Hardrock project

DPRK team unhappy over progress of work

The visiting seven-member delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) called on Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain at the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday, reports BSS.

Ri Song Dai, Chairman of State Commission for External Economic Affairs of the DPRK. is leading the high level delegation

During the meeting they discussed in details the progress of work of Madhyapara Hardrock Project, the first hardrock mine project in Bangladesh being implemented with the financial and tech-

Works Minister visits tilted bldg at Mugdapara

Housing and Public Works Minister Rafigul Islam Mia visited South Mugdapara under Sabujbagh thana in the city vesterday to see the condition of a four-storied building there which has tilted on its side. reports BSS.

According to an official handout. Humayun Khadem. Chairman of Rajuk, was with the minister.

The minister asked the city dwellers to cooperate with the government and abide by Rajuk's rules to ensure the safety of life and property of the people.

Rajuk has so far identified about 600 buildings in the city constructed in violation of Rajuk rules. A task force has been constituted to identify all unauthorised buildings in the

The minister asked the Rajuk authority to take legal action against the owners of buildings constructed defiance or breach of Rajuk rules and standards.

From Page One

of the new guidelines saying

that it would instill more

transparency in capital issues

and would also provide a

greater guarantee about the

use of funds and would im-

that a greater role will be given

to local investors in IPOs

(initial public offerings) and

cern at the negative impact of

a lock-in period for the FIs.

while noting that the spectacu-

lar growth of 113 per cent of

the DSE index in 1994 is un-

likely to be matched this year

because the changed global in-

letter said, prevents FIs from

price falls after an IPO or a

rights issue, while noting that

this phenomenon is yet to oc-

cur in Bangladesh but has hap-

pened in the neighbouring

would be unwilling to take this

extras risk, unless they can

acquire the share at a large

of the lock-in period may be

greater than the positive ef-

fects they were meant to pro-

vide", it said, while noting that

It added that most FIs

"We fear the negative effects

The lock-in period, the

cutting their losses if the share

However, it expressed con-

rights issues," it said.

vestment climate.

countries.

discount.

"We are equally happy to see

prove the flow of information.

The letter was appreciative

nical assistance of the DPRK.

They expressed dissatisfaction over the progress of work which is scheduled to be completed by March 2001. But partial production is expected to start by the end of 1998. The work on the project begun in 1994 which needs six and a half years to go into full production.

The project involves outlay of Taka 687 crore of which the DPRK is providing the foreign exchange component Taka 522.61 crore as supplies credit. The production period of the project is estimated to be 30 years. About 16.5 lakh tons of hardrock will be extracted every year.

Discussions on further cooperation for the future development of untapped mineral resources of Bangladesh particularly limestone and hardrock were also held. The energy minister said the DPRK has a vast experience in extracting hardrock and limestone and it could further come forward with competitive offer to extract the untapped limestone and hardrock in Bangladesh.

Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary M Faizur Razzak. Ambassador of the DPRK to Bangladesh Song Won Sik and chairman of Petrobangla S K M Abdullah were present.

Visits Rupsha bridge site

UNB adds: The North Korean technical delegation paid a visit to the proposed Rupsha bridge site at Lobon Chora in Khulna yesterday afternoon.

Later on, the delegation held a meeting with Khulna City Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and DC Kazi Reazul Haque at the Circuit House and held a discussion on various technical aspects of the bridge.

it also send confusing signals

about the progress of

Bangladesh in opening up the

economy. "And a free flow of

capital is one of the freedoms

investors are most sensitive

also have a 'perverse' effect on

local companies making it dif-

ficult and more expensive for

them to attract funds form the

FIs, and issue prices would

have to be discounted in pri-

vate placements and under-

writing fees would have to be

higher to allow for the extra

risk. "Bangladesh is at a crucial

stage of its development, and

it would be a shame for it to

the local brokers, it said, is

that the shares may eventually

be traded outside Bangladesh if

they cannot be traded in the

country. "A similar case hap-

pened in India, where dealing

on the local market is so cum-

bersome that GDRs (offshore

shares) have developed, cut-

ting local brokers off from FIs'

five years for the FIs operating

the its domestic securities

vested some 200 million US

dollars in the Bangladesh share

market over the last couple of

India has a lock-in period of

Foreign investors have in-

transactions."

market.

Another negative effect for

close itself to cheap capital."

The letter said that it would

Top foreign investors

When asked why this summit was important to Bangladesh, Dr Rashid said that the summit will help Bangladesh's national development programmes take a



Dr Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh, Chairman of the Grameen Bank, addresses participants at his workshop on "Women and Children in Poverty. What Way Out", held in Copenhagen Tuesday. - AFP/UNB photo

According to the schedule

the last date of submitting

nomination papers is March

15 while the last date of with-

the list of the valid candidates

Dhaka will be held on April 30

from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

while in Dhaka the election

will be held on May 3 from

Dhaka University TSC.

Chittagong University, Sylhet

Government College, Victoria

College in Comilla. Rajshahi

University. M M University

College in Jessore, Rajendra

University College in Faridpur,

Sher-e-Bangla Medical College

in Barisal, Bangladesh Agricu-

ltural University in Mymen-

singh, Kumudini College in

Tangail, Bhawal Badre Alam

University College in Gazipur.

Narsingdi Government College

and Tolaram College in

will be published on May 6 at

3:00 pm at the administrative

building conference room of

the Dhaka University.

The results of the election

Narayangani.

The polling centres are

The authorities will publish

The elections outside of

drawal is March 30.

9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

on April 2.

Declaration

From Page One

breaking decisions on resources, observers here said. The G-77 bloc, to which Bangladesh and other SAARC countries belong, said that they were close to an agreement on the contentious 20:20 initiative, but will not agree to a cut in military spending.

"The G-77 countries are pushing for an explicit statement by the industrialised countries on the 20:20 concept," commented Ceilito Habato, heading the Philippines delegations to the summit, "I think we have more or less agreed, but the main points are still being worked out."

Bangladeshi Planning Secretary Dr Haroonur Rashid, who is heading a 12-member team to deal with the technical matters, observed that the negotiations on the three basic themes of the summit were yet to take shape.

Talking to The Daily Star at the main lounge of Bella Centre, the seat of the Social Summit, he said countries like Bangladesh have to depend on increased aid flow not only to sustain but also to strengthen its economic programmes.

better shape.

Polls schedule of Indian girl Nabila DU Senate acquitted

A court in the city yesterday The schedule for election of released an Indian girl. Mina 25 registered graduate repre-Mallick alias Nabila, who was sentatives to the Dhaka charged with illegal entry into University Senate has been an Bangladesh, reports UNB. nounced, a university press release said yesterday, reports

Chief Metropolitan Magis trate Shahiduddin Ahmed dis charged the girl from the case filed by Tejgaon police under Section 4 (illegal entry) of In ternational Boundary Violation

Mina, daughter of Abdus Sattar Mallick of 5 Parkas Road, PS and Dist Bardwan in West Bengal, was arrested on November 17 last year when she tried to enter the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with a dagger in her vanity bag.

The dagger was detected by the scanning machine at the main entrance of Parliament building. Police arrested Mina and Ashfaq Hossain, a relative. who accompanied her.

Barrister Amirul Islam, who appeared for the Indian girl. told the court that the accused came to Bangladesh through Hili checkpost accompanied by her maternal uncle Ashfaq Hossain with valid passport and visa.

On the plea of illegal entry, police removed the passport from her belongings at the time of illegal and unauthorised search, the lawyer said.

After hearing both sides the court discharged the accused as the prosecution has failed to make out a prima-lacie case against her.



One of the many processions brought out in the city yesterday on the occasion of International Women's Day. - Star photo

ing and development of girl

students and women are being

impleented in the country.

The budgetary allocation for

the Women and Children's Af-

fairs ministry has been in-

creased by 400 per cent and

liberal credit facilities have

also been extended to women

for their development and self-

the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi

Sramik Dal held a discussion

Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum,

addressing the meeting, said

that the present government

was committed to ensuring

equal rights of the sexes in ev-

ery sphere of social life and

efforts were being made to-

wards that end. She also

sought cooperation of all con-

cerned for identifying and

solving the problems of women

and urged the affluent section

of the society to come forward

in aid of the distressed

ganisation Ramiza Begum and

others also spoke on the occa-

Day Celebration Committee

yesterday organised marches

in Chittagong, Khulna, Jessore,

Cox's Bazar, Rajshahi, Me-

herpur, Mymensingh, Syedpur

and Shariakandi where hun-

dreds of women of all strata

walked through the main roads

of their respective towns car-

rying banners and placards

depicting the international

day's theme of establishing

women's rights. The partici-

pants also raised slogans for

General Secretary of the or-

The International Women's

The Women's Committee of

State Minister for Cultural

employment.

meeting in the city.

Two US staff shot dead

From Page One

purpose the gunmen attacked our colleagues, we do not now know.

No one claimed responsibility, and US and Pakistani officials did not say who they suspected. But in a country where rumours circulate freely, observers offered several possible theories.

They include revenge for last month's arrest and extradition to the United States of Ramzi Yousef, a prime suspect in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New

Some Pakistanis opposed the extradition of Yousef, an Iraqi. The US Embassy in Islamabad and the consulate in Karachi tightened security following Yousef's arrest.

Also, drug barons are angry that Pakistan has extradited suspected drug traffickers to the United States and is plan-

ning to send several more. Meanwhile, militant Muslim groups have accused the United States of involvement in Karachi's worsening violence, though there has been no evidence to support the claim.

The US consulate in downtown Karachi was immediately closed to the public after today's shooting, which took .

place about three kilometers away at a busy intersection on Shara-e-Faisal road.

The American flag flew at half-staff and a large contingent of heavily armed Pakistani police stood guard outside the fortified US compound. Americans who work at the consulate were advised to stay in their homes for safety.

"An intensive search has been ordered," said Pakistan's Information Secretary Hussein Haqqani. "The government will spare no effort to find and arrest those responsible."

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is planning an official visit to Washington next month where she will meet US President Bill Clinton. Also. First Lady Hillary Clinton is scheduled to visit Pakistan for two days at the end of this month.

"This is a serious terrorist action that was meant to sabotage the prime minister's visit to America next month," said Abdullah Shah, the chief minister of Sindh Province, which includes Karachi.

"There are people who do not want an improvement in Pakistan's relations with the United States," Shah said after he met with US Ambassador John Monjo at the US consulate.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Four held for Women's Day observed organising From Page One

grammes for education, trainmass wedding

Police arrested four people from Narsingdi for organising a mass wedding of 150 couples - many of whom are reportedly teenaged - violating laws against child marriage, reports

They were put under one month's detention only a day before the mass ceremony scheduled at a local school at village Nayachar in Roypura

A Narsingdi police source who wished to remain unidentified told UNB that the arrests were made under the Special Powers Act.

Nepali Congress expels 23 members

POKHARA, Nepal, Mar 8: The opposition Nepali Congress party has expelled 23 rebels who bolted from the party and contributed to its defeat in last November's elections, reports AP.

The party's first major conclave since the election was held in the tourist resort of Pakhara

Bangladeshis

From Page One menters. All the Indonesians escaped on motorcycles, except one who was apprehended and handed over to

police. The Bangladeshis and Indonesians were working in Malaysia as legal migrants

with work permits. Syed Nadzari said the Bangladeshis claimed to have lost 2.000 ringgit (dlrs 800) in cash and 1,000 ringgit (dirs 400) worth of jewellery. , their rights and against re-

pression on the womenfolk. The marches were followed by discussions, rallies and cultural programmes. The celebration committee

programmes were kicked off in the capital with a torch procession Tuesday. Some 300 women participated in the procession that marched from the Dhanmondi Boys' Club to the Ramna Park.

The committee's three-day programmes will conclude on Friday with another procession in the city starting from the Bangla Motors crossing at 9 am and terminating at the Ramna Park where a cultural programme would follow.

To mark the Women's Day, Dhaka Ahsania Mission held a discussion at its Dhanmondi central office. Chaired by M A Sobhan, the meeting was also addressed by Prof Nurul Islam, Md Sadekur Rahman, Shawqat Ara Haider, Chand Sultana Afroza Khatun and Nurunnahar Begum.

A discussion session entitled "Women's Rights - Human Rights" was organised by Amnesty International. Bangladesh yesterday at the National Press Club.

The keynote paper was presented by noted journalist and human rights activist, Baby Moudud.

"Women's issues have to be put on the political agenda," she said. "For it is not possible for society and family ton tackle them alone. The session was attended

by Professor Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Chairman, Political Science Department, Dhaka University as chief guest and presided over by Md Ataur Rahman, president, Al. Bangladesh.

Princess Anne is a small eater

The Princess Royal is a small eater. Despite all the fa tigue from a busy itinerary here, she is eating very little and surviving on what an aide close to the royal visitor described as "bird's feed", reports UNB

But in last two days, she has had a lot of hot chocolate. maybe to replenish energy required for a back-breaking four day tour, including her whirlwind forays to the countryside to see British-aided projects. The 45-year-old princess.

who was surely not on a diet and appeared slim, healthy and graceful, is an adept equestrienne who loves horse-riding. She was the 1971 Raleigh Trophy champion.

Although Princess Anne is putting herself up at the Presidential Suite of Dhaka Sheraton, her main meals are being supplied from the kitchen of the British High Commissioner's residence.

"The hotel is not serving the royal guest any heavy meals, but only fruit juice, tea, coffee, pasteurized milk imported from Australia and some special cheese," a chef at Sheraton told UNB.

Hotel attendants said Her Royal Highness occasionally eats some fresh fruits like kiwi, oranges and pineapples She is also an avid reader, they said. Her bedside table was cluttered with books and papers, according to the atten-

The princess was also very inquisitive and down-to-earth when, like any other foreign tourist in town. she reportedly asked one of the aides about "Bangabazar" where farments are sold cheap.

Hasina blames govt for food, fertiliser crisis

RAJSHAHI. Mar 8: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today blamed corruption and indecision of the government for the food and fertiliser crisis in the country, reports UNB. The crisis will be serious if

the government fails to tackle the situation immediately and ensure supply of fertiliser to farmers," she said addressing a workers' gathering at the Rajshahi Textile Mills this afternoon. Hasina arrived here today to

attend the AL workers' convention of Rajshahi Division to be held tomorrow at the Zilla Parishad auditorium.

Leaders of district commit tees and presidents and gen eral secretaries of thana and union units of the party will join the convention. Workers of Rajshahi. Natore. Naogaon. Chapainawabgani and Pabna and Rajshahi city unit leaders and workers will attend.

Awami League leaders workers and supporters received the party chief as she landed at the Rajshahi airport Central leaders Abdul Mannan Begum Sajeda Chowdhury Zillur Rahman, Mohammac Nasim and few others accompanied Hasina.

Protests remarks

Another UNB report adds: Shei kh Hasina yesterday protested the remarks of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Zhirinovosky against the sovereignty of Bangladesh.

"The irresponsible, audacious and irrelevant utterance of the Russian ultra-nationalist leader was a naked interference in the sovereignty and independence of our dear motherland," she said in a statement.

Princess Anne

From Page One

and children, clean water credit and saving services and traditional birth 'attendant training to a transient population of about 2,700. Wearing a light-blue T-shirt

with grey slacks, the Princess had a walkabout in the slum. During her half-an-hour visit, she observed SCF activities and also had little chit-chats with the slum inmates - exchanging greetings and enquiring their wellbeing. The SCF, which runs some

integrated projects for development of underprivileged children and improvement of living conditions in slum areas, spent nearly 762.700 pound sterling in the country On her way back, she vis-

ited one rural clinic near Rupdia and was welcomed by Dr. Mohiuddin to the Ad-din Hospital in Jessore where she unveiled a plague to inaugurate a new staff training wing.

Saifur From Page One

women. Hence, such laws should be changed to ensure that women can move forward in our society.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas was the chief guest at the discussion meeting held at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs.

The Midnight Rile

Clinton condemns Karachi killing

WASHINGTON, March 8: President Clinton condemned today the killing of two US officials in Pakistan but does not expect the violence to alter plans by his wife to visit the country this month, a spokesman said. Press Secretary Mike McCurry said Clinton expressed "sadness and outrage" with the attack on Americans in Pakistan. McCurry said the US government was prepared to cooperate "with appropriate authorities" to track down those responsible, reports Reuter.

Three die in incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least two persons including a baby were killed, one reportedly committed suicide and several others injured in separate incidents in the city and Tongi vesterday. A pedestrian was killed

when a speeding bus knocked him down at Natun Bazar Bishwa Road under Guishan police station in the morning. The victim Motaleb died on

the spot. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy. In another road accident,

one baby was killed and several others were injured when a Dhaka-bound Minibus overturned on the Airport Road at about 12:30 pm. The victim Rafat, 2, died on

the spot while the injured were admitted to different hospitals in the city.

Of the injured, Mohiuddin 55. Sikander. 27. Hamida, 45, Moriom, 15. Lipi, 13. Mithun. Abul Kalam, 30, Abdul Mannan, 16. Shamim, 18. and Monirul, 40, were admitted to the DMCH. Later Mithun and Abul Kalam were shifted to the Orthopaedic Hospital (Pongu Hospital) and Combined Military Hospital (CMH) respec-

Mohammad Altaf Hossain 22. reportedly committed suicide at his residence at Haidarabad. Tongi in the morning In another incident a

youngman aged about 18 was stabbed by a group of miscreants at Zahura Moholla. Mohammadpur at about 11 am. The victim Gulzar Hossain

was admitted to the DMCH.

JSD (Inu) demands trials of killers of Mujib, Zia,

Taher & Manzur By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) presidium member Kazi Aref Ahmed and general secretary Hasanul Haq Inu in a joint statement yesterday demanded trials of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Ziaur Rahman, Col Abu Taher and Major General Abul Manzur

JSD leaders demanded formation of a special committee to probe into the killings of 2500 sepoys of the armed forces on October 2 in 1977.

They also demanded revival of the activities of a judicial investigation committee, which was formed to probe into the killing of former President Ziaur Rahman.

They deplored the fact that the case lodged against General Ershad charging him for illegally occupying state power remained in the cold storage.

Fertiliser

From Page One demand punishment of the people responsible for pricehike of rice and fertiliser in local markets. The demonstrators handed

over a memorandum to the District Magistrate in absence of the DC and held a rally there with acting president of district unit of the Awami League Prof Shahidullah in the chair.

The rally was also addressed by former MP Mirza Azam, general secretary of the district unit Awami League Rezaul Karim Hira, and Jubo League president Bijon Kumar Chondon.

ID cards From Page One

their names for pre-qualifica-

The enlisted firms would have to set up a computer network, prepare customised voters' database, collect photographs and prepare the ID

The last date of enlistment is March 15.

When asked about the possible time required for accomplishing the whole task the EC official said that at this stage and exact time frame could not be set because it was for the first time that such a major work had been undertaken by the EC.

When pressed to say if the work would be finished ahead of the next general elections. due by next February. he, however, said that the government may have to enact another law if any early elections were to be held.

Following the passage of the Election Commission Bill by the Jatiya Sangsad during its 17th session last October, no future parliamentary election can be held without the introduction of ID cards.

Thai visa office in Ctg soon

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 8: Thailand will open a visa office in Chittagong at a convenient time while border trade agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh will come into effect after completion of bank formalities.

These announcements were made today when Thai and Myanmar ambassadors Sunthorn Vidhyameth and Myint-On respectively paid courtesy calls on Chittagong chamber president S M Abul Kalam at the chamber office here.

The ambassadors also discussed other matters of bilateral interests with the chamber president.

According to a press release issued by the Chittagong chamber, no L/Cs will be required soon for trade upto 500 US dollars.

Urs at Zaker Manzil from March 11

By Staff Correspondent

A four-day annual urs of Hazrat Moulana Khwazababa Shah Sufi Muhammad Yunus Ali Enayetpuri will begin from March 11 at Biswa Zaker Manzil in Faridpur, says a press release. All Muslim devotees have been invited to take part in the urs and seek divine blessings for the Muslim Ummah.

Khaleda leaves

From Page One scheduled to address a plenary

session of the conference on

March 12. She is expected to

focus on the measures

Bangladesh has taken to eradicate poverty, official sources said. The summit, with the agenda of poverty alleviation.

social integration and job op-

portunities, will seek a poverty-free planet. On Friday, the Prime Minister will attend a minisummit on 'Education for All' at Copenhagen and speak on

the government steps towards expanding mass education in Bangladesh. The mini-summit will be attended by heads of state or

government of nine most populous developing countries including India, Pakistan and During her stay in Copenhagen, Begum Zia is

heads of state or government and heads of delegations of various UN agencies on She will attend a dinner to

likely to have talks with other

be hosted by the Queen of Denmark On her way back, Begum Zia is scheduled to attend Com-

monwealth Day reception in London on March 13. Commonwealth Secretary General Emeka Anyaoku and British Foreign Secretary

Douglas Hurd MP are likely to meet her in London. She is expected to return

home on March 18.

Land degradation

From Page One

in four "countries of the humid zone" — Bangladesh, Nepal. Sri Lanka and most of India - are severely eroded by water. Soil fertility is dropping sharply. Land degradation today

densities of population. The report adds: "Very little land capable of sustainable agricultural production remains which is not already under "Some farmers have totally lost their land," explains FAO

spreads in a region with high

Regional Representative A Z M Obaidullah Khan. "The impoverished land base results in depleted yields and higher input costs. It cuts into the ability of people to obtain food and other basic necessities." All countries have agencies

to combat land degradation. But they are of varying effectiveness. Some are saddled with "unduly complex struc tures." Others lack resources Many are troubled by overlapping functions. The report outlines seven

thrusts to curb further damage to the land. They range from: beefed up national programmes to address direct causes of degradation to integration of population policies with land management mea sures. "If decisive action is post

poned irreversible damage to this basic resource will spread." Khan cautioned. "And the economic losses will fall on those least able to bear them frail impoverished men and women who produce our food."