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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talking to US Ambassador in Bangladesh David N Merrill at the Zia International Airport prior to her departure for Washington yesterday to attend — PID photo the Micro Credit Summit there.

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim

rose to protest Delwar's con-

tention and said all the na-

tional dailies carried Begum

Zia's comment she made at the

airport on return from New

shouting at him. Sheikh Selim

said, "parliament can't be run

applying physical force we also

have the right to speak as the

dealing with notices with the

BNP lawmakers repeating

shouts. Assurance of giving

them the floor by the Chair

Fazlur Rahman Patal asked for

proof about the Water Resources

Whip of the House Abul Hasnat

Abdullah was heard shouting

without the microphone. Yes

ves, we've proofs. We're ready to

Dacoity at

Tejkunipara

and valuables worth about Tk

200,000 from a house at Tejku-

nipara in the city yesterday, re-

ports UNB.

the incident.

CHT bills passed

Armed dacoits looted cash

Police said four young men

They looted the cash and

Claiming that the present

government had a special rela-

tion with India. Mashiur said it

was possible to hold elections

in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is

the government persuaded In-

dia to create a congenial atmo-

sphere there. "So the govern-

ment should not seek extension

of the tenure of the local bodies

in the hill districts," he argued.

MP, told the House that the

"crisis" in Chittagong Hill

the first government of the

country asking the tribal people

present government is now

making efforts to withdraw

army from the troubled zone,

when the Shantibahini has

been disturbing peace in the

area with Indian support," Alim

Chowdhury observed that the

provision for 'appointing' ar

'interim council' was 'a clear

shift of the ruling Awami

League from democratic princi-

Mobin Chowdhury also ob-

served that the proposal for 'ap-

pointing a council was incon-

sistent with the constitution

and democratic principles as

plained that the Chief Whip of

the Jatiya Sangsad who led the

government delegation in the

recent peace talks with the

Shantibahini leaders did not

submit any report on the

Anwar demanded revision of

the ruling by the Chair on

whether a technocrat minister

could speak on behalf of an-

other ministry. Deputy Speaker

Abdul Hamid who was in the

chair at that time said that he

would give a ruling after due

Chowdhury adjourned the

House at 5:00 pm yesterday till

11:00 this afternoon.

Speaker Humayun Rashid

Earlier, BNP lawmaker M K

progress of talks.

scrutiny.

The JP legislator also com-

Jatiya Party MP M K Alam

JP MP Abu Lais Mohammad

"It is unfortunate that the

to become "Bangalees".

Tracts began with the head of

Abdul Alim, another BNF

stormed the house of one Kiran

Deshai at Teikunipara as he

was alone in the house during

goods at gun point and fled the

produce those in the House."

Getting the floor, BNP deputy

Jumping on his feet, Chief

calmed the situation.

Minister's statement.

The Chair again started

As the BNP lawmakers were

Delhi in 1992

Opposition.

## Reported remark of Khaleda on water issue sparks debate

By Staff Correspondent

The Jativa Sangsad vesterday witnessed a brief but stormy debate on former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's reported comment about the Ganges water sharing issue. The ruling Awami League

challenged to prove Begum Zia's remark that she forgot to raise the issue of water-sharing during her visit to New Delhi in May. 1992 while the Opposition BNP strongly denied the inci-

Noises, shouts, countershouts and desk-hittings gripped the House for sometime while senior members of both the sides delivered heated statements, defending their respective positions, as well as accusing each other of violating

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak triggered the unscheduled debate during the question-hour by quoting former Prime Minister as saying on her return from New Delhi that she forgot to raise the water-sharing issue with her Indian counterpart during her visit to India.

Taking the floor, an angry Chief Whip of the Opposition Khandakar Delwar Hossain charged Abdur Razzak for making an untrue statement involving Begum Zia while replying to questions.

flow can the minister give such an untrue statement without producing any document?", said Khandakar Delwar, also blaming the Chair for not allowing his party members to speak and not running the

House as per rules. Ruling party lawmaker

From Page 1

dia to have a dialogue with the

Shantibahini leaders. "Now

what is the wrong with having a

discussion with them in the

state guest house?" the minister

asked and said that for the sake

of peace, the present govern-

ment was ready to hold talks

with them anywhere in the

that with the progress of the

peace talks, "the government

would call back the soldiers

from the remote camps to gar-

risons in the Chittagong Hill

not address the objection raised

against the provision for 'ap-

pointing an interim local body

in the areas by the government.

opposed both the extension of

the tenure of the councils and

the idea of 'appointing' an 'in

terim council' by the govern-

ment. Two Jatiya Party legisla-

tors also opposed the bills, al-

though they did not vote against

BNP legislator Prof. Shahidul

Islam said it was unfortunate

that the government was giving

the Shantibahini leaders, who

have been killing "our fellow

citizens" in the hill districts,

the honour of state "guests" and

holding discussions at the state

sion for 'appointing' the pro-

posed 'interim council', BNP MP

Major (Retd) Akhtaruzzaman

said it was ultra vires of the

Constitution. Quoting from Ar-

ticle 59 of the Constitution, he

said local governments at all

tyres have to be run by 'elected

The provision for appoint-

ing an 'interim council' in the

hill districts is nothing but an

attempt to make the adminis-

tration of the region partisan,

claimed: "The Shantibahini

had been killing our people

with military backing from In-

Mashiur Rahman of the BNP

representatives of the people'.

Arguing against the provi-

guests house.

While opposing the bills.

Earlier, the BNP lawmakers

The minister, however, did

Khan also told the House

world

Tracts.

#### PM leaves

From Page 1 services, and senior civil and

military officials. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif. Dean of diplomatic corps PLO ambassador in Dhaka Shahta Zarab and US Ambassador David N Merrill were among

During the tour, Hasina will lead a 15-member delegation that includes State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury. State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya MP. Kalparanjan Chakma MP. Segufta Yasmeen MP and Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan. She will touch Miami, USA, today and reach Washington on

The Bangladesh Prime Minister is expected to return home on February 9.

February 1.

#### Hillary to host From Page 1

The spokeswoman said this would be a very small party, mot more than four persons are expected to attend. She would not confirm whether President Clinton would join the party. "We are looking into the possibility," she said. Clinton has a very tight schedule, "but every effort is being made to have him there." The spokeswoman was also unwilling to confirm any separate meeting between the President and the visiting Bangladesh leader. She, however, admitted that these was a

possibility. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be a keynote speaker at the microcredit summit beginning in Washington on Feb 2. In addition to Hillary Clinton, who will serve as a co-chairperson, the summit will be attended by several heads of state and government. So far, President Konare of

Mali, Prime Minister Mocumbi of Mozambique and President Museveni of Uganda have confirmed their participation. Queen Fabiola of Belgium and Queen Sofia of Spain are also definite to participate. In addition. First Ladies of Kazakstan, Malaysia and El Salvador are also expected to attended. Several bilateral meetings between Prime Minister Hasina and participating dignitaries are being planned. Bangladeshi

#### PM at DSCSC From Page 1 them to perform greater and

diplomats confirm.

more arduous tasks in future. Hasina hoped that in addition to discharging the onerous and sacred responsibility of upholding the sovereignty the armed forces would work hard and join hands with the general mass in disaster management and poverty alleviation pro-

Earlier on her arrival, the Prime Minister was received by Defence Secretary Kazi Md Munzur-i-Mowla and Commandant of the Staff College Major General AM Mansur

Ahmed. A total of 119 officers including 26 from China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia. Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and the USA graduated

The Prime Minister distributed certificates among the graduated students.

this year from the college.

The DSCSC Commandant gave a brief resume of the courses of the college. He said a total of 1,124 officers including 258 from 25 countries received graduation from this college in last 19 years after it was set up in December 1977.

Sayedur Rahman a deedwriter and another witness in the case also submitted his deposition.

Till today 47 out of 55 witnesses submitted depositions in the court. The court will sit on Febru-

ary 15 for the next hearings in

Work on city car parking lots will begin in July damages as they will remain The government has undertaken a project on the construction of modern electro-mechanical car parking infrastructures

at various important places of the city to ease traffic jam. A DCC source told BSS yesterday that the Taka 49.50 crore project under the auspices of the enue earnings. Local Government Division would be implemented by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)

during the coming fiscal year. The source said after completion of the project, the traffic jam at places like Gulistan. Mohakhali. Mohammadpur. New Market, Kawran Bazar, Tejgaon, Mouchak Square, Sayedabad and Motijheel will be eased to a larger extent.

Of the total amount, Taka 18.20 crore will be provided by the Bangladesh government and Taka 31.30 crore in foreign currency will be provided by the Chinese government for construction of 10 three-storyed parking infrastructures with .124 sq meter floor space each.

The construction of the parking lots, which is time-befitting with the present per-spective of DCC and also consistent with the under-preparation Fifth Five-Year Plan, will start in July this year and end in June next year.

According to the main obectives of the project, car park ings could be provided at sev eral storeys of a building on a small land which will lessen the rate of road accidents in the

Besides, cars can be saved from sun, rain or other possible

## Vested Property

From Page 1 gests, the act will be repealed, he

The minister, however, said that consultations with the Law Commission and experts are needed to know whether abrogation of the act will create any administrative and legal complexity.

Khasru said the act is related with the land management of the country.

He denied that the law fuels clashes and violence in the country and it is applicable only to the Hindu community. The law was also applicable to the non-Bengalis in 1971, he

Earlier, in his call attention notice Saha claimed the Vested Property Act is applicable only to Hindu community and said it is a 'discriminatory and unequal law that exists no where in the world.

#### Yasmin murder

From Page 1 humed on August 30, 1995. The medical board constituted by Deputy Commissioner. Dinajpur, performed a second autopsy under violent public de-

The first autopsy was done

on August 24, 1995 and the body

was 'hurriedly' buried in a graveyard at village Sadpur in Dr Matlubar Rahman told the court during cross-exami-

nation that Yasmin was throttled to death after rape and her body clearly carried all relevant Dr Kamrunnahar, Medical

Officer of Dinajpur, a member of the medical board and a witness in the case in her deposition endorsed the submission of Dr Matlubar Rahman. Syed Shawkat, a constable

of DSB police, in his deposition said that he, acting upon order of his superiors brought prostitutes Morjina, Mariam and Sultana Begum to DSB office where he found them being pressurised to identify picture of the body of Yasmin as Banu, another prostitute.

Tariqul Islam, a constable and witness in the case, identified three main accused standing on dock and said that he saw them alighting from the police patrol van after committing incident.

#### within the covered structures under mechanical parking sys-

The source said there would be no possibility of lifting of cars under this system while this would generate huge rev-

#### Schoolboy killed during AL factions' gunfight in Shahjadpur

schoolboy was shot dead and 15 people were injured during armed clashes reportedly between two local factions of the ruling party at Shahjadpur thana headquarters today, reports UNB.

Nazimuddin, 15, a class VIII student of Shahjadpur Pilot High School and son of Tara Mian of the poura area. Witnesses said Nazimuddin

was hit by a bullet in his belly in crossfire on his way home amid the gunfight allegedly between the supporters of two local Awami League leaders at about 3 pm.

bullet upto his residence from where family members rushed him to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital but he succumbed to his injuries on the way, family sources said

## acting AL chief

Awami League Presidium member Abdus Samad Azad will act as the party acting President during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to USA, said a press release yesterday, reports

## in Bagerhat

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Jan 29: At least 31 shops were gutted in a fire at Badhal bazar under Kachua thana of Bagerhat district last night. Property worth Tk 20

### Rifat murder: 3 arrested

By Staff Correspondent Cantonment thana police

have arrested three persons -Manik, Selim and Tito - in connection with the killing of Nurul Islam Rifat

death by some of his friends Monday afternoon. His body was recovered from near the the same locality Tuesday morning.

#### Woman mugged

By Staff Correspondent clinic at Dhanmondi in the city vesterday evening.

autorickshaw waylaid her and snatched her bag from near the Mahila Complex at Dhanmondi. Sabera complained to police.

### Old man chopped to death

BARISAL, Jan 29: An old man was chopped to death by some armed men at Nandapara village under Bakerganj thana

#### Sangsad snippets ernment made the recent con-From Page 1

reply for correction."

Interrupted by Mashiur Rahman of BNP, Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury smilingly said, "I'm now on my journey to the legislative business. Why are you pulling me back." The Speaker's remark apparently satisfied the Opposition MP who sat down with a smile.

in taming another BNP member, attempting to interrupt the Speaker while he was in a hurry to complete the day's business. Taking a quick look at the member, the Speaker said "The train is running fast. Let me go with it.'

The House witnessed several voice-votes at the fag end of yesterday's five-hour sitting. With the lftar time approaching, the 'Yes' and 'No' voices became lower.

\* \* \*

stronger than the 'Yes' voice of the Treasury Bench. A smiling Speaker, however, announced 'victory' of the Trea-

sury Bench members, outnumbering their Opposition col-When some Opposition members jokingly claimed to

have won the voice-vote, the Speaker urged both the benches to raise 'Yes' and 'No' voices together strongly. Both the benches then raised fullthroated voices of 'Yes' and 'No. causing laughter in the wiry

Prof Shahidul Islam of BNP

asked Education Minister

ASHK Sadeq whether the gov-

some secretaries considering their faces or party interest. "It's neither faces nor the partisan interests", replied the

minister. The appointments were made purely on the basis of merit, qualification and public interest he said but commented, "Raising such a question gives the impression that such appointments were made considering faces and partisan interests by the past government.

ingly told the Chair, "Give me the floor considering my face." However, the Chair did not entertain the Opposition member's request.

### financial help for 'Grameen Court'

the Asian Development Bank (ADB), led by senior strategy and policy officer Naved Hamid, called on Minister for Law Abdul Matin Khasru at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

sues with particular reference to establishment of "Grameen Court" and legal aid committee with a view to ensuring access to justice for the vast rural community of the country. "The government is now contemplating to establish

Besides, the delegation ex-



Let's make things better

PHILIPS

#### Suranjit at press confce

## Constitution doesn't bar non-MP minister from answering

Parliamentary Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister, Suranjit Sengupta MP yester-day said that the Constitution does not bar any non-MP minister from answering to questions not related with his min-

Speaking at a press conference at his parliament building office, he said according to parliamentary dictionary, speech, statement and answering questions do not have the same connotations and the Constitution only bars a technocrat minister in delivering speeches or statements on matters not related to his ministry.

Sengupta made the comments in connection with the recent parliamentary debate on State Minister for Planning, Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir's authority to speak in parliament on issues other than his ministry.

Sengupta referred to three precedences during the past BNP regime when BNP minister Tariqui Islam answered questioned on behalf of other ministers in their absence while he was a non-MP minister.

The ruling party leader. however, said the spirit of the Constitution is to uphold public representation in parliament and that is why it has imposed limitations of delivering speeches or statements by non-MP ministers on issues of other ministries but did not bar him from answering questions on ministries other than his own.

#### Dock workers at Ctg Port continue go-slow From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 29: Cargo handling at the Chittagong Port slumped by 50 per cent as the dock workers continued their go-slow programme violating the agreement reached three days ago between the port authorities and union leaders port officials said.

Talking to The Daily Star the chairman of Chittagong port. Captain Zahiruddin Mahmud, said 'the dock workers were not withdrawing the

go-slow programme though their leaders had agreed to do He said, notices were served yesterday to the dock workers to resume full scale cargo han-

dling immediately.

## Bangabhaban clarification

By Staff Correspondent The news item on 'drastic curtailment' of daily expendi-

ture for 'Kucha bazar goods' in the President's household published recently in a section of the press is not 'correct', a press release issued from Bangabhaban said Tuesday. The press release said.

"While the report is substantially true, amounts of expendi ture, both present and past, as cited therein, are not correct. It appears to be guesswork by some persons." The press release further

said. "The fact is that strict observance of frugality, avoidance of unnecessary expenditure and regular accountability have been enforced and consequently the expenditure has considerably come down." "No information, however

about this matter has been given by any concerned person at Bangabhaban, it said.

## Padma barrage to be built

From Page 1 from all, irrespective of party affiliation

Razzak said the river Garai will be reexcavated to drain water through it and the GK (Ganges-Kobada) Project will be made operative by next March after four years.

About 70,000 acres of land under the GK Project will now be irrigated and the desertification process in the northern part of the country will be stopped, he said amid cheers by Treasury Bench members. The minister said naviga-

bility of the rivers would be improved, and fall of underground water level and pollution of environment would be stopped with the increase of water in the Ganges (Padma in Bangladesh) and its tributaries. Presenting statistics of wa-

ter availability from January 1-10, the minister said the flow

#### Circuit breaker From Page 1

however, is expected to avoid a scandal since share investors have subscribed Tk 64 crore worth of IPOs, most of them oversubscribed the DSE sources

As the DSE pondered over the fate of these companies amidst anxieties by subscribers, who had been knocking at their doors for refund warrants, the SEC also sought clarification from the DSE.

The six companies are: Anlima Yarn and Dying, Mark Bangladesh Shilpa and Engineering. HR textiles, Excelsion Shoes. Meghna Vegetables and the state-owned Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha. However. Mark Engineering have been enlisted by the Chittagong Stock Exchange. Meanwhile, the committee

to probe the alleged irregularities in the capital market when the bull ran near amock between July and mid-November last year has been granted another month to complete its investigations. Headed by Prof Amirul Is lam, Vice-Chancellor of the Ja-

hangirnagar University, the six-member committee was constituted by the government on December 27 with a mandate to probe recent developments in the stock market. The committee held severa meetings during the last one

month, collecting and sifting

through wads of documents af-

ter visitings the CSE and DSE. It also invited members of the public to provide them with information regarding alleged irregularities that had taken place in the stock market due to inside dealing and price lixing of a number of companies without sound fundamentals.

#### Businessmen laud From Page 1

The business community leaders were talking with the Leader of the Opposition at her Mitno road residence after the iftar hosted by her.

FBCCI President Yussuf Abdullah Harun DCCI President ASM Quasem, leading businessmen Moshiur Rahman. Mahbubur Rahman, Latifur Rahman and MA Wahab were among others who attended the iftar party.

Former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said the government vented its anger on Security Exchange Commission sidetracking the kerb market operators. Begum Zia, the former

prime minister said economy is the lifeblood of the country's development. "If the economy stagnates, politics cannot bring any welfare to the nation." she BNP Secretary General Ab-

dul Mannan Bhuiyan, M Morshed Khan MP and former Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam Khan MP were also present in the meeting.

had increased by 7,000 cusec or 7 cm over the earlier level with the implementation of the ac-

The 30-year treaty became effective on January I this year and the country was to get 67,516 cusec of water and India 40,000 cusec during January 1-10 period as per the mean flow

of the river from 1949-1988. The minister said Bangladesh got 79,041 cusec water on January 1, 79,364 cusec on January 2, 77,037 cusec on January 3, 75,173 cusec on January 4, 71,652 cusec on January 5, 68,556 cusec on January 6, 67.217 on January 7, 64,777 cusec on January 8, 63,476 cusec on January 9 and 61,990 cusec on January 10.

He informed the House that the lowest flow at the Hardinge Bridge point of the Ganges was 50,500 cusec during the 1972-75 period. 23,200 cusec during 1976-82, 15,477 cusec during 1983-90 and 9,218 cusec during 1991-96 period.

## 9 pirates held in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jan 29: Police arrested nine pirates from Bachamiar ghat at east Gohira village under Anwara thana last night when they were preparing to board an engine

Police said, one gun and some ammunition were recovered from their possession.

#### Micro-organisms From Page 1

lodged in their brains," Saha He fears that the exact bur-

den of infection with this micro-organism is manifold higher than the findings of the study. "Thousands of patients are there with many other types of diseases caused by this micro-organism who are unaccounted for," said Dr Saha. On an average. 20 to 30 patients with brain infection are admitted to the Shishu Hospital per month, he added. This deadly micro-organism

has totally been eradicated in the western countries by mass vaccination, Dr Saha said. "My findings confirm that the same western vaccine would be highly effective in Bangladesh to combat the killer diseases. But this is an expensive vaccine and in our country the low income group are the prime sufferers, so the vaccination programme should be included with the EPI (Extended Programme for Immunisation) to make a major breakthrough in the control of the infectious

He further added, "through the scientific activities of the ICDDR, B (International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research. Bangladesh) and their worldwide publicity, our country is known as a country of only diarrhoeal diseases and thus the infectious diseases with higher mortality and

morbidity are overshadowed." Dr Saha, who made the breakthroughs from a modest laboratory at the Shishu Hospital, said. "We should put more efforts nationally to come up with work to identify the infectious diseases prevailing in our

country. The findings of the research will be published in the Annals of Tropical Paediatrics, Liverpool University and Journal of Clinical Microbiology, a publication of the American Society for Microbiology in March.

#### Benazır From Page 1

port. Although he has a per-

sonal following of around 10 per cent of the electorate, his fledgling party may struggle to poll more than five per cent.



### **Investors' Department** Shilpa Bank Building (15th Floor) This is for information of the respectable investors of ICB Head Office and Branch Offices that Eagle Star Textile Mills Ltd has decided to issue Right Shares on 1:1 basis at a Face Value of Taka 10.00 per

**Investment Corporation of Bangladesh** 

share to the share holders of the Company whose name appeared in the Company's share register on 7 December, 1996. The last date for application for Right Shares is 5 February, 1997. Investors interested to buy Right Shares of Eagle Star Textile Mills

Ltd through their accounts are requested to contact ICB Offices and submit their written purchase instruction along with required deposits (if required) by 5 February, 1997.

> Assistant General Manager Investors Department

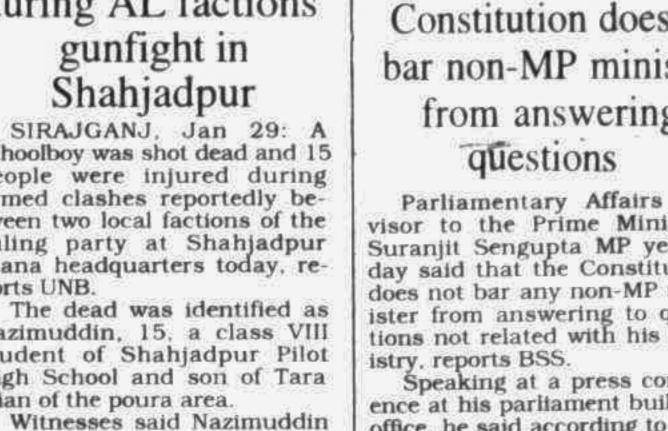
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The illfated boy ran with the

# Samad Azad

Foreign Minister and

# 31 shops gutted

lakh was destroyed, local people claimed.

Rifat, 24, son of Alhaj Abdul Aziz, of the New DOHS in the city was allegedly hacked to railway track near the BTC in

## ......

A housewife Sabera Khatun was mugged of Tk 10,000 when she was returning home from a

Three young men riding an

According to her, she had Tk 10,000 in the handbag.

From Staff Correspondent

# last night.

The Speaker also succeeded

Once, the 'No' voice of the Opposition Bench was heard

leagues.

tract-basis appointments of

At this stage, another BNP member, Abdul Wahab, smil-

# ADB keen to provide

Grameen Court within the shortest possible time," the law minister stated.

The visiting delegation from

They discussed various is-

pressed their interest to provide financial assistance for the proposed Grameen Court, said a PID handout.