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BNP leaders Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and MK Anwar coming out of Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury's Dhanmondi residence after talks with him last night.

Resist evil design to hold bypolls: Mannan

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuivan yesterday said the government is speaking of understanding and dialogue with the Opposition, but their activities are in fact vindictive and provocative, reports

"The government is doing this with a dangerous, ill motive." he alleged and called upon the countrymen to remain alert in this regard.

The BNP leader was addressing a joint meeting of the Dhaka City BNP and its front organigations at the party son-

Bhuiyan said the people would resist the threat of holding by-elections after passing 90 working days of Parliament. keeping main Opposition BNP outside the House through conspiracy. "This evil desire" of the ruling party would not be al-

Attack on newsman in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Jan 12: A journalist was severely injured in an

attack by two unidentified miscreants here today Abu Tayeeb, district correspondent of the Dainik Bangla and Bureau Chief of Jessorebased Daily Lok Samaj, was

beaten up by the miscreants in front of newscorner at about

He was first rushed to Sadar hospital with serious injuries. He was later shifted to Khulna Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated. The cause of the attack was not Lyoun

From Page 1

Hasina were "very positive and

fruitful" and would contribute

further towards trade and in-

was happy to witness the

progress in uplift programmes

in the rural areas that formed a

crucial part of development of

about his talks with the

Bangladesh Prime Minister the

British PM said, they discussed

international issues, including

peacekeeping missions in

Kuwait. Iraq and Bosnia-Herze-

Major if he would disclose the

contents of his talks with

leader of the Opposition Begum

Khaleda Zia whom he met, he

tradition, and certainly British

parliamentary practice that the

Prime Minister of Britain

meets both government and op-

position leaders when they un-

dertake foreign visits" and

added, "that is how democracy

Zia earlier also when she was

the prime minister and that he

was not going to divulge the

contents of the discussions

which were 'informal and pri-

he would discuss the Kashmir

issue with the Pakistan author-

ities, he said he had discussed

the problem with the Indian

Prime Minister and would also

raise it with the Pakistan

Prime Minister, adding, "It is

an issue between the two coun-

that a 'remarkable' water accord

was signed between the two

grant voters were favourably

disposed towards his Conserva-

tive party and how much his

visit was related to the polls in

Major said he was happy

Asked if Bangladeshi immi-

Responding to a question if

He said he had met Khaleda

"It is part of the democratic

replied, "Certainly not".

When a correspondent asked

When asked by newsmen

The British premier said he

vestment.

this country.

works."

tries."

countries.

lowed to be fulfilled, he added. The BNP secretary general strongly protested and condemned the dismantling of the bailey bridge over the Crescent Lake on way to the mazar of late President Ziaur Rahman. "This makes clear the government's

meanness and slyness," he said. Through such heinous acts. he said, the government could not stop the people from visiting the mazar of Shaheed Zia who is "immortal and always a source of inspiration for all patriotic people.

Bhulyan said Awami League's tradition, once they go to power, is to establish BAK-SAL by destroying all opposition parties. Some people are still talking of BAKSAL, but "we will not allow them to materi-

alise that dream," he said. The meeting, attended by leaders of the Dhaka City BNP and presidents, general secretaries, convenors and joint convenors of its front organi sations, discussed various aspects of celebrating the birth anniversary of Ziaur Rahman on January 19.

It also urged the government to meet the party's 10-point demand and arrest and put on trial the killers of Bhola Jubo

Dal leader Alamgir The meeting was attended by Mirza Abbas, Nazrul Islam Khan, Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP. Salahuddin Ahmed Shamsuzzaman Dudu MP

Minister's visit.

poverty alleviation

Mahbubul Alam Tara, Redwan Ahmed, Kazi Abul Bashar, Mesbahuddin Sabu, Rezabuddoula Chowdhury, Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie and Maulana Rafigul Islam Ar-

She said that during the

talks, the British Premier men-

tioned that investors from his

country are keen to invest in

Bangladesh. Major, she said,

also acclaimed the pioneering

role of Bangladesh in evolving

micro-credit for the purpose of

ing of the agreement between

Petro-Bangla and Cairn Energy.

Holland Sea Search and Hal

liburton Brown and Root Ltd.

forward to attending the Com-

monwealth summit in Edin-

burgh next October and added "I

am sure, it will be extremely

She said she was looking

on sale and purchase of gas.

Hasina referred to the sign-

Major: Bilateral ties BNP's joining. We had dinner and talks together. BNP leaders also expressed satisfaction about the Britain due within a few quality of food offered", he said

months. Major smiled and said in a higher view. "The issue did not cross my Earlier, while coming out of mind" and added "individuals the Speaker's residence. BNP and groups vote by their own Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told The Daily In the joint press conference, Star, "we had a nice dinner and Sheikh Hasina read out a onehad talks in a cordial atmopage written text in which she sphere." Khandaker Delwar and mentioned the 'successful out-M K Anwar also expressed the come' of the British Prime same sentiment

Impasse

From Page 1

tainly meet the leaders of the

ruling Awami League sometime

today to convey the outcome of

said, the expected government-

Opposition meeting will be held

at the Parliament building. De-

tails of the joint meeting will be

sorted out after his talks with

The Speaker, earlier on Sat-

"It appeared to me that both

urday, had invited the BNP

sides are quite interested about

full participation when the Par-

liament goes into session on

"They discussed issues

ranging from Speaker's role to

effective running of the House,

equal TV coverage, 'repression'

on their workers, and also ex-

pressed their views about for-

mation of different parliamen-

tary committees", the Speaker

maintaining "positive neutral-

ity and running of the House as

per Rules of Procedure", Hu-

mayun Rashid Chowdhury said.

came up for discussion he said.

For those I have to have talks

with the ruling party represen-

tatives. Thereafter, both the

parties will sort those out

themselves through a direct di-

overall political developments

of BNP's joining a meeting of

the JS Business Advisory

Committee (BAC) which is

scheduled for today, the

will talk to the Prime Minister

or to other ruling party leaders

for postpenement of the BAC

meeting. The BAC meeting can

be shifted to 14th to facilitate

Speaker said, "If necessary, I

in the country", he added.

"We exchanged views on the

Asked about the possibility

About other issues, which

"I readily assured them of

the ruling party, he added.

leaders for talks.

January 15", he said.

Replying to a question, he

the talks.

Asked for details, the three BNP leaders said the Speaker

will brief on the talks. Constable beaten up in Khulna

From Our Correspondent KHULNA, Jan 12: A constable, Ashraf Ali, sustained severe injuries when some unruly rickshawpullers beat him mer-

cilessly here on Saturday. He was attacked when he arrested a rickshawpuller for violating traffic rules. Ali was admitted to hospital in a critical condition.

BSF releases

fisherman

From Staff Correspondent

Bangladeshi fisherman who

was kidnapped by the Indian

BSF four days ago was released

last night. Shamsu Miah of

village Maiyakhal of Beani-

bazar thana was kidnapped by

some members of the BSF when

he was fishing in the river

Kushiyara on Tuesday night.

Rakibul Huda

From Page 1

blueprint.

taken place according to a

killings as cold-blooded mur-

ders, charged former CMP

Commissioner Rakibul Huda

with the killing and demanded

a warrant of arrest against him.

APSU Shibir

From Page 1

class and ongoing examina-

tions have been suspended due

to the strike called by Rajshahi

University Teachers Associa-

tion (RUTA) and the All-party

Students Union demanding

immediate removal of the Vice

Chancellor, Prof M Yusuf Ali.

They also termed the

SYLHET, Jan 12: A

productive. The Bangladesh Prime Minister expressed the hope that both Bangladesh and Britain can contribute significantly towards revitalising the Com-

monwealth. Sheikh Hasina stated that while reviewing bilateral relations, she recalled with gratitude the support extended by the British "government, political leadership and people of Britain during our War of Lib-

The British Prime Minister and his wife Norma Major were later given a ceremonial sendoff as they departed for Pakistan in the last leg of their

three-nation tour. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina bade him farewell. Senior cabinet members, chiefs of the three services and senior officials were present. Two tiny tots presented the British pre-

mier with bouquets.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Father, daughter killed in road accident

By DMC Correspondent

A young man and his daugh ter were killed while his wife and son seriously injured in a road accident on Tipu Sultan Road in the old part of the city vesterday.

In another accident, a housewife was killed on Kuril Biswa Road under Cantonment thana.

According to Police, Mojibur Rahman, 35, and his daughter Moina, 5, were killed when a speeding truck hit the rickshaw at about 4:30 pm in which they were travelling. Moina died on the spot while her father succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources

Tk 3 cr land revenue outstanding

with Dhaka Zoo

By Staff Correspondent More than Tk three crore in land revenue is outstanding

with the Dhaka Zoo.

Officials there said that the backlog was created as the Na tional Board of Revenue (NBR) imposed high industrial rate on the zoo which could not pay this from its budget.

Since the imposition of taxes on government institu tions in 1979, we could not pay the land revenue as the zoo was categorised by the NBR as an industry, subjecting us to pay ment of Tk 125 per decimal of land. But there has never been any provision for land revenue in the budget of the Zoo," said

The official, requesting anonymity, said that the Zoo was an educational and recreational facility and numerous relevant activities were taking place there everyday. "We cannot understand why we have to pay taxes as an industry. Land revenue for non-industrial premises in the city's fixed at

Tk 22 per decimal", he added. Following reminders from the NBR, the Zoo authorities have recently written to the higher echelons seeking exemption from such payment.

Mojibar's wife. Nasima Begum, 25, and his son Manik, 2, were under treatment at the DMCH till last night. Residents of Nandipara under Shabujbagh thana in the city, they were going to Sadarghat to catch a

launch for Barguna. Police later arrested Siraj. the driver of the truck, and seized the vehicle. A case has been filed with Sutrapur thana

In the other accident a housewife, Hazera Khatun. 24. was killed when a truck ran over her on Kuril Biswa Road at noon. Wife of one Md Billal Hossain, she was returning home with her child from

school. Police arrested the truck driver, Shahid Khan, 38, and seized the vehicle. A case has been field with Cantonment

thana, police said. Group of eight developing countries soon

Eight developing countries have decided to form a group called Developing-8 or D-8 under a cooperative mechanism for creating common platform of cooperation for their socioeconomic development, reports

The decision was taken at a ministerial level meeting of the eight countries — Bangladesh. Egypt, Indonesia, Iran Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey - held in Istanbul on January 4 to shape up the D-8 being launched at the initiative of Turkish Prime Minister Nemettin Erbakan.

The meeting decided that the organisation, which would cover some 800 million people with huge pool of natural resources and manpower, would strictly follow an open-door policy

The meeting resolved to recommend the respective governments of the eight countries to convene a summit meeting of heads of state or government in Istanbul within the first half of

N'ganj: Jubo Dal leader

From Page 1

ransacked some shops and called a hartal in the town from morning to 2 pm tomorrow. Scores of bombs were blasted during the procession and panicked shopkeepers were seen pulling down their shutters. According to police and wit-

nesses, Raju and Bodu came under the attack when they were returning from the pourashabha office in a rickshaw at about 1 pm. A gang of around seven persons intercepted the rickshaw and started beating Bodu. At one stage, three shots were fired, one hitting Raju in the belly, the witnesses said.

The reason behind the attack could not be known immediately. However, some local people suspected that the incident centered tenders for development works in the town. Tender schedules for development works involving Tk 1.5 crore were on sale in the pourashabha office today.

Jubo Dal held some Awami League-backed people in Chashara area in the town responsible for the killing.

Meanwhile, most of the shops and markets were closed till late in the afternoon and a

tense situation was prevailing in the town.

None was arrested and no case was lodged in this connection till this evening.

UNB adds: BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has strongly condemned the killing of Narayanganj Jubo Dal leader Mohammad Raju.

tal killing and demanded impunishment of those responsi ble for the murder.

He apprehended that the country was again hurtling towards the 1972-95 regime as the ruling Awami League broke its past record of repression and torture on its political opponents.

He said the miscreants killed Alamgir on Saturday in broad daylight

In a statement yesterday Mannan Bhuiyan blamed the "Awami terrorists" for the brumediate arrest and exemplary

In a separate statement, Mannan Bhuiyan expressed his deep anguish at the killing of Bhola unit Juba Dal leader Alamgir and demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers.

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Confce on regional cooperation ends in Kathmandu

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Conducive atmosphere for integrated dev of eastern Himalayan rivers

KATHMANDU, Jan 12: Participants of the two-day dissemination conference on regional cooperation in harnessing eastern Himalayan rivers today observed that the door had been opened for future negotiations on water resource development with the current conducive atmosphere and political goodwill among the countries concerned, reports BSS.

They said the Mahakali treaty between India and Nepal and the Ganges water sharing agreement between Bangladesh and India were breakthroughs setting the general framework and principles for broader future cooperation in harnessing waters of the region.

After two day's intense deliberations on various common issues on January 10 and 11, a joint statement was published here today where it was observed that the water resource development should enunciate the principles of cost benefit

Teenage boy abducted, 4 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

A group of people allegedly kidnapped a teenage boy and took away money and gold ornaments worth about Tk five lakh from a house at North Adabar under Mohammadpur thana in the city last Friday. Arman, 15, son of a busi-

nessman, Abul Kashem, could not be traced till last night, po-

Kashem, in the FIR filed with Mohammadpur thana, accused a divorce Monika, 23, and some of her relatives of kidnapping his son. He alleged that Monika lured the boy and took away the ornaments and Tk two lakh in cash from the residence in the absence of the family members on Friday, police said. A case was lodged with Mohammadpur thana yesterday

afternoon.

Police, quoting the FIR, said Kashem went to Savar in connection with his business while his wife and other members of the family went for a picnic at Chandra leaving their eldest son Arman in the house alone. On return, they found Arman missing while their steel almirah broken and the gold ornaments and the money stolen.

Six persons, including Monika and her relatives, have been accused of kidnapping the boy and looting the money and the ornaments.

Police arrested Monika's father, her grand mother, brother-in-law and an uncle sharing for the integrated de-

velopment of the region. Nepalese Water Resources Minister Pashupati Shumsher JB Rana inaugurated the conference while Foreign Minister Prakash Chandra Lohani addressed the concluding session here yesterday. Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), Centre for Policy Research (CPR) of New Delhi and Institute of Inte-

> organised the conference. BUP's chairman Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, CPR's Ramashwami R Iyer and IIDS's Dr. Mohan Man Sainju led delegations of respective countries which included economists, social scientists, politicians. journalists and government of-

grated Development Studies

(IIDS) of Kathmandhu jointly

The participants said Bangladesh, India and Nepal must act in union to attract capital for investment in infras-

tructure water resource projects as the two treaties were expected to have positive implications for the integrated development of the eastern Himalayan

They said that the present conducive atmosphere and political goodwill must be sustained with a proper understanding of ground realities accompanied with adequate reciprocity and mutuality between and among the co-basin

partners. Terming the participation of politicians and mediamen in the conference as a success, it was observed that these involvement and interaction would help enhance regional cooperation in all possible

The question of sharing of the Teesta river water and of the Brahmaputra, the largest river in the sub-continent, also came

up for discussion.

Int'l workshop for CECs in Dhaka **April 7-10**

By Staff Correspondent The Commonwealth Secretariat and the Election Commission (EC) will jointly organise an international workshop for the Chief Election Commissioners of the Commonwealth countries in Dhaka from April 7 to 10 this year, sources at the EC said yesterday.

Chief Election Commissioners from ten countries in Asia will attend the workshop. The countries include India, the Maldives, Malaysia, Pakistan, Seychelles, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

The Commonwealth Secretariat will be represented in the workshop, by its Deputy Secretary General (political), K Srinivasan, a former Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, EC sources said. Observers from the ASEAN and SAARC countries will also attend the workshop, the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Kerb marketmen

From Page 1

clined to 1900.63 points from previous day's 2015.10 points. Market capitalisation of the bourse also fell by Tk 829.84 crore declining to Tk 13777.86 crore from Tk 14607.69 crore

on the previous day. Prices of 78 traded issues went down and only one issue gained while two remained un-

As many as 1.55 lakh shares and debentures value at Tk 4.34 crore changed hands during the

Zia's mazar

From Page 1 partment began removing the northern section of the floating bridge at about 8 pm. Using heavy hammers and blow troches, they manage to split a

section by 10:30 pm. They took the part of the bridge to Kanchpur for repair, some workmen said. They said the repair was needed to prevent the northern section from sinking as it developed holes.

They later posted the "urgent notice" saying it was removed for "urgent repair".

UNB adds: The front organisations of opposition BNP have strongly protested the alleged dismantling of the bailey bridge over the Crescent Lake, connecting the mazar of President Ziaur Rahman.

In separate statements, leaders of DUCSU, Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal and Krishak Dal said the wrecking of the bridge has proved the "meanness" of Awami League government.

They warned the government of vigorous street agitation if it failed to reinstall the bridge before the birth anniversary celebrations of President Ziaur Rahman.

Shahbazpur gas

From Page 1 be disappointed. "This will highly discourage big multinational companies all over the world who are very keen to come to Bangladesh for hydrocarbon exploration," the source

commented. Besides Unocal, other multinational companies including Shell, Exxon Esso. Cairn and Occidental have also shown interest in developing Shahbazpur gas field.

Cairn and Occidental have already began exploration in other areas. Cairn has discovered a huge gas field in the Bay of Bengal last year.

Most of the multinational oil companies have already purchased data spending hundreds of thousands of dollars. the sources said.

The Unocal had earlier proposed to the government to develop the Shahbazpur gas field and set up a 200 MW power plant

The Shahbazpur gas field was discovered in November 1995 by BAPEX - the hydrocar bon exploration wing of the Petrobangla

Cargo handling stopped at Mongla From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 12: The Mongla port stevedores have stopped loading and unloading of cargoes for an indefinite period in protest against what they said highhandedness of the dock workers.

The dock workers are reportedly demanding wages in violation of the agreement reached with the stevedores recently.

Rupsha Bridge

From Page 1

Dhaka and Rajshahi at a cost of Tk 22.25 crore; Mosque-based Children and Mass Education Programme at a cost of Tk 37.50 crore: and Further Development of Four Medical College Hospitals at cost of Tk 42.33 crore were also approved by the meeting.

The ECNEC also gave approval to projects of construction of Bangladesh High Commission complex in New Delh at a cost of Tk 12.19 crore and construction of Bangladesh Embassy in diplomatic area in Washington at a cost of Tk

18.50 crore. Ministers for finance, education, water resources, commerce, agriculture, foreign affairs, health and family welfare, communications and shipping, and state ministers for fisheries and livestock, and religious affairs attended the

meeting. Cabinet secretary, principal secretary, governor of Bangladesh Bank, members of the Planning Commission, secretary to the Prime Minister, and secretaries were also pre-

Ataul Haq

From Page 1

tary, Ministry of Information. Joint Secretary in the Banking Division, Rafiqul Alam, has been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mohammad Shajahan Mian, news editor/special correspondent of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, has been appointed as minister (Press) at the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington on a contract for three years.

Ershad From Page 1

Parliament would discuss it in details, he added.

Asked to comment on the sub-regional grouping, he said "I have not yet studied it thoroughly", but it needs detailed discussions, he added.

HM Ershad also said that, he had appealed to the Prime Minister for immediate withdrawal of the 'false' cases lodged against the leaders and workers

of the JP. The Jatiya Party chairman reached Sylhet by the first flight of Biman at 12-50 pm. about three hours late than the scheduled time. From the airport, he straight drove to the Circuit House where he stayed for some time. He then visited the mazars of the two great saints. From there he went to the residence of Sylhet district president of JP Abdul Mukit

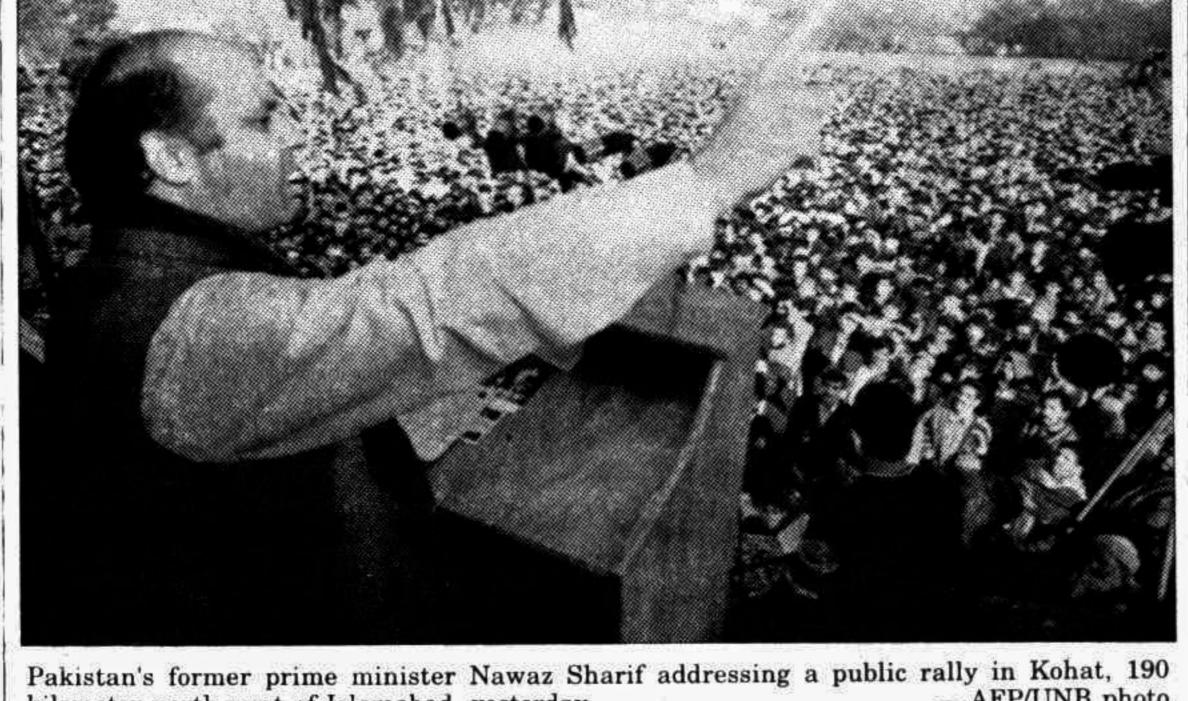
Khan MP and took his iftar there. JP presidium member and Jativa Ainjibi Federation president Yusuf Hossain Humayun accompanied Ershad

during the tour Ershad also held a meeting with the district leaders at Mukit Khan's residence after if-

The JP chairman left Sylhet for Dhaka by the last flight of Biman at 9 pm, about two and a half hour late than the scheduled time

According to a Jatiya Party press release in Dhaka, Ershad pledged to donate Taka seven and a half lakh for the development of Shahjalal's (RA) mazar complex

Ershad said he got the amount as the honorarium as an MP. The past BNP regime did not allow him to draw the money, the press release quoted him as saving.



- AFP/UNB photo kilometer north-west of Islamabad, yesterday.

From Page 1 items. As

investigate their validity, the sources noted.

the EPB.

On the other hand, exporters from Nepal and Maldives have

Bangladesh. The government has now been trying to pursue the EU into allowing a two stage backward linkage system for knit garments instead of the existing three stages needed to be eligible

for GSP. But knitwear exporters view that this would not help solve the problem. They say the government should rather try to find a solution about the payment of any by importers on

the last three years' imports. The private sector textile mills owners had also lobbied against the two stage transformation of knit products claiming this would put the spinners out of business.

the government should establish that 'chalan' is the recognised form of trade here. The EC investigation team had ob-

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Fla),

lantis lifted off before dawn today, headed for its fifth rendezvous with Russia's Mir Space Station, reports Reuter. The 2 billion dollar space-

launch pad in a brilliant blaze of light at 4:27 am EST (0927 Atlantis is due to dock with Mir on Tuesday night to pick up astronaut John Blaha, who has worked abroad the station since

Linenger. Linenger, a 41-year-old Navy Captain and medical doctor, is scheduled to spend four months on Mir. where he will perform more than 80 scientific experiments. Atlantis is due to return

He will be the fourth US astronaut to live abroad Mir as part of a NASA effort to learn more about the effects of long duration space flight on the human body

vesterday.

Knitwear export to EU

for Schedule C items, EPB will

The EC has estimated that its member states have lost between 30 and 50 million US dollars annually because of false certificate of origins issued by

been lobbying against Bangladesh, the ministry sources said. These two countries had once used GSP facility taking false certificates although they do not have any backward linkage. But after the EC found out about their fraudulent practices they stopped taking advantage of GSP. Exporters in Laos and Cambodia having faced similar problems are also lobbying against

Knit product exporters said

served that 'chalan' can not establish source of origin of yarn and therefore, dubbed all yarn purchased under 'chalan' as of doubtful origin. Since EC had never explicitly said that nothing other than bank documents would be considered as valid papers in determining the origin of yarn, it should give consessions at least for the previous GSPs, the exporters

Atlantis lifts off Jan 12: The space Shuttle At-

ship, with six astronauts abroad, roared off its Florida

September, and drop off his replacement astronaut Jerry

to the station in May to bring him home.