Farmers loot fertiliser in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 7: Agitating farmers of Sadar thana today looted some 140 bags of fertiliser from three Bograbound trucks on their way back from a demonstration at the DC office demanding fertiliser supply at fair price. reports UNB.

Police sources said the farmers of Shialkhal union. returning after submitting a memorandum of their demand to the DC, swooped on the trucks near Diarbaidyanath on the New Bogra road in the afternoon.

The three trucks were carrying fertiliser from the Jamuna Fertiliser Factory.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control

The peasants of Kamarkhand thana of the district also submitted a similar memorandum to the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) at about the same time today.

Meanwhile, the Awami Lea-

Alliance for monitoring elections Sectt Mar 11

By Staff Correspondent Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), a combine of different non-government organisations and individuals is planning to introduce an independent vote tabulation (IVT during the national elections. This was revealed by

Fakhruddin Ahmed, former adviser to the interim government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and chairman of the FEMA at a meeting with journalists in the city yesterday. The meeting was organised

in connection with a national training seminar for 30 nonpartisan election monitors from different parts of the country. The seminar begins at Gazipur today.

Experts from the National Democratic Institute (NDI) of the USA, the National Movefor Free Elections (NAMFREL) of the Philippines and local experts including of ficials of the Elections Commission will conduct the twoday training seminar.

The seminar will also focus on domestic election monitoring, volunteers recruitment and training, organisation and management of a large-scale monitoring operation.

The FEMA, which was initiated by the Study and Research Group (SRG), presently includes the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Proshika, Gano Unnayan Prochesta (GUP), the Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS), the Community Development Association (CDA) and Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity (BJMAS).

The FEMA hopes to announce a more comprehensive list of participating organisations during the formal launching of the Alliance at an appropriate time, said Tarikul Ghani, member-secretary of the organisation.

Yesterday's meeting was also attended by Santiago Canton, Maryam Moutague and Rebecca Kind of NDI and Telibert Laoc of NAMFREL.

market at fair price and probe into the incident of fertiliser blackmarketing. Presided over by Motahar Hossain Talukder, the meeting was also addressed by Abdul Momin Talukder and Abdul Latif Mirza.

gue today at a public meeting

BNP leaders of blackmarketing

fertiliser in collusion with the

The speakers at the meet-

ing, organized by the district

Awami League to mark the his-

toric March 7, alleged that the

local BNP leaders with the

help of the administration sold

about 2500 tons of fertiliser in

"Farmers are being com-

pelled to buy a bag of fertiliser.

at Tk 460 because of black-

marketing while the maximum

rate was fixed at Tk 230," the

It demanded immediate

supply of fertiliser in open

administration.

the black market.

meeting said.

in the town accused the local

LDF procession towards PM's

The Left Democratic Front will lead a mass procession towards Prime Minister's sec retariat on March 11 to realise their charter of demands including reduction of the prices of essential commodities and fresh election under a care taker government, reports

Addressing a press confer ence at the Taher Auditorium at Bangabandhu Avenue here. coordinator of the front Dilip Barua said the main objective of the procession was to establish the democratic rights of the people and solve the acute problems in public life. He said the front will also

gherao the office of the Deputy Commissioner on the day.

Barua said the demands also include reduction of prices of rice, pulses and salt, solution to fertilizer problem, announcement of a new national minimum wage, realisation of the demands of jute, cotton and textile mill workers, repeal of black laws, curbing ter rorism and corruption, forfeiting of black money and a ban on religion based politics.

He said that the Front would continue its movement for realisation of the demands for a permanent system for free polls, establishment of meaningful democracy and democratic rights and the people's right to food and clothing.

General secretary of the Jativa Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) Hasanul Hug Inu, convenor of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) A F M Mahbubul Huq. convenor of BSD (Zaman) Khaleguzzaman Bhuiyan, president of Communist Party Shahidullah Chowdhury, central leaders of Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal Belayet Sikder and Siddigur Rahman, central leader of Workers Party Bimal Biswas, Faiz Ahmed of Oikya Prokria. Shirin Akhter of JSD and Feroz Ahmed of BSD were present in the press confer-

Third world splits

From Page One

lion dollar assembly, delegates were still trying to agree on any firm commitments for ending poverty, unemployment and social inequalities - an unwieldy swath of topics being lumped together for the first time.

The summit aims to hammer out a final document to be signed Sunday by nearly 120 national leaders, including German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, US Vice President Al Gore and more than 100 other leaders, many from the Third World

The meeting got a boost today from US First Lady Hillary Clinton, who jetted in for a two-day visit offering words of support and an initiative for fighting female illiter-

"Investing in the health and education of women and girls is essential to improving global prosperity, and I am glad that this summit has endorsed the principle of equal rights and opportunities for women," Mrs. Clinton told the

assembly. But even as she spoke, an ambitious anti-poverty plan to set a target of 20 per cent for social spending by aid donor and recipient countries was

faltering in closed-door meet-The plan, dubbed '20-20' faced trouble since it was pro-

posed months ago. Some UN

officials said the fact that it

tant, it's a departure point, said Jean-Claude Faby, director of policy coordination at the UN office on sustainable devel-

opment. The '20-20' proposal ran aground in a caucus among delegates from about 130 developing countries who are resisting any conditions set on aid money, said Venezuelan Minister of Family Mercedes

on the plan, and she said it still might be preserved in principle but limited to bilateral negotiations — like many other firm planks. That means it would not be subject to global or UN pressure.

the 20-20 targets, the remaining tangible proposals centered on calls for debt relief and adjustments in foreign aid.

The World Bank, International Monetary Fund and regional lenders have borne much of the criticism at the summit for sometimes forcing

"They are forming social policy in the interest of creditors and not of society," said Michel Chossudovsky, an economics professor at a tandem conference of private aid

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may be approved in any form could be seen as an achievement

"We still consider it impor-

Puildo de Briceno. The caucus itself was split

With the likely sidelining of

strict fiscal policies.

They said March 7 will ever remain a glorious day in the history of the country.



Prime Menister Begum Khaleda Zia signing the declaration affirming Bangladesh Government's commitment to achieving the international goal of polio-free world at a ceremony at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. - PID photo

Bangladesh signs

From Page One

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with other concerned ministries. NGOs and international organisations including the UNICEF. WHO and USAID will execute the programme.

Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Deputy Minister for Health Serajul Huq. UN Development Programme Chief in Bangladesh Emme Watanabe, representatives of international organisations and senior officials were present at the signing ceremony.

PM: Copenhagen

From Page One The Prime Minister is scheduled to address a plenary session of the conference on March 12. She is expected to focus on the poverty alleviation measures Bangladesh has taken in national, regional and international forums, official sources said.

The summit, with the agenda of poverty alleviation social integration and job opportunities, will seek poverty-free planet

During her stay in Copenhagen, Begum Zia is likely to have talks with other heads of state or government and heads of delegations of various UN agencies on bilateral matters. She will attend a dinner to

be hosted by the Queen of Denmark.

On her way back home, Begum Zia is scheduled to attend a reception in London on March 13 in observance of Commonwealth Day.

British Foreign Secretary Doglas Hurd is likely to call on the Bangladesh Prime Minister in London.

Historic Mar 7

From Page One eration movement and finally the war of independence.

In a message on the occasion, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina called upon all sections of the society to help create a democratic and exploitation-free Bangladesh as dreamt by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The AL observed the day by hoisting national and party flags at its central and unit offices early in the morning. The leaders and workers of the party, including their front organisations, placed wreaths at the portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Bhaban.

A discussion was held at the Bangabandhu Avenue on the significance of the day. It was presided over by Sheikh Hasina.

Other programmes of the day included playing of the recorded March 7 speech of Bangabandhu in all city wards.

Hasina

From Page One

she said: "It is a misfortune for the nation that the present generation does not know the glorious history of the Bengalee nation and its struggle for independence."

This historic speech of Bangabandhu had inspired the people during the nine months of war against the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971. But the people can no longer listen to that historic speech over radio and television. Hasina lamented.

"In a planned way, the history of independent Bangladesh was distorted... and this conspiracy is still on," she said. The meeting was also ad-

dressed by Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Abdul Mannan, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Zillur Rahman, Mohammad Nasim, and the City Mayor and Dhaka City Awami League President Mohammad Hanif. The speakers said that on

March 7 in 1971, Bangabandhu clearly gave the call for independence by saying "The struggle this time is for emancipation, the struggle this time is for independence."

Princess Anne visits British-aided projects

ment-funded projects in Dinajpur - North West Fisheries Extension Project and the BRAC-run child health and family planning centre, reports

The Royal Princess, who arrived in the city on Monday on a four-day trip, also visited the Lamb Hospital which runs an integrated health and devel opment community project and a 45-bed general hospital in the district, British High Commission sources said.

The British Government has provided Tk 15 crore for the fisheries project at Parbatipur where poor farmers are trained in fish breeding in paddy fields and ponds.

The Princess was shown the process of technology

Princess Anne vesterday transfer production of fish visited two British govern- seed and harvesting by local

Princess Anne flew back to the capital in the afternoon and visited Phulki, an NGO in Gulshan, supported by Save The Children Fund.

Phulki runs 27 day-care centres for the children of low paid working women in Dhaka. each with 20 children. The Princess also visited a day-care centre in Kalanchandpur near Baridhara.

Princess Anne will visit SCF's slum project and UCEP technical education centre in Khulna and Ad-din satellite clinic and hospital in Jessore today. She will visit SCF's nutrition

unit and rehabilitation programme at Khilgaon Busti in the city tomorrow before her departure for Colombo.



Princess Anne of Great Britain visiting Phulki 'Child to Child education centre at Gulshan in the city yesterday. - PID photo

Int'l Women's Day today

From Page One President Biswas said na-

tional progress is closely linked with the progress of the women community. He underscored the need

for taking pragmatic steps to make the country's women self-reliant and thus ensure their welfare.

Begum Zia called upon all to place women community in a respectable position by taking a vow for making the country's womenfolk aware of the day's objectives.

She said her government has been working for involving the women community in the mainstream of development

in the country, different socio-cultural and women's organisations have taken elaborate programmes to celebrate the day.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) will jointly organise a discussion at 8:45 am today at the UNDP premises in In observance of the day

Bangladesh National Preparatory Committee Towards Beijing, NGO Forum '95 will bring out a procession from Shaheed Minar at 2 pm and hold a rally at TSC at 3 pm today. Addressing a press confer-

ence at Jatiya Press Club yesterday leader of the forum Farida Akhtar urged the government and concerned organisations to implement its 15-point demand before the Fourth World Conference on Women scheduled to be held in Beijing in next September. The demands include imtion on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, introduction of uniform family code and establishment of independent family court in the coun-

Dhaka Mahanagar Mahila Awami League will hold a women's rally at Bangabandhu Avenue today at 4 pm which will be followed by a proces-

Bangladesh Mahila Forum will award the 'Mahila Forum gold medal-95' to editor of the weekly Begum Nurjahan Begum today at 4:00 pm at Bishwa Sahitya Kendro.

Taranga, an NGO for training, assistance and rural advancement, will organise a symposium at its office in city, at 1:15 pm today. Nari Adhikar Andolon will

organise a discussion at ICMA Auditorium at 3:30 pm.

International Women's Day Celebration Committee brought out a torch procession from Dhanmondi Boys' Club ground yesterday evening. It will bring out a rally from Bangla Motor crossing on March 10. The procession will be followed by a cultural programme at the Ramna Batamul.

Workers Party president Amal Sen and general secretary Rashed Khan Menon in a joint statement on the eve of the Women's Day yesterday demanded elimination of wage discriminations between men and women. The International Women's

Day is observed in accordance with a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1977. This date commemorates the historic strike on March 8 in 1857 by a group of New York garments workers plementation of UN Convenprotesting working conditions.

Hasina goes to Rajshahi today

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina leaves for Rajshahi today to inaugurate divisional conference of her party tomorrow, reports UNB. She will also preside over

several other conferences, said a press release. It will be attended by mem-

bers of district units of Rajshahi. Chapainawabganj. Natore. Pabna. Naogaon and Rajshahi city and presidents and general secretaries of respective thana units. In the second phase, an-

other divisional conference of AL will be held in Bogra on March 20. It will be attended by leaders of Bogra. Sirajganj. Joypurhat and Gaibandha district units.

In the third phase, a conference will be held in Rangpur on March 21, to be attended by leaders of Rangpur Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari. Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh district units.

Central leaders will accompany Hasina on her trip to Rajshahi

Foodgrain stock satisfactory'

A meeting of the food planning and monitoring committee yesterday discussed the food situation in the country and expressed satisfaction at the stock position of food grains, reports BSS

The meeting decided to supply wheat at OMS price in the labour belts and among the tea garden workers.

The meeting was held with Food Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair, according to an official handout.

Agriculture and Water Resources Minister M Majidul Hug. State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-al Rashid, Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed. Agriculture Secretary Akhter Ali, ERD Secretary Lutfullah Majid, Food Secretary Islamuddin Malik, Member, Planning Commission, Najmul Ahsan and concerned officials were present.

The meeting also discussed the procurement price of wheat during the next season and the target of procurement.

The meeting requested the Agriculture Ministry to take necessary steps to attain the production target during the next boro season, the handout

10 shops, 8 houses gutted in Çtg

CHITTAGONG, Mar 7: At least ten shops and eight houses were completely gutted in two separate fires which broke out in the district today reports BSS. Fire service and police

sources said the first fire incident occurred at Ahantineketan Bazar at Rangunia in which about ten shops were burnt. The fire originated from a

tea shop and engulfed the entire bazar. Property worth about Taka eight lakh was gutted in the fire which lasted for two hours.

The second fire broke out at village East Dolai under Hathazari thana in which eight houses were completely gut-

The loss from the fire was estimated at about Taka five lakh. The origin of the fire could not be ascertained.

Bank burglary

From Page One ness after three days holiday for the Muslim Eid ul-Fitr fes-

Local dailies said the burglars dug a 25-metre tunnel from a road outside the firm to reach the vault and were be lieved to have spent several hours inside the strongroom as police found discarded food and water bottles.

"Considering the amount of effort involved, the tunnelling must have taken at least a month. The whole thing was professionally done," the New Str ...s Times quoted a source as saying adding that the bur glars had evaded the alarm.

The thieves were reported to have emptied 640 safe deposit boxes, containing both local and foreign currencies. jewellery, share certificates commemorative coins and stamps and other important documents like passports and property title deeds.

Depositors of valuables were still queueing up at the company today to cite their esti mated loss and seek compen-The Sun daily, however,

quoted legal professionals as saying that the depositors may not be able to recover their loss as finance companies here usually excluded liability when keeping goods other than Last year, burglars entered

the vault of MBF Finance, another credit company, in Kuala Lumpur's suburbs and made away with 200,000 ringgit worth of valuables after using a blowtorch to cut down the wall of the strongroom. The thieves or goods have yet to be found.

Shi'ite leader shot dead in Lahore

ISLAMABAD. Mar 7: A prominent Shi'ite leader was gunned down while driving his jeep Tuesday in the latest outburst of sectarian violence in the eastern city of Lahore. Dr Syed Mohammed Ali Naqvi, a friend traveling with him, and a teenager standing on the street were all killed when unidentified gunmen on two motorcycles sprayed bullets at the jeep, police said, reports AP.

Fresh fighting leaves 30

KABUL. Mar 7: Government troops battled a rival Islamic faction for a second straight day Tuesday in southwest Kabul, leaving at least 30 dead and 90 injured according to govern-

Manzur murder case

He was arrested from his Shantinagar residence in the city on March 1. On the following day, he was produced before the CMM's court, Dhaka by the CID police who brought the prisoner on remand for questioning.

quiries in Chittagong.

brother of late General, ac cused Maj Eindad under Sec with murdering Manzur. Panchlaish police confirmed.

Abul Mansur alleged in the FIR that his younger brother Maj General Manzur was shot and killed on June 1. 1981 mside the jeep of Maj Eindad, then a Captain, inside the Chittagong Cantonment.

Ershad's trial adjourned

The trial of former president H M Ershad in the Japanese Relief Boat Purchase Case has been adjourned till March 25.

Ara adjourned the proceedings after completion of the crossexamination of prosecution witness. A T M Aminul Islam, the investigating officer of the case, vesterday Ershad, who is one of the

Section 342 of the Cr PC when the trial resumes. Inovama, an employee of Marubeni Corporation, is ab-

two co-accused, along with a

Japanese national, K Inoyama,

will make his statement under

Rangamati

by a helicopter. The bomb exploded when it was reportedly being handled

India to put fence, floodlights along Jammu border

to check cross-border infiltra-Reuter. India will put a fence and

Kashmir state, is a largely Hindu pocket in India's only India earlier fenced its

western borders with Pakistan. which runs through the desert state of Rajasthan and neighbouring Punjab. Kundal said the government

up security in the region. The secessionist rebellion in Jammu and Kashmir is now in its fifth year and police and

than 17,000 deaths

Cotechandpur thana. His companion, Abdur Rashid, 31, injured in the Kaligani thana

mishap, was rushed to a local hospital in critical condition. A case was lodged with

hospitals have reported more

The Midnight Eile

dead in Kabul

ment radio, reports AP,

civil court.

not be filed earlier.

referred to the CID.

General Manzur

unanswered.

tinied, had reportedly re-

quested the police not to hand

him over to the army and in-

stead to produce him before a

stated in the FIR that due to

delay in obtaining the post-

mortem report the case could

further details as strong se-

crecy is being maintained

about the case which has been

vestigation by a high-powered

body is on to unearth the mys-

tery behind the killings of both

President Ziaur Rahman and

although a general field court

martial was held in 1981 to try

those accused of assassinating

Ziaur Rahman and many army

officers were even executed

after being found guilty yet

some questions remained

spoke on condition of anony-

mity, the revival of the Manzur

killing issue nearly 14 years

after the incident suggests that

there is a lingering doubt in

concerned quarters about the

involvement of certain other

senior military officials in the

killings of both President Zia

One top police official, re-

fusing to be named, told The

Daily Star last night that sev-

eral more arrests may follow

Rioting breaks

out in Baghdad,

claims opposition

Iraqi President Saddam

Hussein reported new fighting

with the army Tuesday in the

Kurdish zone in northern Iraq

and said more soldiers were

deserting to the rebels, re-

opposition leader claimed that

tension is mounting in

Baghdad, with rioting breaking

out in several parts of the Iraqi

first time its troops were in-

volved in battles Sunday in the

Kurdish enclave, established

after the 1991 Gulf War to

protect the Kurds. But it has

not commented on reports on

Agency said the rebels started

the fighting, blaming the

United States for the attacks.

But the rebels said Saddam's

forces had launched an on-

slaught to take advantage of

months of infighting between

the Iraqi National Congress,

said its forces crushed the

38th artillery battalion of the

army's 5th corps Tuesday

Congress's radio station in

northern Iraq said the rebels

also foiled an attempt by

Saddani's elite Republican

Guard to dislodge the rebels in

Three killed in

incidents

people were killed, one of

them in gunfire, in separate

incidents in the district in last

was shot dead Monday night by

dacoits at his in-law's house at

Hudakushabaria in Shailakupa

Chhatrabhanga village, was at

the residence of his father-in-

law on the occasion of a mar-

Shailakupa thana, but none was

run over by a police van at

Dakbangla Bazar on the

Jhenidah-Chuadanga road this

noon. She was crossing the

was killed when a bus hit him

on Kaliganj-Chuadanga road.

The deceased was identified as

Samaul, 18, of Bohirgasi in

On Monday, a youngman

The victim, an inhabitant of

A case was filed in

A seven-year-old girl was

Police said Aunukul Sircar

two days, reports UNB.

thana.

riage ceremony.

arrested yet.

JHENIDAH, Mar 7: Three

the same region.

A statement by the

morning in Arbil province.

The main opposition group.

The state-owned Iraqi News

unrest in Baghdad.

rival Kurdish militias

Iraq acknowledged for the

Meanwhile, a prominent

ports AP.

CAIRO, Mar 7: Opponents of

and General Manzur

According to them, who

Sources maintained that

Sources say a vigorous in-

General Manzur's brother

Police declined to provide

From Page One garments factory.

A team of senior CID offi cials returned to Dhaka Sunday after making extensive en

Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong adds: An FIR odged with the Panchlaish thana on February 28 by Barrister Abul Mansur, the elder tion 302 of the Penal Code

Earlier. Hathazari police had arrested Gen Manzur, the GOC of the Chittagong garrison, following an abortive army coup on the night of May 30, 1981 in which President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated by some military officers at the Chittagong Circuit House, now turned into the Zia Museum.

When then Captain Emdad. along with some troops went to the thana to take custody of Manzur, the General in whose name a section of officers mu-

By Staff Correspondent

Special Judge, Dhaka, Zinat

sconding.

From Page One - Jugendra Bikash Chakma (30), a lance-naik of BDR, his wife Anshu Mala Chakma (23), Titimoy Chakma (10), Bindu Krishna Chakma (18), Kalabi Chakma (6). Mona Chakma (4) and Judho Kumar Chakma (16) were admitted to the Combined Military Hospital

here where they were flown

by inmates of the house. BDR lance-naik Jugendra came home on leave from Dinajpur.

NEW DELHI, Mar 7: India has decided to fence part of its northern border with Pakistan tion and smuggling, United News of India (UNI) said today quoting officials, reports

floodlights along the Jammu border, the news agency quoted Jammu's divisional commissioner B R Kundal as telling a meeting of political leaders and prominent citi-Jammu, the winter capital of the strife-torn Jammu and

Muslim-majority state.

was also considering giving identity cards to the people. constituting village defence committees and strengthening police stations in a bid to beef