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## Hillary praises development activities in Bangladesh

WASHINGTON, Feb 3: US first Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today praised the family planning and rural development activities pursued by the present government of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Hillary during a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Sheraton Washington Hotel also praised the efforts of the Grameen Bank in extending cellular telephone services to the rural areas through the bank and said this would further add to the on-going development activities in Bangladesh.

The two ladies met for about 30 minutes during which Sheikh Hasina highlighted various efforts of her seven-month-old government to Hillary. Hillary was happy to know that the Grameen cellular service is being introduced from

See Page 12 Col 8

## No Bangladeshi nabbed after deadline in Malaysia

By Reaz Ahmed

Officials of Bangladesh and Malaysia held talks at Kuala Lumpur yesterday on repatriation of illegal Bangladeshi workers and fresh export of manpower to that country, according to Bangladesh High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur Mostafa Kamaluddin, reached over telephone.

No Bangladeshi national has yet been nabbed since the current drive to flush out illegal foreign workers began in Malaysia on February 1, another source in the High Commissioner told this correspondent last night.

The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere, Kamaluddin said but declined to give details.

He said Malaysian officials gave the impression that assessment on fresh recruitment of manpower to continue the present eight per cent growth rate would be made during the ongoing drive against illegal migrants is over. High officials of Home Ministry and Human Resources Ministry represented the Malaysian side at the talks.

Other source in the Bangladesh High Commission said.

The four-member Bangladesh delegation to Malaysia was led by Labour and Manpower Secretary Mahe Alam.

The High Commissioner said that after raising various work places, law enforcing

See Page 12 Col 7

## Inside Today

### Article

**Who is a VIP?**  
 Column: Window on Asia  
 by Shahed Latif  
 Page 4

### Focus

Architectural design and disability: Family planning: Treatment of drop-out or of side effects?  
 Page 5

### International

Nawaz Sharif — The 21st century man?  
 Indonesia threatens to boycott Asia-Europe meet  
 Page 8

### Business

Ample scope exists for expanding export to Romania  
 4-point rise in DSE index  
 Pages 6, 7

### DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1754.69 (+0.21%)  
 Market capital Tk 1313419cr  
 Transactions in volume 239264  
 Transactions in value Tk 796cr

### CSE MARKET

CSE price index 745.63 (+1.67%)  
 Market capital Tk 97488.55 cr  
 Transactions in volume 77705  
 Transactions in value Tk 13660735

### Sheri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Feb	Sheri	Iftar
25	04	—	5:50
26	05	5:16	5:51
27	06	5:16	5:52

## Hasina at World Micro-credit Summit

# Declare global war against poverty

WASHINGTON, Feb 3: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made a passionate appeal to all to take a pivotal step for a poverty-free globe as world leaders began a summit here Sunday with the goal of providing tiny loans to 100 million poor people, reports UNB.

"I hereby commit, myself and the government of Bangladesh, to this multi-faceted global campaign of innovation, courage and determination," she said while presiding over the opening session of the three-day World Microcredit Summit.

Hasina said, this campaign

would become one of the great humanitarian movements of history and allow the world's poorest people to free themselves from the chain of poverty and deprivation, and bloom their potentials to the benefit of all — rich and poor.

A co-chairperson of the summit, Hasina urged practitioners, NGOs, savings and credit cooperatives, educational and religious institutions, governments, and leaders in finance and business to join the mission.

US First Lady Hillary Clinton, Queen Sophia of Spain, former Japanese Prime Minister

Tsutomu Hata, President Omar Konare of Mali, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, President Alberto Fujimori of Peru and many heads of government and important dignitaries were present at the inaugural function.

The meet is seen as a global campaign with a boost from US President Bill Clinton to raise billions of dollars to provide credit to the poor.

Hasina was the first of 18 speakers that included three presidents, a prime minister, Queen Sophia and representatives of international aid organisations, private companies

and the World Bank.

More than 2,000 people from 100 countries are attending the three-day meeting.

Another speaker was Prof Mohammad Yunus, who founded the microcredit movement in Bangladesh 20 years ago when he lent 27 US dollars from his own pocket to a furniture maker. The meeting is a celebration of "the freeing of credit from the bondage of collateral," Prof Yunus said.

He said the microcredit was at the same level of development as the Wright Brothers were when they made their first

See Page 12 Col 3



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who is a co-chairperson of the World Microcredit Summit in Washington addressing the inaugural session of the summit yesterday. — PID photo

## 5 killed in violence: Poor voter turnout Nawaz Sharif takes lead

ISLAMABAD, Feb 3: The Pakistan Muslim League led by Nawaz Sharif is taking the lead in the general elections held today, according to the partial results of the polls, report Xinhua, AFP.

Till now, the newly-formed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf led by Imran Khan has not won a single seat in the National Assembly.

Meanwhile, Sharif claimed victory in the election which was tarnished by a poor voter turnout and five deaths in clashes.

The 48-year-old head of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) swept aside suggestions of rigged results from arch rival Benazir Bhutto and political newcomer Imran Khan to stake his claim to become prime minister for a second time.

"We are winning from all over the country," Sharif told cheering supporters, hours after

the voting close, but before any official results had been declared.

Like Benazir in November, Sharif's last government was dismissed in 1993 for corruption.

Around 250,000 troops and police were deployed to stop troubles this time, but violence flared in two cities.

Two people were killed in clashes in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, in troubles linked to rivalry between rival ethnic Mohajir groups.

A polling agent of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) was beaten to death and several others injured, police and hospital sources said. The party said the man was abducted and tortured by the rival MQM-Haqiqi group.

As tension mounted, a 60-year-old man was shot in crossfire between the rival groups and died in hospital. Ten

cases of abductions were also reported and shots were fired to scare people away from voting stations.

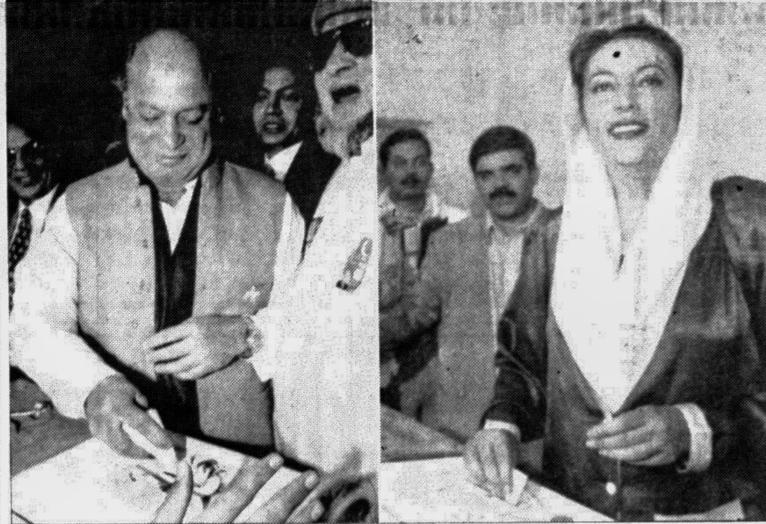
In the Punjab city of Gujrat, an armed clash between Benazir and Sharif supporters left one dead and seven wounded, police said.

Sharif was favourite in pre-election opinion polls and his party said it had won a landslide victory after voting ended.

Malik Meraj Khalid, caretaker prime minister since Benazir was dismissed by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari in November, admitted there had been a low turnout which he said was caused by cold weather and fasting during the holy month of Ramadan.

Turnout at the last election in 1993 was 40.28 per cent and there were widespread predictions the level this time would be even lower among the 56 mil-

See Page 12 Col 1



Nawaz Sharif (L) casting vote in Lahore and Benazir Bhutto (R) at Nandero, some 25 km from Larkana, during the general elections in Pakistan yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

## Enlistment for approving bldg plans Most architects, engrs opposed to Rajuk's conditions

By Morshed Ali Khan

Conditions imposed by Rajuk on its enlisted architects and engineers to initially approve building plans in the city has been termed as "incorrect and lacking professional thinking."

Majority of the architects, asked to give their opinions over the decision, expressed their dismay and said that several of the conditions imposed by the Rajuk were "totally out of the way."

The Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), the only organisation for the professional architects in the country with

more than 400 members, has officially asked its members "not to enlist with Rajuk" until the matter was resolved.

Rajuk has recently started enlisting engineers, architects, draftsmen and consultancy firms, for a fee of Tk 500, who would be the only authorised professionals to initially approve building plans before submitting for Rajuk approval.

The five conditions imposed by Rajuk on the enlisted architects and engineers include "verification of soil reports prepared by the owner of the land for the proposed building;

supervision of construction works and certifying the compliance with design and specification." It also compels the architects and engineers to produce a copy of the contract between the owner of the site and the respective architect or engineer.

IAB members said that an architect was neither professionally trained nor legally bound to verify soil test reports. The supervision and certifying factors entirely depended on the site owner as there was a cost involvement. Then, the contract between the professional and the owner is never signed on a standard form as in the case of Singapore or other countries, they added.

"We just wonder why Rajuk does not enlist the soil investigators as well. Or if we have to check the soil test report why don't we ourselves have it done through a bonafide investigator? Why should we go to check the test report done by the owner of the site and who will pay the cost involved?" asked Nurur Rahman Khan, a member of the IAB's executive committee.

Another member of the IAB pointed out that supervision of a site under construction was a costly affair and it depended on the owner as to how much monitoring he would like to engage

See Page 12 Col 1

## Muggers cut tendons of young man in city

By DMC Correspondent

Muggers cut the tendons of the hands of a young man at Motijheel in the city yesterday.

Muggers also snatched money and other valuables from a person at Konapara under Demra thana.

A gang of muggers cut the tendons of one Delwar Hossain, 27, when he resisted their attempt to mug a rickshaw passenger near the Dhaka Stock Exchange in Motijheel commercial area in the afternoon.

See Page 12 Col 5

## Ershad apologises to Noor Hossain's father

By Staff Correspondent

Former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad on Sunday gave Taka 25,000 to the father of Shaheed Noor Hossain to enable him to celebrate Eid and also expressed his willingness to give him Taka 5,000 every month.

Ershad met Noor Hossain's father Mojibur Rahman at his house in the city Sunday night and begged his apology for the untimely death of his son, says a party press release.

Noor Hossain, a young man

See Page 12 Col 3

## Ekushey '97 Uphold spirit of Language Movement

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a lecture session on "Shahittiya Shadhanar Pachish Bachar: Shadhinata Uttarkal" at the Bangla Academy yesterday called for upholding the spirit of the Language Movement, saying it was the first non-communal movement in the country.

Noted poets and litterateurs took part in it. Yesterday's session was the second day of a fortnight-long lecture series organised by the Academy at its premises marking the month-long Amar Ekushey programme in the country.

Noted poet Shamsur Rahman was the keynote speaker. Prof Khandakar Sirajul Haque and Dr Biswajit Ghosh took part in the discussions presided over by Prof Anisuzzaman. Prof Mansur Musa director of the

See Page 12 Col 8

## Yasmin murder Trial of 9 under BPC begins

From Our Correspondent

RANJPUR, Feb 3: Trial of the nine accused under Section 201 (34) of BPC in the sensational Yasmin rape and murder case began today in the District and Sessions Judges Court, Ranjpur.

The court recorded depositions by the Investigation Officer (IO), Md Afzal, a senior CID inspector. The IO was cross-examined by the defence counsel during the hearing.

The nine accused under Section 201 (34) are facing charges of trying to damage "alamat," concealing facts, attempting to divert the case and lapses in responsibility.

The accused are: former Dinajpur police super Abdul Mutaleb, former SI Swapon Chakravarty, former Kotwali thana in-charge Mahtab, former ASI Jahangir Alam and Moinul Haque, former officer in-charge Matiar Rahman, former constable Abdus Sattar, former driver of Dinajpur police line Anurilal Barman and

See Page 12 Col 2

## Tk 15000 cr classified loan : Kibria Banks asked to recover 50pc of bad loans by March 31

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria yesterday said that vigorous efforts were underway to recover huge loans taken from banks and financial institutions over the years, report agencies.

Briefing newsmen at the State Guest House Padma, he said the banks have been asked to "move vigorously" to recover the classified loans now totalling Tk 15,000 crore.

The banks have been directed to recover 50 per cent of the unpaid money by March 31, he said.

The banks are now directly responsible for default loans with the recent amendments to the related laws. Now they must ensure that no defaulter can evade the laws. Performance of recovery by a bank official will

be evaluated," he said.

The minister told the newsmen that the net borrowing by the government during July-December period stood at Tk 1228.04 crore with Tk 877.30 crore from the banking system and Tk 351.22 crore raised through savings instruments.

On the other hand, the net borrowing by the government was Tk 1238.21 crore during the same period of previous 1995-96 fiscal — Tk 508.26 crore from the banking system and Tk 819.95 crore through savings instruments.

"This shows government's net liability reduced. The fall in direct borrowing from the public through savings instruments was somewhat desirable because interest on banking system borrowing is lower than

those instruments," Kibria said.

He identified the rate of inflation as the major indicator of macroeconomic stability, and the rate is now 2.71 which is well below 5.8 per cent calculated on December 1995.

"It shows that the country did face an inflationary pressure a year ago. We should keep the inflation below 5 per cent to protect the economy from any threat because inflation destroys everything," he said.

About imports, Kibria said imports during July-November period were worth 2704 million US dollars against 2746 million US dollars during the same period of last fiscal year, down by 1.55 per cent.

"It's a healthy decline... I'm moderately pleased with the

See Page 12 Col 7

## Abuse of GSP facility EPB tightens issuance of certificate of origin

By Inam Ahmed

The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) has tightened its issuance of certificate of origin following a recent investigation by the European Union (EU) which revealed widespread abuse of certificates to get Generalised System of Preference (GSP) facility for knitwear exports, according to sources concerned.

The move came on January 23 as part of the government's effort to lobby with the EU for relaxation of the GSP criteria from the existing three-stage process in knitwear manufacturing to a two-tier system.

The three-stage transformation requires making yarn from fibre, fabrics from yarn and apparels from fabrics inside the country. Bangladesh is now pressing for a two-stage manufacturing process — from yarn to fabrics and fabrics to knitwear since it does not pro-

## Fire destroys Calcutta book fair : 1 killed

CALCUTTA, Feb 3: A raging fire destroyed an international book fair in the eastern Indian city of Calcutta today, killing one person and reducing to ashes thousands of volumes at a make-shift exhibition site. Fire officials said, reports Reuter.

Authorities said four people with burns were taken to hospital, where one later died. The victim was not identified.

They said the fire broke out at about 3:30 pm at the Calcutta book fair in the city's central maidan area, sparked by a kerosene stove in a dining hall.

The cluster of temporary structures made of wood, bamboo and tin which housed the book fair was destroyed. Fire officials said. One of the fair's organisers estimated damage at more than 100 million rupees (2.8 million dollars).

The book fair, which began last Wednesday and was scheduled to close on February 12, had adopted France as its theme and set up a miniature repro-

See Page 12 col 6

## 100 hurt as workers clash with police in Comilla

COMILLA, Feb 3: Nearly 100 people including seven policemen and six answers were injured in a three-hour long clash between the workers of Shabad Jute Mills of Burichang and police this morning, report agencies.

Police alleged that the workers of the mill held the general manager, production manager and engineer hostage demanding the payment of their due salary and bonus.

Police said the trouble started when a group of workers of Shabad Jute Mills blocked the busy Dhaka-Chittagong highway to organise a rally at the mill gate at about 10:30 am.

The rally was organised to press for demands, including reinstating the 41 workers sacked earlier and realising the Eid bonus.

Police from Debidwar and neighbouring Chandina thanas rushed to the spot and asked the mill workers to clear the road for traffic. But the workers became rowdy and pelted bricks towards the police.

Five policemen were injured during the attack. They were Debidwar thana OC Golam Mostafa and constables Abdul Aziz and Shaban Ali, Ruhul Amin and Sultan Ahmed, police sources said.

They said at one stage, police lobbed five rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the mob from the highway. The police also had to fire 10 rounds of shot-gun bullets and two rounds of rifle bullets to quell the trouble, but none reportedly received any bullet injury.

In the meantime, a group of workers stormed into the mill "injuring six on-duty Ansars and abducted the mills general manager ASM Ayetullah, production manager Salaudinn and an engineer. They left the mill area with the three officials at about 1:30 pm.

Later, in a massive hunt, police rescued the injured general manager from a house at village Kaktiarchar in Debidwar thana and the engineer from Korpai in Burichang thana.

Production manager Salaudinn was, however, freed by the workers and he returned to his residence outside the mill in the afternoon, police said.

Police also rescued the six injured Ansars from inside the mills and sent them to Chandina thana health complex for treatment.

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড  
 ঢাকা  
**বিজ্ঞাপন**  
**বিষয় : বন্দরে জাহাজ আগমনের পূর্বেই আমদানিকৃত পণ্যের শুদ্ধায়ন**

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বর্তমানে প্রচলিত শুদ্ধ আইনের বিধান অনুযায়ী বন্দরে জাহাজ আগমনের পূর্বেই আমদানিকৃত অধিকাংশ চালান শুদ্ধায়ন করা যায়। এ শুদ্ধায়ন পদ্ধতির সুবিধা নিতে হলে জাহাজ আগমনের পূর্বেই জাহাজের সংশ্লিষ্ট এজেন্ট কাউন্সিল কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট "IGM" (জাহাজে পরিবাহিত আমদানিকৃত পণ্যের বিবরণ) দাখিল করবেন এবং উক্ত "IGM"-এর বিপরীতে আমদানিকারক বা তার এজেন্ট বিল অব এন্ট্রি দাখিল করবেন। অতপর বিল অব এন্ট্রিতে ঘোষিত পণ্য শুদ্ধায়ন করা এবং শুদ্ধ-কর ইত্যাদি টেক্সটের জমা দেয়া যাবে। এ পদ্ধতিতে আমদানিকৃত পণ্য আগমনের পূর্বেই শুদ্ধায়ন সম্পন্ন করে রাখা যায়। আমদানির পর পণ্য আইনানুগ পরীক্ষা করে যথারীতি পাওয়া গেলে তা খালাস দেয়া হয়। এ পদ্ধতি বিমান ও সমুদ্র বন্দরসমূহ ও কমলাপুর আইসিডিতে প্রচলিত আছে। সকলের নিকট সমগ্র প্রক্রিয়াটি বিস্তারিত ব্যাখ্যা করার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট কমিশনারগণকে এ বিষয়ে আইনানুগ পদ্ধতি ব্যাখ্যা করে গণ-বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারি করার নির্দেশ দেয়া হয়েছে। আশা করা যায় যে, জাহাজের স্থানীয় এজেন্ট, আমদানিকারক ও তাদের নিযুক্ত এজেন্টগণ আইনানুগ পদ্ধতিতে এ সুবিধার সন্ধানবহার করে আমদানিকৃত পণ্যের দ্রুত খালাস সম্পন্ন করবেন।

ডিএফপি-২৯১৫-৩/২/৯৭  
 জি-৩৬০

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড