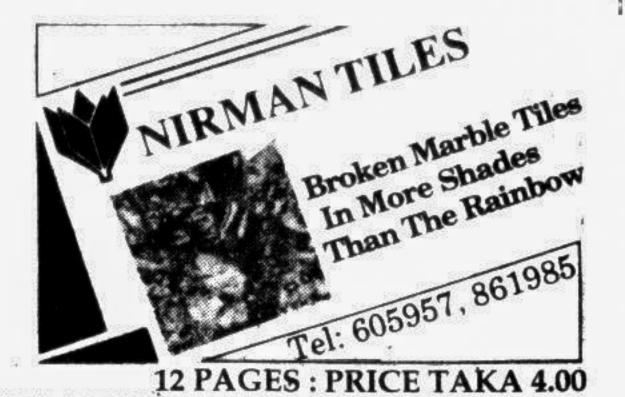
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DHAKA MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1994

RAMADAN 9, 1414 HIJRI



– Inside Today –

Article

Building a Literate Nation: Access to **Primary Education**

by Mahmood Aminul Islam Page 4

International

Serbs quit 80pc of artillery, sites around Sarajevo

Japan, Russia to resume talks on **Kuril Islands** Page 9

Business

Tea export may earn Tk 200 cr this fiscal year

BJP offers alternative budget for India Page 10

Supplement

Special Supplement on Ekushey Pages 5, 6, 7, 8

Metropolitan Dhaka Day by Day



In Search of Root of Language Page 3

Notice

The offices of The Baily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of the 'Ekushey February'. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow

NEWS BRIEFS

Zerina Zaman sworn in as PSC member

Dr Zerina Zaman, Professor of Zoology of Dhaka University was sworn in yesterday as member of the Public Service Commission. Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed administered the oath of office to Dr Zerina Zaman at a simple ceremony at the Supreme Court Bhaban, reports BSS.

Trade team leaves for Italy today

A nine-member delegation led by Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah leaves Dhaka today on a six-day tour of Italy One of the objectives of the visit is to identify fields of cooperation between the Bangladeshi entrepreneurs and the Italian industries, official sources said, reports UNB

Time for Naniarchar probe body extended

The government has extended the time limit of the enquiry commission instituted to investigate into the incident that occurred recently at Naniarchar in Rangamati hill district upto March 31 at the request of the commission, official sources said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

2 boys drowned

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 20: Two minor boys drowned in the river Surma near Sylhet town yesterday. According to the reports, the victims Layekuddin, 8, son of Alauddin of Kamalgarh Chhaparpar and Tuhin, 7, of Ambarkhana area of the town, alongwith three others, went for bathing in the river at about 12 noon. Two of them drowned.

Sehri, Iftar timings			
Rmdn	Feb	Sehri	Iftar
09	21	-	6:01 pm
10	22	5:06 am	6:01 pm
11	23	5:06 am	6.02 pm

Amar Ekushey returns

Pledge for stronger democracy



FALGUN 9, 1400 BS,

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia placing a wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar at one minute past midnight Sunday. - Star photo

PM distributes Ekushey Padak-93

Economic emancipation was the martyrs' dream'

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday made a fervent call for all irrespective of party affiliation to work unitedly for economic emancipation to materialise the dreams of the martyrs of great Language Movement, reports

"This Language Movement was not merely a cultural struggle . . . Above all, achieving economic emancipation was the inner urge of this movement," she said addressing the Ekushev Padak distribution ceremony at the Osmany Memorial Hall in the morning.

Begum Zia reminded that Ekushey was not merely for

festivities. "It's a day for soulsearching, a day for taking a

The Prime Minister said the main spirit of the Language Movement was to establish an exploitation-free society. "But we could not go far ahead towards materialising this spirit in absence of democracy in the country for a long time after independence . . . We could not rid our people of the vicious cycle of poverty."

Terming Ekushey as the milestone towards people's cultural, political and economic freedom, the Prime Minister said the Language Movement in 42 years ago was See Page 12 Col 3

By Staff Correspondent

At the strike of midnight Sunday, people started pouring in at the Central Shaheed Minar to pay homage to the martyrs who had laid down their lives on this day in 1952 for the cause of the Bengali language.

Shaheed Minar

at zero hour

Thousands of barefoot people placed wreaths, bouquets and flowers turning the Central Shaheed Minar into a vast sea of humanity.

Men, women and children of all ages in solemn silence paraded to the freshly-painted premises of the minar as the loudspeakers blared "Amar Bhaiyer Rakte Rangano Ekushey February, Ami Ki Bhulite Part" — the tune that sparked off the quest for independence See Page 12 Col 3

The nation observes the historic Ekushey February this year with a renewed pledge to strengthen the democratic institutions that have taken roots in the past three years.

By Staff Correspondent

The sacrifices of the language martyrs 43 years ago is being remembered as a watershed not only for the flourishment of the Bengali language but also for establishing the democratic rights of the peo-

The supreme sacrifices of Salam, Rafique, Jabbar, Barkat and others on this day in 1952 were aimed at making Bangla one of the state languages of the then Pakistan.

The valiant sons of the soil embraced martyrdom while leading a procession towards the then provincial assembly in the Jagannath Hall premises demanding the national language status for the Bangla language.

Their sacrifices eventually led to an armed struggle that culminated in the emergence of a free, sovereign and independent Bangladesh.

In a message on the occasion President Abdur Rahman Biswas has called on the peo-Sec Page 12 Col 4

Ekushey Padak '94 announced

The government has announced the names of the recipients of the 'Ekushey Padak' for 1994, reports UNB. The recipients are: Prof Mohammad Noman (Education), Humayun Ahmed and late Sardar Joinuddin (Posthumous) for literature, Hasanuzzaman Khan (Journalism), Ali Mansur (Drama), Shahadat Hossain Khan (Instrumental Music), Neena Hamid (Vocal Music) and Abu Taher (Fine Art).

Bangla Academy Award '93 declared By Staff Correspondent

Bashir-Al-Helal and Khaleda Edib Chowdhury have been selected for the Bangla Academy Literary Award 1993.

Director General of the academy Prof Harun ur Rashid announced the names of the recipients yesterday.

Financial system worries donors

Star Report

The donor countries and agencies have strongly recommended speeding up the ongoing financial sector reforms as action taken so far proved to be 'insufficient' and the country's financial system 'remains a cause for concern.'

"The weakness of Bangladesh's financial sector precludes it from playing its essential role in supporting private sector development and investment," the donors observed at a recent meeting with government officials.

Noting the 'gradual' progress being made in implementing the financial sector reform programme (FSRP), a World Bank report, presented at the meeting, saidthe financial system continues to remain in transition. "The full effect of the liber-

alisation and de-regulation on private sector development will not be felt unless the financial sector is able to play its key role in mobilising savings and allocating them to efficient use," the report said.

It went on to identify the progress made in reforming the financial sector so far as: Steps to strengthen financial laws and regulations; completion of a round of recapitalisa-

The special parliamentary

committee constituted to

probe the alleged corruption

in the Irrigation and Flood

Control Ministry and the

minister concerned is likely to

meet on Friday morning to

decide the fate of the commit-

tee itself, sources in the

failed to begin the investiga-

tion because the members.

belonging to the treasury and

opposition benches have so far

failed to reach an agreement

met 13 times since the forma-

tion of the committee more

The members have till date

on the terms of reference.

The 15-member probe body

Parliament Secretariat said.

JS probe body holds

crucial meet Friday

By Nurul Kabir

terday.

reference.

tion of the NCBs to the extent of Tk 3229 crore; dealing with outstanding debts of public enterprises on a sectoral basis; and lowering the floor on savings and fixed-term deposits to 5 and 5.5 per cent.

However, the report added that the steps already initiated remain inadequate. "Action taken so far is insufficient to deal with the legacy of the past, and the condition of Bangladesh's financial system remains a cause for concern."

The legacy of the past, it said, are the problems created by many years of "misguided and rigid" government and Bangladesh Bank regulations and directives in the financial

The report was critical of the 'weak' institutional character of Bangladesh Bank. It recommended further strengthening of the central bank by reviewing its organisational, management and staffing poli-

The World Bank report also noted 'the government's failure' to privatise Rupali Bank, reportedly agreed during the Aid Group meeting held last April in Paris. The bank had earlier presented a separate See Page 12 Col 8

than seven months ago on July

13 last and debated on the

terms producing no result.

"The next meeting of the

committee is likely to witness

discussion on whether the

probe body would start the in-

vestigation or abandon the idea

for good," an annoyed Awami

League member of the probe

body told The Daily Star yes-

prepared a 'primary report' on

the issue during the last ses-

sion of Parliament expressing

disagreement on the terms of

See Page 12 Col 7

The disagreement on the

Meanwhile, the probe body

slow pace while that of two others nil. The meeting discussed the problems responsible for the inadequate progress and decided a number of measures to overcome those.

High-level meet

resents slow

pace of

ADP projects

by Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia yesterday resented

sloth in implementation of

ADP projects under the

Irrigation, Water Development

and Flood Control Ministry.

progress of the ministry's 46

projects, including 43 foreign-

aided ones, being imple-

mented under the current

Annual Development Progra-

the projects was noted to be at

Implementation of eight of

The meeting reviewed

reports UNB.

A top-level meeting chaired

Writ on repolling Hearing adjourned till tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent A division bench of the High Court yesterday adjourned the hearing of the writ petition relating to repolling in the three centres of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC). The Election Commission

(EC) had earlier cancelled the results of three DCC polling centres on recommendations of a probe body which found massive voting irregularities. This was disclosed by Dr

Ahmed Hossain while appearing for the EC to defend its decision of cancelling results of the three centres under Ward No 57 and declaring repolling there before a division bench of the High Court yes-Hearing resumed yesterday

of the writ petition filed with the High Court by a commissioner candidate of the Ward, Abul Ahsan Talukder (Noni) challenging the EC decision. The division bench com-

prising Justice Abdul Jalil and Justice Ruhul Amin heard the lawyers of both the sides for nearly four hours and adjourned the hearing until 10:30 am on Tuesday.

Dr Ahmed Hossain, speaking further on the EC formed probe committee findings, said See Page 12 Col 1

There seems to be no govt in country: Hasina

DAUDKANDI (Comilla), Feb 20: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina today said terrorism has engulfed the country as plunderers and terrorists are now in power, reports UNB.

. "There seems to be no government in the country ... plunderers and terrorists are at the helm of the country." the Awami league President told a gathering during her visit to the devastated Sadanandi village in the thana this afternoon.

A group of armed hoodlums set ablaze 27 semi-pucca, tinshed and kutcha houses at the village Tuesday morning rendering more than 200 home-

Hasina said identified crim inals were involved in the attack, but the main accused were yet to be arrested.

Demanding arrest of the criminals and terrorists, she alleged the hoodlums, after committing the crime, were getting shelter from the gov

ernment. The AL chief said the ruling BNP does not believe in democracy and cited the Lalbagh killing for which she held the ruling quarters responsible.

"The BNP has no right to stay in power as it failed to give protection to public life and property," Hasina said.

Referring to the arson at the village, which she said was related to a tender. Hasina alleged that BNP 'mastans' were trying to grab business everywhere with their muscle power and terrorism.

She called upon all to unitedly face terrorism and build up resistance.

She also called upon the affluent people of the village to help the victims and directed the local AL unit to stand beside the destitutes and do all possible for them. Hasina walked round the

devastated village and distributed lungts, sarees, utensils and money among the affected families

Police have so far arrested 18 people in connection.

One of the main accused, Bachhu, along with three others, was caught from the house of former UP chairman Munir last night, the Officerin-Charge of Daudkandi thana OC Abdul Hakim said the at

tack followed a dispute over dropping of a tender.



Too much sex, violence in films: Loren BERLIN, Feb 20: Sophia

Loren, the voluptuous Italian film star honoured at Berlin's film festival for her life's work. said today there is far too much wanton sex and violence in contemporary films. Loren, awarded the festi-

val's honorary Golden Bear, said in an interview with Reuters that too many producers pack sex and violence into films simply to make money. "I don't like producers who

make films that exalt sex and violence because they think See Page 12 Col 1

from AJM From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANG, Feb 20: Police today arrested four persons from the Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) area today following yesterday's clash which left

The arrested persons are Malek, Sobhan, Akhtar of the BNP backed Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal and Masum of Awami League backed Rehan group.

Meanwhile, BSS adds: overall situation of the Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) Ltd was normal on Saturday except a stray incident of chase and counter-chase between two rival factions of trade unions which resulted in minor injuries to four persons, police

When contacted the Officer

crackers were blasted during the chase and counter chase, See page 12 Col 2

Four arrested

65 people injured.

in-Charge of Siddhirganj Police Station yesterday toled he was astonished to see a news item published in a section of newspapers that his residence was attacked and there was gunbattle between the factions of trade unions which stopped the production of the mills for few hours. He said, "The news is exaggerated and biased". He said though some fire-

NATO ready to strike on Serbs not until daylight, a further with the NATO ultimatum.

AVIANO. Italy. Feb 20: NATO defence ministers expressed hope that Serbian heavy weapons would be withdrawn by the Sunday night deadline, but said their forces were ready to carry out air strikes, reports AP

US Defence Secretary William Perry insisted at a news conference following a Sunday meeting with foreign ministers, there shall be no backing off from the ultima-

But Perry also said UN forces have reported that they are able to go to all areas of the 20-kilometre exclusion zone around Sarajevo, and if artillery pieces cannot be disabled, they are able to put a guard over it We would consider that full compliance

British Defence Minister Malcolm Rifkind, queried about reports from Sarajevo that the Serbs would be unable to meet the removal deadline for all their heavy weapons.

ity on the part of the Serbs to move weapons out of Bosnia. We are seeing weapons leaving

The administration official said 10 cantonment areas have been established for weapons.

MOSCOW, Feb 20: Russia's Defe-nce Minister Pavel Grachev said today he had just been told by US Defence Secretary William Perry that there would be no NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serbs on Monday. Grachev was shown by NTV independent television speaking with Perry by telep-hone, reports Reuter.

called it a fast moving situa "There has been some significant progress. Rifkind

in Washington a senior Clinton administration official speaking on condition of anonymity said UN and NATO

forces have seen hectic activ-

with two new areas added to those already in existence. "We are seeing additional Serb weapons going into cantonment," the official said Rifkind said UN officials on

the ground will not be able to

make a conclusion about

Serbian compliance until after

midnight, and perhaps even

indication that air strikes might not occur immediately after the midnight GMT Sunday deadline passes. However. Rifkin said he

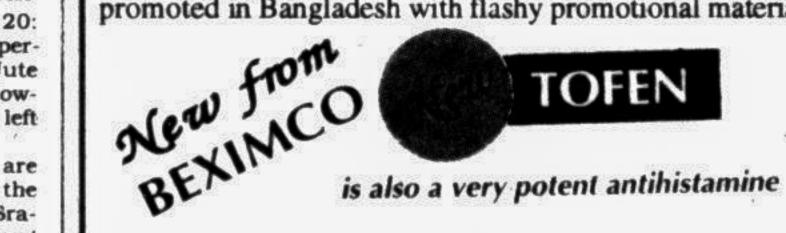
hoped UN officials would be able to assess the situation as quickly as possible. Bosnian Serb Leader

Radovan Karadzic said his forces have moved many of their weapons despite heavy snows and others will be under UN control. "There is no reason for any air strikes," Karadzic said on US television. Earlier in the day. US Gen.

John Shalikashvili took a harsher stance, saying NATO will accept nothing less than the removal or surrender of 100 per cent of all heavy weapons around Sarajevo by Sunday's air strike deadline

Honourable Prime Minister, whose interest is drug control committee serving?

Antihistamine KETOTIFEN with a brand name of TOFEN has recently been heavily promoted in Bangladesh with flashy promotional materials and gifts.



Tofen is a drug of choice for

ALLERGIC CONJUNCTIVITIS

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ALLERGIC SKIN CONDITIONS TOFEN IS A STRONG ASTHMA PROPHYLACTIC

But does it really act as 'Strong Asthma Prophylactic? Or a superior antihistamine?' Let us examine verdicts of standard medical and pharmacological sources:

British National Formulary: A joint Publication of British Medical Association &

The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, Vol 26, September, 1993 — 'Antihistamines are of no value whatsoever in the treatment of Bronchial Asthma. KETOTIFEN is an antihistamine with an action said to resemble that of sodium

chromoglycate, but it too has proved disappointing......... Drug Evaluations Annual 1994 by American Medical Association —

The results of clinical studies have been variable and conflicting, and its (Ketotifen) ultimate efficacy for the prophylaxis of asthma remains to be established.....

Davidson's Principles and Practice of Medicine 16th editon 1991 reprinted in 1992 Ketotifen is less effective than sodium chromoglycate or nedochromil sodium

and has the serious disadvantage...... Clinical Pharmacology by Laurence & Bennett, 7th edition, 1992 reprinted in 1993 Ketotifen is a histamine Hi-receptor blocker which may also have some antiasthma

effects but its benefits has not been conclusively demonstrated Oxford Text book of Medicine, second edition 1987, reprinted in 1988 Ketotifen has antihistaminic properties as well as some antiallergic activity

but its performance clinically has been disappointing...... Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine, Twelfth Edition, 1991 and Lange' Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment, International Edition 1993, did not even consider Ketotifen worth mentioning either as prophylaxis for asthma or for the treat-

ment of allergic conditions. Price of common antihistamine tablet 0.11-0.20 paisa and that of each Tofen Tablet is Tk. 1.50. Now the question arises, why did the "Drug Control Committee" (DCC) register this

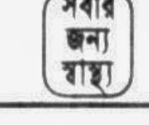
useless, ineffective and unnecessary drug? Whose interest is DCC serving? 'TOFEN'- DOCTORS BEWARE

For further information on Drugs & Drug policy of Bangladesh, please contact-

Health Health For All 4. Green Square, Green road, Dhaka-1205, Tel: 500383

For

All



Send us your contribution to strengthen your voice and to protect basic human right.