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Awami League General Secretary and Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Zillur Rahman addressing a public meeting organised by the City Awami League at the Bangabandhu Avenue on the occasion of 'Democracy Killing Day' yesterday. — Star photo

3 policemen shot dead

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arms. But none could be arrested.
Besides, all security patrols in the hill districts were alerted immediately after the incident, the sources added.
It may be recalled that a sub-inspector of police, Shaiful Islam, was also killed at the same area on 13 October last year.
UNB adds from Bandarban: A police contingent led by the OC of Ruangchhari thana visited the spot. Additional SP of Bandarban district Mohammad Jashim Uddin also visited the spot.
Ruangchhari thana assumed that foreign-made ammunition was used in the killing. "I have never seen such bullet," a police official on the scene also said.
Police force has been reinforced in the troubled area.
This is the first killing incident after the peace talks held in the capital January 25-27 between the government and Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the political wing of the tribal guerrillas.
The next meeting between PCJSS and government sides aiming to resolve the Chittagong Hill Tracts problem is scheduled for March 12.
Officials said the killing took place in flagrant breach of the current ceasefire that ends on March 31.
Bandarban Hill District Local Government Council Chairman Maung Kyu Chin Chowdhury and MP Bir Bahadur in a joint statement condemned the killing.
"Such incident will disrupt the peace process as the government is trying its best to resolve the problems of Chittagong Hill Tracts through dialogue with the PCJSS people," the statement said.

In separate statements, district BNP convenor and former MP Ma Mya Ching, BNP district convening committee members Prof Mohammad Osman and Advocate Kazi Mohotul Hossain also condemned the killing.

Yasmin murder

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that Amrita Lal Barman was a mentally unsound and prayed for relieving him of the case.
The court forwarded the matter to the civil surgeon of Rangpur for medical test of the accused.
The court was adjourned till February 25 next.

Shahabuddin

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dent said.
President Shahabuddin said the educational arena was under the grip of terrorism and warned that its consequences would not be "good" for the nation.
"I urge the political leaders — do not use the students for petty political interests," he added.
During the day-long visit, President Shahabuddin also separately met with government and judicial officials and the members of the district bar.
He told the officials to serve the people with honesty and dedication.
"Try to love the people, otherwise you cannot be a good public servant," he said.
In this connection, he cited an example set by a civil servant, Akhtar Hamid Khan, who himself queued in front of a ration shop for drawing his own rations during the Second World War while posted as the SDO of the then Netrakona subdivision.

AL to protect democratic rights of people: Zillur

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said Awami League was determined to protect democratic rights of the people achieved through long struggle under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.
The minister was speaking as chief guest at a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue organised by the party's city unit in observance of 'democracy killing day'.

Zillur Rahman said the autocratic government of Begum Khaleda Zia held a farcical elections under her one party rule on February 15 last year denying the popular demand of all political parties to hold a free and fair general election under the supervision of a caretaker government.

Presided over by city Mayor Mohammad Hanif, the meeting was addressed by Rahmat Ali MP, Mamtaz Hossain, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Siddique Rouf Khan, Shahara Khatun, Mukul Bose, Akhter Ul Alam and Juba League secretary general Kazi Iqbal Hossain.

Teenaged boy

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The shop was shattered.
Fire fighters extinguished the fire in about half an hour and recovered the body of Zakir. The body was handed over to Shabujbagh thana police.
The body was later sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy, police added.
The fire might have originated either from electric short circuit or mosquito coil, police and fire fighters said.

Draft report on local govt reviewed

A meeting of the Local Government Commission was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with its president Advocate M Rahmat Ali MP in the chair, reports BSS.
The meeting reviewed the draft report of the Commission with a view to finalising it.

'Supply of urea satisfactory'

A consultative committee on fertiliser yesterday said supply of urea in all districts and its price are satisfactory, reports UNB.
The committee at a meeting at the Agriculture Ministry reviewed the production, stock and prices of fertiliser including urea during the current boro season.

JS session

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business include amending the JS Rules of Procedure to pave the way for formation of parliamentary standing committees on ministries with non-minister MPs heading those, taking a concrete decision on introducing Prime Minister's question-answer session and making a legislation providing for reconstitution of the local governments.
The session may also have general discussions on the law and order in the country, the recently signed Ganges water sharing treaty with India and so on. Besides, the Law Minister is expected to introduce a bill seeking separation of the Judiciary from the Executive branch of the state.

But Treasury Bench sources hinted last night that it was still uncertain whether the session would witness all these business completed. "We can be sure about these things only after a meeting of the JS Business Advisory Committee. The Advisory body would meet after Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury returns home," an influential member of the Treasury Bench said.

The Speaker, who is now visiting India, is scheduled to return by February 19.

PM: Women's role

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ensuring genuine gender equality.
Recalling the Beijing World Conference on Women, she said it not only proclaimed the rights of women in every aspect of life but also gave a Platform of Action.

Some 250 members of parliament from 77 countries are attending the five-day specialised conference, organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Indian Parliament.

From Bangladesh, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, Forest and Environment Minister Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Deputy Minister for Primary and Mass Education Zinatunnesa Talukder, Whip Mizanur Rahman Manu and Mizanur Alim, Begum Khorsheed, Jahan Jagu, Bharati Nandi Sarkar, Rayes, Bhuiyan and Khaleda Khanam are participating in the conference.

At the beginning of the working session, Speaker of Indian Lok Sabha PA Sangma was elected president and deputy chairperson of Rajya Sabha Dr Najma Heptulla vice-president of the conference.

Commemorative postage stamps and coins were released to mark the occasion of the conference.

Hasina said despite the sacrifices made by them and their contributions in building up the family as the nucleus of society and civilized life, women were relegated to an inferior position.

She observed that unequal opportunities in education and training, unequal access to health facilities, limited rights in owning wealth and assets and denial of the right to exercise political power condemned them to a subordinate status in most societies.

Pointing to the great changes in perceptions on the gender issue over the last two decades, the Prime Minister said political and economic life was still dominated by the privileged and powerful and, therefore, largely by men.

Democratic politics has to encompass all the people regardless of gender and class, she added.

She recalled the valour of Pritilata Waddar, Kalpana Dutta, Ila Mitra, Matangini Hajra whose heroic deeds inspire the nation even today. Sreemati Indira Gandhi who set an example of dedicated service to Indian people and Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain who stands unparalleled as a pioneer in social reform and champion of women rights.

Indeed, society judges these women as exception, she said, informing the world parliamentarians that Bangladesh constitution, passed by the Parliament during stewardship of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, guarantees equal rights to the women of the country in every sphere of life.

The Prime Minister also said the legal framework for ending discrimination against women was strengthened when Bangladesh became a signatory to the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women.

She mentioned the identified critical areas of concern for women of Bangladesh as gender equality, women's autonomy and women's paid work.

Women's marginalised position in national politics, especially electoral politics, has

Danish minister due Feb 22

The Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, Paul Nielson, is scheduled to pay a visit to Bangladesh from February 22-27 to discuss matters of bilateral cooperation, reports UNB.
This will be the first visit of a Danish Minister to Bangladesh since 1981.

Ekushey '97

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over the lecture session while Dr Halima Khatun and Hasan Hafiz took part in the discussion. One of the Directors of Bangla Academy, Azharul Islam, delivered the welcome address.

Today's session that will begin at 4 pm will be devoted to "Panchish Bacharer Bangladesh Upannash". Prof Jufiqur Matin will present the key note paper. Dr Abu Ruhud Matinuddin will preside over the lecture session while Mahbub Talukdar and Prof Gulam Mostafa will take part in the discussion.

Meanwhile, on the second day of the six-day Ekushey programmes of Sammito Sangskritik Jote, a cultural show was organised at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. Chinha and Muktohdara recited poems. Nasima Shahin and Arifa Nisat rendered songs and Theatre, Probartana and Art Theatre staged dramas.

Today's programme will start at 4 pm at the Shaheed Minar premises.

Hasina calls on Sharma

NEW DELHI, Feb 15: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, now in the Indian capital to attend the specialised Inter-Parliamentary Conference, called on President Shanker Dayal Sharma at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here today, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister stayed with the president for sometime and discussed matters of mutual interest.
Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and Bangladesh High Commissioner to India C M Shafi Sami were present.



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A group of Jatiya Mahila Party leaders presenting a bouquet to BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia at her Minto Road official residence yesterday on the occasion of their joining the BNP. — Star photo

Khaleda

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cotted the elections, resorted to destructive acts to foil the hard-earned democracy, she said.
Begum Zia criticised the government for the unrest in Jessore Jail and the killing of Shima Chowdhury in Chittagong Jail. She charged the government with pursuing the "politics of killing".
The meeting was addressed, among others, by Prof Jahana Begum, Begum Selima Rahman, Amanullah Aman, MP, Jainal Abedin Faruk, MP, and four former women MPs of JP who joined the BNP.

Food production

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per hectre, but till now we have exhausted only half of this potential. There is much scope to increase output by using latest technology and high-yielding varieties.

Moreover, only 3.1 million hectares out of 7.5 million hectares of cultivable land are now covered by irrigation facilities and there is vast scope for expanding the facilities.

"If supplementary irrigation is provided, 16 drought-prone northern districts can produce at least 33 per cent more foodgrains than what they are producing now," the official said.

When approached for her views, Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury said, "We want to think and work in a practical manner. Attaining the set target by the year 2000 would be rather impractical. In our endeavour to attain self-reliance in food production, we are going to take the benefit of experience and expertise from our predecessors."

Referring to the planned roundtable, the minister said, "There is no alternative to consensus. We will seek suggestions from all former ministers and advisers concerned."

Economic situation

From Page 1
and food grains. In the first five months of this year there has been a qualitative improvement in the content of import," Kibria said.

Import of consumer goods declined by 43 per cent and miscellaneous goods by 36.74 per cent. Import of intermediate goods increased by 23.84 per cent, industrial goods by 91.04 per cent, industrial raw materials by 17.67 per cent and capital machinery by 21.03 per cent during the period.

"This feature of import promises more production and export in future," he said. "At the same time, export increased by 6.6 per cent during July-December period, but we are looking at the export scenario closely." From the beginning of this fiscal year, export earnings on an average per month hovered around 350 million dollars. In December it reached 423 million dollars.

"But we have a very unsatisfactory development in leather export which declined by 13 per cent during July-December. Export of garments also declined by seven million dollars to 1076.29 million dollars during the period improved to that of the corresponding period of the previous year.

"These are matters of great concern and I have discussed the issues with the people concerned and banks. We have already advised the Bangladesh Bank to closely examine and take steps to relieve garments exporters from extra banking charges," he said.

"We have also advised the banks that stocklots faced by garments factories due to dislocation of exports during 1996 should be examined sympathetically to help them overcome the difficulties.

"On the other hand, we have decided to provide Tk 500 crore from the nationalised commercial banks and development financing institutions to the genuine entrepreneurs for

setting up backward linkage industries," Kibria said.

"I have also discussed the problems of the leather sector with the industries minister. Problems in the sector as regards policy will be removed soon," he assured.

Flow of remittances is also satisfactory, according to the finance minister. Remittances increased by 22.99 per cent to 721.77 million dollars during the first six months of this fiscal year compared to 586.84 million dollars in the corresponding period last year, he said.

About the government's borrowing, the finance minister differed with the view that it has increased to an abnormal proportion.

The total borrowing of the government in the first six months is still about Tk 100 crore less than the previous year's amount for the same period," he mentioned. "During July-December 1996, the borrowing stood at Tk 1328.21 crore while it was Tk 1228.54 crore (in the corresponding period) last year."

However, he said, borrowing from the banking sector increased to Tk 877 crore till December, 1996, as against Tk 508 crore of last year's.

On the other hand, borrowing through savings instruments is much lower than last year's. It stood at Tk 819 crore till December this year against Tk 351 crore last year.

"This happened because of lowering of interest rates on savings instruments," he said. "But borrowing from the banking system is cost-effective for the government because of low interest rate."

Revenue collection during the first six months of this financial year also increased by 10.28 per cent to Tk 5723.82 crore. "But this is still two per cent short of the target. We have planned vigorous revenue collection to overcome the situation," he mentioned.



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ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং এর তত্ত্ব প্রকল্প
ঢাকা শহরে নিজের একমুঠ জমি মানেই আপনার এক অমূল্য সম্পদ। এই জমি এককালীন নগদ টাকায় কেনাই বৃদ্ধিমানের কাজ। কিন্তু কত কষ্টে গলে আসল দামটা পড়বে আর কত বেশি।
ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং আপনাকে দিচ্ছে অপরূপ এক সুযোগ। একসঙ্গে পুরো মূল্য পরিশোধ করে কিনে নিজের আকর্ষণীয় প্রকল্পে অথবা বোটারিক্যাল গার্ডেন সংলগ্ন পল্লবী বিত্তীয় পর্বের অভিজাত পরিবেশে অবস্থিত একটি প্লট। এতে কাঠাশ্রমিত জমির দাম পড়বে স্থানীয় চলতি বাজারদরের চেয়ে প্রায় ২ লাখ টাকা কম। ভেবে দেখুন, কতো শাস্রয়! এই প্লটে ইচ্ছে হলে বাড়ি করুন। যদি চান, বিক্রিও করতে পারেন। বিক্রিতে লাভ কী রকম? - আজকের কেনা প্লট আগামী ৫ বছরের মাথায় ৩ ৩৭ বেশি দামে বিক্রি করতে পারবেন আপনি!
তবে মনে রাখবেন, এই প্রকল্পে এভাবে এককালীন অল্প দামে জমি কেনার সুযোগ দেওয়া হচ্ছে কেবলমাত্র ১৭ ফেব্রুয়ারী ১৯৯৭ থেকে ১৭ মার্চ ১৯৯৭ পর্যন্ত। বস্তু সত্যি করার জন্য আপনার হাতে এই ১টি মাত্র মাস। কাজেই দ্রুত সিদ্ধান্ত নিন।
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