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Visitors at the Ekushey Book Fair at the Bangla Academy premises (L) and JCD procession with black flags near the TSC(R) yesterday. —Star photo

Bhasantek land

torate of the Works Ministry. It was handed over to the Handloom Board, a wing of the Textile Ministry, to develop 'Benarasi Pali', under an ambitious Tk 20 crore project to spur the cottage industry into a vibrant sector. In December last year, after repeated reminders, the PWD assembled an inter-departmental meeting to clear the land for handing over to the Handloom Board. A highly-placed source said, the end-December meeting, attended by officials concerned as well as two ruling party MPs, Moqbil Ahmed and Rahmatullah, finalised arrangements for handing over the land to the board. Kamal Ahmed Majumder, MP from Mirpur, was unable to attend the meeting but reportedly gave his approval, the sources added. After necessary formalities, including notifying the occupiers of the public land, as part of a re-run of similar urgings, the eviction process began on January 9. After about 35 per cent of clearing, the process was suspended before Ramadan, the sources said. But everything went topsy turvey when work resumed Monday. In the evening at the Jatiya Sangsad, a group of local leaders of some NGOs, including Dr Karu Faruq Ahmed, the Chairman of ADAB lobbied with the Prime Minister. She dispatched a team of MPs headed by Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah to investigate. The MPs were Rahmatullah, Ahsanullah Master and Akhteruzzaman, all ruling party MPs, the latter two from Mr Khan's home district, Gazipur. When contacted Afsaruddin Ahmed Khan, younger brother of Tajuddin Ahmed, said he learnt about his 'sacking' from newspapers yesterday. At 12-45 pm Cabinet Secretary Ataul Huq telephoned him to convey that he was sending a letter of resignation, which arrived at his residence. "I signed my resignation letter at 1 p.m.", Khan said. He said the Bhasantek slum dwellers were not evicted forcibly. After they were asked through public address system to have, they voluntarily left

Satellite towns to be built up near EPZs

The government has decided to build satellite towns near export processing zones (EPZs) of the country in a planned way, reports BSS. EPZs from now on will be built on 1500 acres instead of 1000 acres to facilitate the growing of satellite township. The decision was taken yesterday in the 12th meeting of the board of governors of Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) at the Prime Minister's Office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The board of governors also decided in principle to construct an EPZ near Mongla port.

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh Investors' Department Shilpa Bank Building (15th Floor) This is for information of the respectable investors of ICB Head Office and Branch Offices that BANGLADESH CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED has decided to issue Right Share on 1:3 basis at Face Value to the shareholders of the Company whose name appeared in the Company's share register on 19 December, 1996. The last date for application for Right Share is 27 February, 1997. Investors interested to buy Right Shares of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Limited through their accounts are requested to contact ICB Offices and submit their written purchase instruction along with required deposits (if any) by 24 February, 1997. Assistant General Manager D-210 Investors Department Editor: Mahfuz Anam Printed and Published by A. M. Mud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, City Publishing House Ltd, 90, Kakrai, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205 PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

Book Fair opens

people to contribute in establishing Bangla in every sphere of national life with its due status and dignity. "Could we fulfil our commitments to the mother tongue even after 50 years of sacrifices in the Language Movement and two and a half decades of independence?" she said. She said on February 15, 1971, father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman announced that "the day from which we will get self-rule, we will take initiative to use Bangla in every sphere." But, after the brutal killing of Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975, a deep-rooted conspiracy was started against Bangalee and Bangla language to destroy the spirit of Liberation War and misinterpret nationalism, Hasina said. As a result, she said, the steps taken by the father of the nation could not yield the desired result even after long 25 years. Hasina paid tributes to the martyrs of the language movement, including Salam, Jabbar, Rafiq, Shaifuddin and Salaudin. She also recalled the role of Shaheed Dharendra Nath Dutta, who raised the demand in the then Pakistan Gano Parishad for establishing Bangla as the state language and those who laid down their lives in independence movement, liberation war and other democratic movements of the country.

JCD protests

Sheikh Hasina's going to the campus for inaugurating the Ekushey Book Fair at the Bangla Academy. She also wearing black badges, the leaders and workers of the JCD also tried to move towards the Bangla Academy but were stopped by police at the Hakim Chatter area near the university library. Later JCD held a rally there.

Garments factory owner arrested

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 18: Police arrested late Monday night the Managing Director and an employee of a garments factory for allegedly monitoring and tracking the frequency of the Foreign Ministry's wireless network with their walkie talkies.

BNP walks out of JS

Following Mansur, another Treasury bencher Akhteruzzaman also rose to say that Bangabandhu's portraits were hung at the government offices as per a decision of the Cabinet. "Defying the Cabinet decision tantamounts to revolting against an elected government", he warned. Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury repeated his ruling that "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the Father of the Nation as per the Constitution of the country." In his repeatedly announced ruling, the Speaker, maintained that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was recognised by the Constitution as the Father of the Nation and no law changing his status had yet been enacted. BNP's second walkout followed a half-an-hour pandemonium by the party lawmakers over the ruling. However, BNP lawmakers did not return to the House on the day. During the pandemonium, the angry BNP members passed filthy words to the Chair, disrupted the proceedings through continuous hitting of desks with the files. Some of them were also seen throwing papers and exchanging remarks with the Treasury benchers. In his bid to restore nor-

Women's role in dev must to achieve 7pc growth rate: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said national development will not be possible leaving the women, who constitute half of the country's population backward, reports UNB. If the women remained illiterate and kept out of the development process, the fruit of democracy will not reach the people, she told the first meeting of National Women Development Council (NWDC) at the

Shima's death Legal notice on 4 govt officers

By Staff Correspondent A legal notice was served on four government officers yesterday challenging the practice of imprisoning women and girls in the name of 'safe custody'. The officers are the Home Secretary, the Secretary of the Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, the Inspector General of Police and the Inspector General of Prisons, according to a press release issued by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust. The legal notice was served on behalf of three human rights organisations. They are: Am-O-Salish Kendro, National Legal Aid Network and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust. The notice called upon the government to issue directives to the police and the jail authorities to review the cases in which women and girls were in 'safe' custody and to arrange for orders of 'safe' custody to be vacated or withdrawn by February 23, failing which a writ petition would be filed before the High Court Division in the public interest, the press release added. The human rights organisations said in their notice that imprisoning women and girls by placing them in 'safe' custody has no basis in law and is a violation of their fundamental rights as guaranteed by the Constitution of Bangladesh. Meanwhile, the Coordination Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) and the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in separate statements yesterday expressed concern over the death of Shima Chowdhury while in 'safe' custody at the Chittagong jail. The Mahila Parishad will hold a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club and bring out a procession in the city today protesting the 'rape and killing' of Shima.

Yasmin murder trial resumes today

From Our Correspondent RANGPUR, Feb 18: Trial of all nine accused in the sensational Yasmin Murder and Rape Case will resume in the District and Sessions Judges Court, Rangpur tomorrow. All the nine accused are facing trial under Section 201 (34).

Shibir calls strike at RU today

From RU Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Feb 18: The Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS), Rajshahi University unit has called a strike on the campus tomorrow protesting the removal of Prof M Yousuf Ali from the office of the Vice Chancellor. The ICS is also demanding the cancellation of the order appointing Prof M Abdul Khaleque as Vice Chancellor.

PM: JS norms

From Page 1 Mujibur Rahman as 'Father of the Nation'. The BNP MPs found the observation to be "unconstitutional and politically biased". The BNP MPs later told newsmen outside the House that they went out of the House for the second time following the Speaker's refusal to give them scope to explain how his (Speaker's) stance on the issue was constitutionally wrong. Before making the appeal, the Prime Minister said that the BNP MPs had violated all norms of parliamentary democracy by repeatedly protesting against a ruling of the Speaker. Quoting from the book 'Practice and Procedure of Parliament', the Prime Minister said that none could protest against a ruling of the Speaker except on a substantive motion. She also pointed out to the Chair that no MP had the right to criticise the Speaker's ruling in and outside the House. "Any criticism of a ruling amounted to committing contempt of Parliament and Speaker", she added. The Leader of the House alleged that the BNP had violated the four-point agreement signed with the ruling party. She pointed out that one of the four points in the accord was that they (BNP) would help run the business of Parliament as per the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure. "They have not only violated the norms of parliamentary democracy, they have also damaged the property of Parliament including chairs, files and so on", Hasina said "People will not like these things," she added.

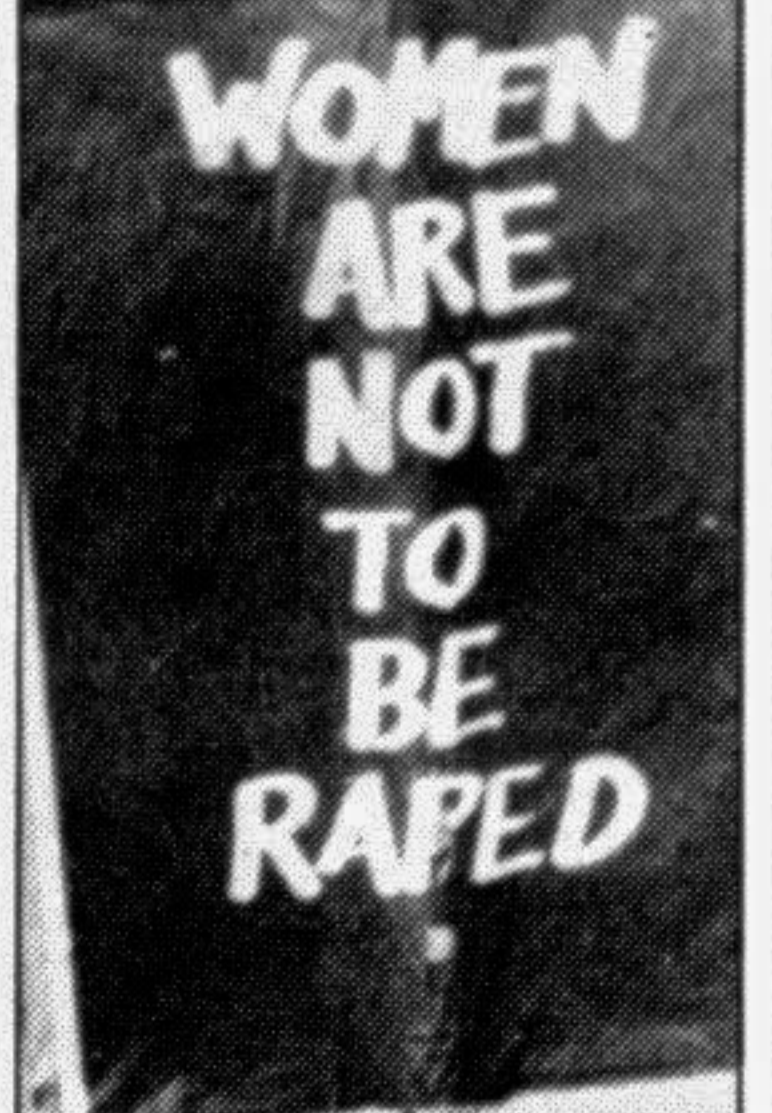
Priyanka gets married

NEW DELHI, Feb 18: Priyanka Gandhi, daughter of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and a member of India's most powerful political dynasty, got married here today at a low-key, private ceremony, reports AFP. There were almost as many elite paramilitary bodyguards around the venue as guests inside it. Around 120 guests, including Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda and President Shankar Dayal Sharma were invited to the ceremony.

Cricket

From Page 1 tion over-limit cricket championship open in front of expectant full house crowd. The regional meet also includes Sri Lanka A and defending champions India A, who were the last among the three foreign teams to arrive in the capital yesterday. Bangladesh Television will cover all the seven matches live while Bangladesh Betar will provide ball by ball commentary of the proceedings from the big bowl. Bangladesh, the only team in the fray sans Test status, will be led by Akram Khan while Test discard Asif Mujtaba will lead the star-studded second string side of Pakistan.

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Youths go on rampage in city, vehicles damaged

By Staff Correspondent About ten motor vehicles were damaged when a group of unidentified youths went on the rampage on Mirpur Road in front of Dhaka College yesterday evening. The incident occurred when the youths reportedly the students of Dhaka College, brought out a procession demanding rescheduling of Honours part-3 examinations of 1996 under the National University, according to police and witnesses.

AL leader shot dead in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Feb 18: An Awami League leader and Jhaudia union parishad Chairman Abdul Aziz was killed when gunmen opened fire on him at Sukhdevpur last night.

Speaker vows

From Page 1 Siddiki said, all but some clauses of the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution were scrapped in 1979. Sheikh Mujib is recognised as the Father of the Nation in the last two clauses of the amendment. Siddiki said promising that he would resign from this Parliament if he failed to prove and show it. Siddiki was yet to complete his statement when he was interrupted by Humayun Rashid Choudhury who was presiding over yesterday's stormy session. "I will also resign from the office of the Speaker, if I fail to show that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is still recognised by the Constitution as the Father of the Nation." The Speaker earlier said it was the constitutional obligation for all to accept Mujib as the Father of the Nation.

Nari Samaj rally

Punishment to killers of Yasmin, Shima demanded Sammilita Nari Samaj, a joint body of women's organisations, yesterday alleged that the women all over the country were now falling victim to the state repression, reports UNB. Addressing a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon, the leaders of Nari Samaj called upon the political parties to consider the incidents of rape and murder of Yasmin and Shima as identical. "It's painful that the political parties are trying to gain their own political interest capitalising on the incidents instead of playing their due role in mounting pressure on the government to bring the culprits to book," the press release read. The Sammilita Nari Samaj organised the rally demanding exemplary punishment to those responsible for the rape and killing of Yasmin and Shima in 'so-called' safe custody. The National Garments Workers Federation and Nari Pakkha also expressed their solidarity with the rally. They called upon the political parties to refrain from using the incidents of women repression as political issues. "You can rather raise your voice for trial of the culprits," the press release said. The rally was addressed, among others, by Maleka Begum, Farida Akhter, Shabana Rahman, Nasrin Haq, advocate Habibunnesa, Shirin Akhter and advocate Sultana Akhter Ruby.

JATI Bill '95 passed

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday unanimously passed the Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI) Bill-1995 in amended form as returned to the House by the special committee after due examinations reports BSS. Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru moved the Bill in the House for passage. He said in order to make the judicial system independent the committee in its proposed amendment recommended that the Chief Justice would head the governing body of the institute. Earlier, Jatiya Party member Dr Rustom Ali Farazee and Advocate N K Alam Chowdhury moved amendments on the Bill which were rejected by the House by voice vote.

AL leader shot dead in Kushtia

From Page 1 were demolished by 10 bulldozers. "I directed the minister (Afsaruddin) not to evict the people before making alternative dwelling arrangements for them. But, unfortunately, it happened," said Hasina. "Visibly moved by the plight of the evicted people, the Prime Minister said, 'I seek your apology for this sad incident. I'm not only the Prime Minister, I'm the daughter of the father of the nation. Premiership is not precious to me, your love is.' Her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave the shelter to the rootless people who had been displaced by river erosion in the Bhasantek Basti in 1974. She said politics of Bangladesh was to serve the people, give shelter to the distressed ones, and not to make them homeless. 'I'm following that spirit of politics, the politics for the people.' Home Minister Major (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam, and Awami League leaders Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Advocate Shahara Khatoun, Momtaz Ahmed and Kazi Faruque Ahmed of Proshika also addressed.

Facilities for RMG exporters

From Page 1 Necessary steps will be taken to simplify the process of re-exporting the imported raw materials declared defective. The stiff rules regarding import of fabrics for making samples will be relaxed so that the exporters can import sample fabrics after entering those on the pass book. To remove the lengthy process in issuing short shipment certificates, the NBR has decided to issue only certified photocopy of shipping bill or terminal receipt. The third copy of the shipping bill will also be included in the entry process to ease the entry of pass book. To remove the problems in determining the width of the cloth, the width will be considered from niddlemark to niddlemark. The four months' time for importing raw materials without loan certificate will be extended. A decision has been taken to issue four copies of the main utilisation declaration (UD) to the bond holder to minimise the problems in releasing goods from different customs points on the basis of one UD copy.

শ্রী জে ক শ ন মি টি ঙ বিসমিল্লাহির রাহমানির রাহিম সম্মিলিত পরিষদ প্যানেল পরিচিতি ২২শে ফেব্রুয়ারী '৯৭ মিরপুর-৩ জোনাল কোম্পানীর সত্য হোটেল সোনারগাঁও বন্ধকমে বিকেল ৫টা। ২০শে ফেব্রুয়ারী '৯৭ জোন-১ ও সোনারগাঁও জোনাল কোম্পানীর সত্য হোটেল সোনারগাঁও বন্ধকমে বিকেল ৫টা। ২৪শে ফেব্রুয়ারী '৯৭ কেন্দ্রীয় প্রজেক্টেশন সত্য হোটেল সোনারগাঁও পুল সাইড বিকেল ৫টা।