\$10.5m WB credit for non-formal education project

The World Bank yesterday announced a 10.5 million US dollar credit for a non-formal education project in Bangladesh which will provide literacy to some 2.5 million adults, reports UNB.

The credit came from the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank's concessionary lending affiliate. for the project to provide "second-chance" education to the illiterate adolescents and young adults aged 15-24.

A World Bank press release said despite government's efforts to expand access to pri--mary schooling, low literacy rates prevailed throughout

In 1994, gross primary en-rollments remarkably reached nearly 100 per cent. However, less than half of those who enroll in primary school complete the five-year cycle.

Of those who have completed primary schooling, observed the World Cup. less than half achieved sustainable literacy levels. "The large illiterate population - estimated to be around 40 million poses a serious constraint on the government's efforts to curb the population growth rate and increase labour pro-

Through the project, the World Bank together with the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) as the lead agency will help realise this

The total project cost is 51 million dollar of which the ADB will provide 26.7 million dollar, the Swiss Development Corporation 3.8 million dollar and the government 10 million

The beneficiaries will be selected from the 30 districts with the lowest literacy rates which, by implementation, are also likely to the poorest districts.

At least half the beneficiawill be women Programmes of basic literacy. numeracy and life skills - including nutrition, hygiene. family planning, civic rights and income generating practices - will thus bring substantial pay-offs for Bangladesh in terms of increased economic productivity, better health and schooling for families and lower fertility, the WB release said.

The project's other, objectives are to strengthen institutional capacity to deliver programmes through non-gov-ernment organisations (NGOs) and the district administrations and help the government establish a non-formal education system that is capable of delivering effective large-scale literacy programmes at affordable costs.

One killed in Ctg

Badamtoli, Commerce College Road, Tiger Pass, Lalkhan Bazar and Choumohoni Crossing.

There will be a three-hour break in the hartal from 11 am to 2 pm tomorrow (Friday) for

Juma prayers. Vehicles of Biswa Ittema were exempted from the har tal. called by Awami League. Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-

The country's commercial capital remained cut off from rest of the country as the militant protesters put up barricades at some 30 points on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway. Activities at the port remained suspended.

Mobs set fire to the new terminal of the railway station. the BRTC bus depot and the BNP office at Pahartali.

BNP condemns

From Page 1

meeting was attended by gen eral secretary Salauddin Ahmed, joint secretary general Mirza Abbas, Minister of State for Youth and Sports, Sadek Hossain. Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism Major (retd) Abdul Mannan Quamrul Islam and thana and ward level leaders.

The BNP leaders made fervent appeal to the opposi tion parties to shun their deceptive politics, if they have a little feeling and love for the country and the people: and to sit at the negotiating table for finding a solution to the artificial crisis created by them (opposition).

Otherwise, they observed the people would never forgive the forces creating terrorism and anarchy and crippling the national economy.

The meeting decided to

carry out massive mass contac

programme through holding rallies and processions at al thana, ward and unit levels to create public opinion against such opposition activities. It was pointed out that life in the city came to normal following processions brought out

by the peace-loving people

The meeting thanked the people for their spontaneous participation in the processions and demanded that the government should take stern measures for protecting life and property of the people. 3000 shanties gutted

Witnesses said attempts were also made to loot some banks at the commercial area

in the city. The new railway terminal building less than quarter mile from New Market was put on fire at about 12:30 pm. BDR moved there and opened fire

to disperse the mob. A mob also set fire to the Karnel Hart BNP office and attacked Sadharan Bima office at Pahartali in the morning.

Police also opened fire when the mob attacked the Kotwali thana at about noon. At least 50 people were in jured in there incidents. Of them, 10 persons with bullet

injury were sent to the Chittagong Medical College Huge contingents of police and BDR were deployed to save various government and pri

vate offices in Agrabad coms mercial area. Sources who declined to be named told this correspondent that a fresh requisition has been made to call the army in aid of the civil administration. Army was also called out last night and was seen patrolling the key points of the

withdrawn in the early hours of today. Meanwhile, the ward commissioners of the City Corporation at a press confer ence today (Thursday) threat ened to paralyse the port city if the Mayor was not set free unconditionally by March 1

city. They were, however

(temorrow) Addressing the press conference, acting Mayor Zahirul Alam Dobhas said the Mayor was arrested only to hinder the development process of

Awami League, JP and Jamaat held separate rallies and announced that the hartal

would be continued until the

The Awami League rally was

Mayor was released.

held at Darul Fazal Market premises with party leader former MP Ishaq Mia in the Addressing the rally, the Awami League leaders said

they would announce tougher action programme on Saturday at 3 pm. The Jatiya Party rally was held at Cinema Palace

premises while the meeting o Jamaat e Islami held at

From Page 1 victim, was consoling his wailplace speedily knocking down ing wife and children sitting

a number of rickshaws on its way, the local people said. However, fire fighters again went to the scene with police When contacted, Moha-

mmadpur police said, none was arrested in this connection till 11 pm last night. The cause of the fire could not be immediately known. Local people said the fire may have ignited from electric

heaters or from the illegal electricity connections. Some residents also alleged that a vested quarter was active to grab the government-owned lands on which the slums were Fire brigade sources said,

the cause of fire and extent of damage was yet to be ascer-The victims, mostly gar-

ments industry workers who used to reside in the shanties. alleged that some people looted their valuables taking advantage of the fire when the entire neighbourhood sank into darkness due to sudden power failure Abdul Mannan, one of the

that some miscreants looted the shanties while people joined hands with fire fighters in extinguishing the fire Mannan also claimed to be paying a rent of Tk 400 per month for his hut. The rent according to him also includes

on a nearby street. He alleged

the electricity charges. S A Sikder, who owned a grocery store at Darul Jannat Juma Mosque Market adjacent to the Bizli Mahalla slum, also said that though the market did not catch fire, some-of the shops were looted.

A resident of Bizli Mahalla and student of the Dhaka University, Shahadat Hussain Chowdhury, told this correspondent that he had made a survey on the slums in the area on behalf of an NGO three years back. According to the survey, there were at least 3,000 shanties in the area.

People of the locality, including those residing in the nearby government staff quarters, got panicky as the fire flared up with the blowing of a strong breeze. However, the fire was brought under control before it could spread further.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city (Top) and processionists running for safety as police resorted to lathi charge in front of the Jativa Press Club (bottom) yesterday. - Star photo

Hasina

From Page 1

economy of the country and destroyed peace and harmony," Hasina said.

Begum Zia wants to cling to power anyhow because her party leaders were involved in large scale corruption.

Hasina urged the police. BDR and the Army to be "with the people." "You are also the sons of the same soil. You should not open fire on the people to keep some vote thieves in power. You will be the victims of people's anger."

She said the arms recovery drive under the Chief Election Commissioner's directive was a "complete failure". "Why fire arms are seen in the hands of BNP terrorists now?"

"I asked the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) why, he himself being a judge, did allow injustice. Why did you declare the results which you knew were false? People will not spare you for the wastage of Tk 258 crore spent in this farcical elections," Hasina said.

"Khaleda Zia speaks so much about the sanctity of the Constitution.

But there was so much rigging in the election that she had ultimately failed to uphold the constitution."

"She (Begum Zia) says she does not understand the concept of the caretaker government. But the whole civilized world considers the concept as very good. It is the only way for the people to choose a true democratic government and to

ensure the development process of the country." Hasina 'As per Article 7 of the Constitution, people is the source of power. Our movement is to ensure this. There should be an end to hunger inflation, price hike, corruption, deterioration of the law

and order A government formed through election under a caretaker government can ensure that." Police action

From Page 1 separate rally of the Jamaat e-

Islami which was taking place in front of the Club, they said.

Earlier a section of the processionists attacked a microbus near the Foreign ministry and started brick-batting it, the witnesses added. A plateon of riot police stationed nearby intervened and

baton charged to disperse the The police also lobbed a

number of teargas shells, and chased the people through the nearby alleys, witnesses said. Some police personnel were even seen attacking the neighbourhood shops, vendors and people in a typing shed

opposite to the Press Club.

they added.

9 killed, 77 hurt in road accidents

. By Staff Correspondent

Nine people were killed and 77 others, including a seven year old child, injured in separate road accidents in the city and in Savar vesterday.

Our DMCH correspondent reports: Hormuz Begum, aged 42, wife of one Idris Ali of Kapasia, Gazipur, was critically injured in a collision between a Muktagachha-bound minibus and a Dhaka-bound truck from Rajendrapur, at Mouna Square, Sripur around 9:30 am.

She succumbed to her injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Seven others were seriously injured in the accident. The injured - Humayun, 7, Jalal, 40. Sona Miah, 65. Mazid, 45. Fazilatunnessa, 30, Ramiz, 28 and an unknown male, aged around 25 - have been admitted to the DMCH

Meanwhile, Abbas, 20, was crushed to death by a minibus at Tongi and Anwar. 21. died

sign and cancel the February

15 election to pave the way for

fresh polls under a neutral

caretaker government by mid

President to convene an ail

party dialogue for forming the

caretaker government. This is

the only way out of the present

crisis," said Jamaat secretary

general Matiur Rahman

north gate of Baitul Mukarram

mosque. Nizami ruled out any

scope for a government-oppo-

sition dialogue, saying that

BNP had in the past failed to

hold any meaningful political

party's offer to bring a bill in

the new Parliament's first ses

sion on the proposed care

taker government, he said

bill by allowing a take Parlia

There is no need for passing a

The Jamast leader said the

He said the people do not

caretaker government can be

formed, like in 1990, through

trust this government as it

breached its commitments

several times. People cannot

stop their movement on the

assurance of BNP and there is

no alternative to realising the

démand for caretaker gove

Referring to the ruling

Addressing a rally at the

"Quit at once and allow the

May, reports UNB

Nizami

ment to sit.

consensus.

case was filed. DCC employee No alternative to caretaker

beaten to death From DMCH Correspondent govt: Jamaat One person was beaten to Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday asked the government to re-

tals in Dhaka.

death by unknown assailants in the city yesterday. The victim. Jalahiddin. 35, an employee of the Dhaka City Corporation, was attacked

around 11am in front of his

house at Taltala. Gulshan.

on the spot after falling from

the roof of a speeding minibus

Razzaq, 45, was run over by a

truck on the Bishha Road at

Golaphagh. He was admitted to

the DMCH, where he died

killed and 70 others injured

when a minibus collided with a

coach on the Dhaka-Aricha

highway near the Joypura bus

Of the victims, minibus

stand in Savar thana yesterday.

driver Ataur Rahman (45) and

passengers Selim (13) and

Hassan (30) died on the spot

while two unidentified passen-

to the Dhamrai Thana Health

Complex and different hospi-

DMCH morgue for autopsy. A

The injured were admitted

The bodies were sent to

gers died on way to DMCH.

UNB adds: Five people were

around 10 am.

In another incident, one

The assailants stabbed and beat him up severely. He was admitted to the DMCH, where he later succumbed to his inturies. Previous ennuty was reportedly the cause of the killing

The Guishan police, when contacted over phone, said they had no knowledge of the incident.

Jhenidah Jubo League activist chopped to death From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 29: An employee of Jhenidah pourashava and district Jubo League activist Golam Nabi (35) was chopped to death last night He was attacked allegedly

by BNP supporters when he was returning home from Hatkhola Bazar The victim was rushed to

Jhenidah Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries this morning

A case was lodged with Jhenidah police. Lok Sabha witnesses noisy scene

over Hawala discussions Srikant Jena while pressing helping to transform the mifor resignation of Rao said it nority government of Rao into

sition members in Lok Sabha (parliament) today intensified Indian Prime Minister PV crore rupees Hawala scam, reports BSS.

tions that money power was used to defeat a 'no-confidence motion' in July, 1993, defended the government. The house witnessed noisy

scene over the Hawala discussions. Communist Party leader Somnath Chatterjee said that despite the allegations by Shailandra Mahto, neither Rao, nor his cabinet colleagues had denied the charges that he (Rao) had paid him money to vote . against the no-confidence motion in July, '93. Speaker Shiv Raj Patil. in-

that in response to his notice the Prime Minister had denied that he had paid any money to Delhi High Court today granted anticipatory bail to the BJP President Lal Krishna Advani against whom a non-bailable warrant was issued in the multi-crore Hawala pay-off case by the designated court this

passed by the special Judge, V B Gupta, the counsel for the BJP leader. F S Nariman, moved an application for anticipatory bail in the High Court. The CBI counsel. S Lat. told

the court that the investigating agency had no objection if the court granted anticipatory bail to Advani.

one which has majority support today incidentally, his party had 60 members in the house

which is now left with 22. Ruling part a member Pawan Kumar Bansal, defending the

gations levelled against Rao

and his government. He was

critical of the opposition BJP for implicating Rao in false cases to tarnish his image. Meanwhile, representatives of five political parties today urged the election commission to take immediate steps to announce general elections in

The request was made reportedly at an hour-long meeting with the election commissioners. Those who made the re-

Rem Vilas Paswan, Communist Party leader Harkishan Singh Surject, Indrajit Oupta of CPI. Chitta Basu (forward block) and Uday Pratap Singh (Samajwadi Party).

Diplomats visit Sunderbans today

By Staff Correspondent

An entourage of 26 foreigndiplomats stationed in Dhaka are scheduled to visit the Sunderbans today in a recreation tour organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A ministry spokesman said that the programme was originally planned months ago. This is a normal practice in many countries." he said informing that in the past a trip to Sylhet was also arranged. Foreign Minister ASM

Mostafizur Rahman and Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan will accompany the entourage which will go and return from Heron Point today by helicopter. The diplomats will have a river cruise in the Sunderbans, on board two river vessels provided by the Ministry of Environment and For-

The envoys who have confirmed to go on the trip include the heads of missions of the United States, Great Britain, France, Canada, Egypt. Indonesia. Morocco. Palestine. Sri Lanka, and several others.

Tofael, Nasim, Manju given divisions

By Staff Correspondent

Three top opposition lead ers now in separate jails on month-long detentions have been given divisions, official

Awami League leader Tofae Ahmed, who is now in Raishahi Jail and AL leader Mohammad Nasim now in Noakhali Jail. and Jatiya Party Secretary General Anwar Hossairr Manju in Kushtia Jail, have got divisions that gives certain privileges to the political prisoners a Home Ministry source said.

It was not yet clear if AL leader Matiya Chowdhury and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Kader Mollah, who are now in Dhaka Central Jail, and JP leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed now in Jessore Jail got

the divisions or not. Police-JCD clash in

Comilla: 12 hurt COMILLA, Peb 29: At least 12 people, including two policemen, were injured in sporadic clashes between police and workers of the Jatiyatabadi

Chhaira Dal (JCD) here today. reports UNB. The JCD workers were

outraged when a magistrate at the Deputy Commissioner's of fice received their memoran dum on behalf of the DC

They submitted the memo-

randum demanding arrest of

the killers of JCD leader Khorshed Alam Khokon The JCD activists damaged eight vehicles near the DC of fice and in the other parts of the town. Police fired several shots in the air and lobbed 17

teargas shells to disperse the

unruly workers Of the injured, police subinspector Abdul Gafur and con stable Abdul Malek were ad mitted to sadar hospital.

ISPR denies From.Page 1

not been deployed in the city Mohammad Hossam, director of ISPR, said over telephone. He said what actually hap

pened on Wednesday was that some military vehicles had gone to the city to meet their routine administrative re quirements.

Hence, the news reports published yesterday in a sec tion of the press stating that army had been deployed in Cl. tagong city were not cor rect, he added.

Showcause From Page 1

Moudud Ahmed and that of

Mativa Chowdhury respectively and sent the cases to the Chief dustice. Barrister Amir Ul Islam

counsel for Mativa Chowdhury

submitted that though she was arrested on February 24 but she has neither been produced before the Court of Magistrate nor been served upon the order of detention which is violative of the mandatory provisions of both the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Special Powers Act, 1974. In this regard, the Court

observed that the detaining authority is legally bound to serve the detention order upon the detenu which has already been settled by the Supreme Court. Barrister, Islam prayed for

bail of Mativa Chowdhury on I the grounds that she is a woman and she has been suffering from high blood-pres-However, the court passed

no order on the prayer for bail. but ordered the rule to be returnable within four days from yesterday and fixed the rule for hearing on February 7 subject to appearance of the case at the top of the list of that day. in the case of Barrister Moudud Ahmed the court also passed similar order

Barrister Rafiqui Hug moved the case of Barrister Moudud Ahmed Additional Attorney General

The case of Tofael Ahmed

was moved by Barrister RS

Abdul Wadud Khandker, DAG AFM Hasan Artf, Mujibur Rahman and AAG Saidur Rahman represented the government.

The Widnight Kile

IRA won't restore ceasefire soon

BELFAST, Feb 29: The Irish Republican Army suggested today it would not restore its ceasefire in the immediate future. The IRA, in a statement issued in London, said it was "prepared to face up to its responsibilities, but others have to do likewise," reports AFP.

US to tighten embargo against Cuba

WASHINGTON, Feb 29: The White House and US Congress have agreed on a bill to tighten the embargo against Cuba following the downing of two US

civilian planes, reports AFP. White House spokesman Michael McCurry said Wednesday the two sides had reached a compromise on the so-called helms-burton legislation after lawmakers agreed to a waiver a provision that President Bill Clinton adamantly

opposed when it was introduced last year. Clinton vowed, however, to work with Congress to pass the measure after Cuban fighter jets shot down two planes flown by Cuban exiles

opposed to Fidel Castro's regime on Saturday. The President is delighted tha! we were able to reach agreement and common ground with the Congress on the helms-burfon act," he said. "The president, in light of the incident on Saturday, believes

that tightening the embargo on Cuba is a necessary step now." The title provision Clinton PSC annual report

presented to President Annual report of the Public Service Commission (PSC) for

1995 was presented to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB Accepting the report, the President said that PSC is a

quasi-judicial organisation and the Commission can ensure more efficiency in the administration through fair selection of candidates.

PSC Chairman Prof SMA Faiz handed over the report to President Biswas, said a press

release Prof Faiz apprised the President about the necessity for

lurther strengthening of the Public Service Commission.

Programme

From A - Identifying the illegal MPs of the February 15 elections as 'people's enemy' and

 Building resistance against the use of state facilities by the Prime Minister and other Ministers of 'this illegal' government. - United resistance against any move to hold repolling in

the constituencies where

boycott them socially.

Jarcical' election remains suspended. - Taking account from the Election Commission of crores of taka allocated for the voter identity cards and holding the elections. The Commission,

will be charged with

misappropriation of public

Political parties in movement will coordinate at the village, ward, union, thana and district levels, and motivate the administrative officials-employees, owners and workers of vehicles, and the leaders of professional groups to express their solidarity with

- The Opposition will go for massive mass contacts through meetings and rallies across the country to make the non-cooperatio programme a success.

the programme.

However, during the noncooperation, the opposition will relax through later announcements a few of their programmes for the convenience of the commonman. Rickshaws will ply everyday

from 10 am.

opposed allowed US nationals whose property was confiscated by Cuba to seek compensation in US courts from any foreign national who bought that property from Cuba's gov-

ernment. McCurry said that under the compromise, the right to sue will not take effect until August 13 and that Clinton would then be allowed to suspend the effective date for

rolling six-month period indef-The president is satisfied that is a reasonable compro-

mise (but) not ideal." McCurry. Reuter adds: Cuba said on Wednesday the US government would bear responsibility for

any "new violations" of the island's airspace. "Let it be glear: The consequences of new provocations : and violations of our airspace would be the sole and entire responsibility of the US government, which is the place where the aircraft depart.

Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez told a news conference. He asked what steps the

US government would take "to prevent and to avoid new provocations.

BGMEA polls

held By Staff Correspondent The election of nine execu-

tive committee members of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) was held in the city yesterday. Two panels each with nine candidates contested the elec-

tion. One panel, Sammilita Parishad is headed by Redwan Ahmed. President of the BGMEA while the other panel, Forum, by Captain (Rtd) Anisur

Rahman Sinha.

Of the total 1250 voters, 1065 cast their votes while 17 votes were cancelled. The vote counting was going on till filing of this report at 11 last night.

Talking to The Daily Star, Redwan Ahmed said the election was held peacefully

JP rally

From Page 1 Election Commissioner and

the Election Commission will be accused of misappropriating funds," said Mizan. This is no election persons declared elected shall be

boycotted by all," he added.

The government has lost its legitimacy to rule the country as the elections were boycotted by the majority, he said. He also called upon the people from all walks of life including government, nongovernment. semi-govern-

ment, autonomous organisa-

tions and professional groups

to boycott the ruling BNP. Announcing indefinite noncooperation from March 9 and other programmes. Mizan Chowdhury said that the Prime Minister has to resign, political prisoners have to be released and power has to be handed over to a neutral caretaker government before any

dialogue. The rally presided by Shamsuzzaman Minto was also addressed by presidium members Begum Rowshan Ershad. Shah Moazzam Hossain and acting secretary general Shamim Al Mamun besides leaders of local and front organisations

Tariff concessions

From Page 1 skin, goal skin, and raw jute.

There are five other products in Pakistan's list, but Bangladesh's export in these items are very small There are high levels of

preferential tariffs in Pakistan on bamboo (55.25 per cent) and LPG container 463 per cent). Even il Bangladesh develops export capacity in these products, these tariff barriers will effectively shut all import into that country. Out of 17 items on which

concessions are granted by Maldives, Bangladesh has export interest in five products. but effective preferential tariff is pretty high at 23.1 per cent on four of these items. Only two items out of 14 on which Nepal has granted con-

cession offer export prospects to Bangladesh. Out of 31 products appear-

ing in Sri Lanka's list of concessions, only jute yearn and jute carpet are important for Bangladesh. Any significant in-crease in Bangladesh's export as a result of concessions is unlikely because of high effective preferential tariff. MCCI noted.

Three out of the 11 items on which Bhutan has granted concession are relevant for Bangladesh. These are frozen fish, cosmetics and soap. However. 90 per-cent of these

for export from Bangladesh. the chamber pointed out. The consolidated national schedule of tariff concessions

India which leaves little scope

granted by seven SAARC countries under the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement include a total of 226 products. The number of products on which member countries have granted concessions are: India-106. Pakistan — 35. Sri Lanka — 31. Maldives -17, Nepal -14, Bangladesh—12 and Bhutan -

Hartal observed at Bandarban BANDARBAN, Feb 29: A

T Targatand I was her expenses to the same I

half-day hartal, called by the district unit of Awami League. was observed here today, reports UNB. Awami League and its front

organisations enforced the hartal from 6 am protesting the arrest of Chittagong City Mayor Alhaj ABM Mohiuddin. Two people, including a policeman, was injured in a chase and counter-chase at Bandar

ban Bazar. The trouble started

when BNP activists brought out

· a procession chanting slogans in favour of peace. Later, the opposition activists ransacked the district

BNP office and set ablaze its furniture, including the portrait of Prime Minister Begum I products are imported from Khaleda Zia.

BJP member Shatlendra Dhaks-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No. Mahto. 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA Janata Dal Chief Whip

the demand for resignation of Narasimha Rao for the multi-The members of the ruling Congress, rejecting the allega-

NEW DELHI, Feb 29: Oppo-

tervening at this stage, said

investigating agency. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the Hawala case. He said his party had suffered most in the defection game as "money power played a major role in Advani granted bail NEW DELHI, Feb 29: The

would facilitate a proper and

impartial investigation by the

morning, reports PTI. Soon after the order was

(Earlier story on Page 8)

government, refuted the alle-

quest are Janata Dal leader