded to her at the
 Chourangi road crossing in
 Gopalganj town on her way to
 Bagerhat to visit the residence
 of Badal.
 Moniruzzaman Badal, Orga-
 nising Secretary of (S-A) was
 killed on January 9 near
 Jagannath hall of Dhaka
 University allegedly by his
 armed party comrades.
 She told the well attended
 rally that the democratically
 elected BNP government was
 now behaving like an auto-
 cratic one.
 She alleged that the Deputy
 Speaker and other ministers

before placing the 12th
 Amendment Bill in Parliament
 assured her that the indemnity
 (repeal) Bill would also be
 passed in the parliament.
 But after passing 11th and
 12th Amendment Bill the rul-
 ing party started to dilly-dally
 on the Indemnity issue, she
 also alleged and condemned
 the self-confessed killers of
 Bangabandhu and his family
 members were now freely
 moving with automatic
 weapons, generally carried by
 the army personnel and
 threatening the security of
 public life. Hasina demanded
 government's immediate steps
 in this regard.
 The AL Chief will stay
 Saturday night at her home
 residence at Tungipara and
 would address a rally on
 Monday at Kotalipara upazila.
 She will go to Badal's resi-
 dence at Bagerhat on Tuesday.
 The rally at Chourangi road
 crossing was also addressed
 among others by Kazi Abdur
 See Page 12 Col 6

Yangon grapples with 30 armed groups

MANERPLAW (Myanmar),
 Feb 22: Newly supplied with
 Chinese weapons, Myanmar's
 military junta has mounted a
 brutal campaign of unprece-
 dented scale to crush one of
 the world's longest lasting re-
 bellions, according to experts
 and victims of the fighting, re-
 ports AP.
 The fighting pits Yangon's
 300,000-strong forces against
 some 30 rebel organizations
 variously seeking greater au-
 tonomy for Myanmar's ethnic
 minorities and an end to
 decades of harsh military rule.
 Waged in a country largely
 shut off from the rest of the
 world, some of the rebellions

date back to the late 1940s,
 when several ethnic groups
 felt betrayed by a central gov-
 ernment which had promised
 them some degree of auton-
 omy.
 In recent months, the gov-
 ernment drives have inflamed
 Myanmar's borders with three
 neighbouring countries, spark-
 ed large refugee flights and
 drawn sharp criticism from
 human rights organiza-
 tions over alleged atrocities by
 the military.
 "This is the crucial year in
 the war. This is an all-out
 campaign to win some kind of
 victory," said Myanmar scholar
 Josef Silverstein.

Failure to deliver a decisive
 blow, Silverstein said, could
 result in negotiations with the
 rebels or an uprising by hard
 pressed field commanders
 against their widely detested
 Yangon leaders.
 Experts like Silverstein
 have long argued that rather
 than the general perception of
 "a bunch of tribal guerrillas
 running around the jungles,"
 the conflict in Myanmar should
 be viewed as a civil war deman-
 ding attention from the in-
 ternational community.
 An estimated 35 percent of
 the population in large areas of
 the country are up in arms
 against a government which

drains the resources of poten-
 tially one of Asia's richest na-
 tion to continue the fighting.
 Tens of thousands have been
 killed.
 Additionally, the ethnic mi-
 norities have been joined by
 students, Buddhist monks and
 politicians from the majority.
 These have fled the interior in
 wake of the military's suppres-
 sion of a nationwide, pro-
 democracy uprising in 1988.
 Currently, several Myanmar
 divisions are locked in bloody
 combat with the Karen
 National Union, one of the
 strongest of the rebel groups,
 and threatening its headquar-
 See Page 12 Col 7