

FedEx

Federal Express

The World on Time

SIGNED, SEALED & DELIVERED

From documents to packages, FedEx delivers peace of mind reliably to over 210 countries worldwide. Our integrated network of 550 planes, 37,000 vehicles and 1,200,000 people promises smooth delivery every step of the way. We can even advise you on the status of your shipments; thanks to our unique computerized global tracking system. So the next time you have to send a package, relax - call your FedEx agent BANEK to deliver your package hassle-free - on time - to your satisfaction.

For more information call - Head Office: 955114-7, Fax: 955112
Gulshan: 887771, Chittagong: (031) 712127, Khulna: (041) 725006

Govt to build up strong Ansar-VDP force: PM

SHAHPUR (Gazipur), Feb 26: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today expressed her government's determination to build up an organised and strong Ansar-VDP force to establish a poverty and hunger-free Bangladesh, reports UNB.

"We want the Ansar-VDP men to be the helping hands as we have started struggle against poverty and hunger and taken up programmes to eradicate illiteracy from the country within next ten years," she told a national convention of Ansar-VDP at Shaipur Ansar Academy.

Hasina said members of the traditional auxiliary force are the workers of peace and development. They can play an effective role in reaching the fruits of government's development programmes to the people.

With a target of economic development of rural people, the Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) men can integrate themselves further in the process of implementing different economic activities of the rural people, she said.

The Prime Minister said the members of the Ansar-VDP can help the rural people implement the programmes of dairy farming, poultry, small and cottage industries, public health, afforestation and nutrition. "You can motivate the

Load shedding Narsingdi power offices attacked

NARSINGDI, Feb 26: At least 15 people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between local people and police in Sadar thana today, reports UNB.

Police said the clash began at about 1 pm when several hundred people, including powerloom workers, attacked Pali Baidyt and DESA offices here protesting frequent load shedding in the area.

The mob fought a fierce battle with police as they lobbed teargas shells to disperse the mob.

Traffic on Dhaka-Sylhet highway was disrupted for about an hour.

GF to observe Mar 30 as 'Mass Awakening Day'

The Gano Forum (GF) announced March 30 as Mass Awakening Day for mobilising the people against an 'evil trend in politics that denied their rights guaranteed in the Constitution,' reports UNB.

The party threatened the 'Gano Jagaran Day' programme from a rally in the city yesterday, directing its all units to bring out processions and hold rallies on the day.

Addressing the rally, first under the aegis of the party since June 12 general election, Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain asked the legislators not to kick up a dust on trifles and also urged the people to awake for establishing their constitutional rights.

Criticising eviction of hawkers from the city without any alternative for them, Dr Kamal Hossain asked who would resign from the cabinet by taking responsibility for the inhuman acts or which minister be dismissed for it.

He, in this regard, termed the recent Bhasantek slum incident an eyewash, and maintained that there were two categories of ministers in the present cabinet - one type closer to the high-up while another not.

He said politics has now turned into sharing 60 per cent and 40 per cent like dividing tolls on the educational campuses. The ruling party shares 60 per cent while the opposition 40, he said and asked where the share of 12 crore people had gone.

Micro-credit

From Page 1

of dance by women, with the changing social patterns and patriarchal trends they began to be considered lowly or fallen women.

Today, she added, learning to dance is considered a major accomplishment for young girls and women and dancing as a profession or vocation is back in vogue albeit to audiences who may be a mixed bag of aficionados, connoisseurs, curious onlookers, tourists, diplomats and politicians.

Sara Zaker, actress-director and Secretary, Organisational Affairs and Workshop, Nagorik Natya Sampradaya, reading her paper entitled "The Image of Women on TV and Cinema," said that if the lot of the women has to improve, a colossal job remained to be done in the rebuilding of her image through the mass media of television and cinema.

Others who presented papers on the theme include Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Raushan Jahan and Laila Rukh Selim from Bangladesh and Prof Durga P Bhandary from Nepal. Dr VA Pai Panandiker and Sonal Mansingh acted as moderators. The dialogue concludes today.

Young man murder: Two arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in the killing of a young man on Salimullah Road at Moham-madpur in the city yesterday.

Police arrested Mujibur Rahman and Habibur Rahman from Khadani area under Savar thana early in the morning. They also seized a private car from the possession of the arrested persons, police sources said.

Zahid Amin alias Hemal, 22, son of one Aminur Rahman of Ahmednagar in Piekpara, Mirpur, was shot dead when a gang of armed men in a private car opened fire on him on Tuesday night. He died on the spot.

ALPP

From Page 1

country.

A Whip told The Daily Star that the ALPP leader had warned at the meeting that she would not spare any member of her cabinet or of the party if one proved to be mentor of terrorists.

She lauded the lawmakers' role in ensuring proper marketing and availability of fertiliser and sought similar cooperation from them for containing violence and terrorist activities.

Earlier, in an introductory speech Abul Hasnat Abdullah, on behalf of all party deputies, congratulated Sheikh Hasina for introducing Prime Minister's question time in the Jatiya Sangsad. He urged his party colleagues to be more sincere about timely attendance in the House as he pointed out, primarily it was the Treasury Bench's responsibility to ensure quorum so that time was not wasted.

The meeting was informed that in the current session of the Sangsad, 12 bills were passed and four others were under process. Out of a total of 74 hours 50 minutes time of the current session so far, Treasury Bench members were given 27 hours 52 minutes, Opposition Bench members 35 hours 54 minutes while the Chair got 11 hours 4 minutes.

A party deputy said officials and sepoys of the armed forces, who were fired 'unfairly' from their services, should be rehabilitated and their cases could be re-examined for the sake of justice.

The MPs who spoke at the meeting are, Col (ret'd) Shaukat Ali, AKM Shafiqullah, Begum Monnojan Sufian, Aleya Afroz, Dr Mokhelesur Rahman, Sayed Ashrafur Islam, Tajul Islam, Prof Md Ali, Md Shahabuddin, Abdul Latif Mirza, Abdus Sattar, Zillul Hakim, Rezaul Haq Hrida, Abul Kalam Azad and Emadul Haq Bhuiyan.

The meeting was followed by a luncheon hosted by Sheikh Hasina.

Union Parishad

From Page 1

Bangladesh gazette on February 24 for general information, the announcement said.

The announcement, however, did not mention anything about the dates for holding elections to the remaining 93 Union Parishads.

The ruling party had a law passed in the Jatiya Sangsad on February 23 that empowered the government to hold polls to the Union Parishads at any time, announced through gazette notification.

Before the passage of the law, it was an obligation for the government to hold elections within 180 days before the expiry of the tenure of the Union Parishads.

According to the previous law, elections to seven union parishads were to be held by February 28 and to most of the Union Parishads by April.

Chief Imam of Masjid-e-Nabubi arrives in city

The Chief Imam and Khatib of Masjid-e-Nabubi in Medina Munawara Allama Dr Sheikh Ali-Bin Abdur Rahman Al-Hozaili arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a seven day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Mohammad Nurul Islam and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Saudi Ambassador Abdullah Omar Barry received the distinguished guest at the airport.

Former state minister for Religious Affairs Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaigubadi, MP, a large number of ulamas and high officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Saudi Embassy were also present.

According to a press release issued by the Sobhanbagh Masjid and Madrassah Managing Committee, the Imam will conduct Magreb prayers today at Dhanmondi club field. Later, he will distribute certificate among the students of Sobhanbagh Madrassah.

Two succumb to injuries at DMCH

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with serious injuries a couple of days ago died there yesterday.

Abdul Kalam, 30, son of Abdul Barek, who was brought to the hospital from near the town protection embankment at Lalbagh on February 22, died in the early hours of yesterday, hospital sources said.

One Sollei, who was seriously beaten up reportedly by a group of muggers at Jurain under Demra thana died at the DMCH yesterday morning, the sources said.

Girl burnt alive

CHITTAGONG, Feb 26: A minor girl was roasted alive in a fire that also gutted two houses at Jaldi village under Banskhali thana today, police said.

The fire originated from an oven at 11-30 am. The victim was identified as Nargis Akhter, 2.

Ershad

From Page 1

League in the formation of the government would prove the political sagacity of the party in the long run, he added.

Anwar Hossain Manju said, "Those who have called Ershad an autocrat participated in the movement with the JP, which proves our success." "Although the present government is of consensus, it is essentially an Awami League government. The JP is playing a constructive role as an opposition party", he added.

The meeting was also addressed by among others, Nazim Rahman MA, Maleque, Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, Hasanuddin Sarker, Manirul Huq Chowdhury and Fazle Rabbi.

Lack of quorum

From Page 1

sent then. There was none either from Jatiya Party or Jamaat.

After counting, the Deputy Speaker instructed the ringing of bell for five minutes to call members as per the Rules of Procedure. The chair also requested members present in the House not to leave for the sake of quorum.

Then the ruling party Chief Whip went for collecting members and returned with eight. But, in the meantime, two BNP MPs had quit.

After five minutes of bell-ringing, the number of MPs stood at 50 (AL-45 and BNP-5). Finally, finding no other way, the Deputy Speaker postponed the discussion and adjourned the House at 9:43 pm.

Tripura

From Page 1

sway over the refugees, living in squalid camps in Tripura.

The delegation is likely to meet refugee leaders including Upendra Lal Chakma, to convince them about the new government's commitment to peace in the CHT and rehabilitation of the refugees.

They are likely to be offered a new incentive package, raising the cash grant to Tk 15,000 per family and giving other benefits including Tk 11,000 for buying cattle and two bundles of corrugated iron sheets for resettlement in their homes.

Earlier, the former BNP government had offered Tk 10,000 and similar grants for resettlement.

About 4,000 refugees returned home in two phases in 1994. But further repatriation was stalled following fresh demands for security and return of their lands. The demands were made by an association of refugees led by Upendra Lal Chakma.

Upendra Lal Chakma had earlier been the leader of a liaison committee that maintained the vital communication link between the government and the PCJSS since negotiations for peace was renewed in the CHT in 1988.



Sitar maestro Pundit Ravi Shankar performing at the Osmani auditorium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Some areas in city allocated for hawkers

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka City Corporation is considering various measures to rehabilitate the hawkers who have been recently evicted from different footpaths of the city, said a DCC press release last night.

The DCC said that as part of the rehabilitation programme, it would allow the hawkers to do business on different pavements and footpaths of the city during the holidays on temporary basis.

It allocated some areas for the hawkers to do business on the basis of nearness from the area they were evicted.

The hawkers who have been evicted from Gulistan, Bangabandhu Avenue, GPO, Baitul Mukarram, Sadarghat and Nawabpur area can do business at Muktangan and southern side of Osmani Uddayan.

The area stretching from Notre Dame College to the bridge in the north of Bangladesh Bank and roads from Ideal School to T&T College have been allocated for hawkers of Motijheel and Khilgaon area, while the hawkers of Farmgate area will do business on footpath from Sonargaon crossing to Green Road.

The hawkers of New Market, Balaka Cinema Hall, Chandnichak, Gauchia and Chan-

Prince Charles arrives

From Page 1

straight drove to the residence of the British High Commissioner where he will stay.

Prince Charles will meet President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today.

The Prince, leading a 14-member delegation, will attend a dinner to be hosted by the Prime Minister in his honour in the evening.

During his stay here, he will pay visit to projects of ActionAid, working for poverty alleviation, eradication of illiteracy, promotion of womenfolk's socio-economic condition and removal of environmental hazards.

Prince Charles is the patron of ActionAid — an overseas British NGO, operating in 22 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Some 30 NGOs are working in Bangladesh under ActionAid, having a budget of 1.3 million pound sterling for 1997.

The Prince, scheduled to visit slum areas in Moham-madpur, will talk to poor men and women and rickshaw-pullers there and enquire about their sanitation and environmental condition. He will visit a child day-care centre there.

He will attend the closing session of a workshop in Dhaka, organised by a business leaders' forum. Prime Minister Hasina is expected to be present at the workshop on "Partners in Development."

The workshop, to be participated by more than 150 senior political, business and community leaders, will work out a mechanism to develop relation between NGOs and business community.

Prince Charles will visit Sylhet for official opening of BT Earth Satellite Station there. He will also go to Chittagong for opening a new British Council office and to visit Cairn Energy Drilling Rig "Orizont" at Sangu Gas Field.

He will open an exhibition tomorrow morning at the British Council Library in Dhaka on "Muslim in Britain," demonstrating close ties between the United Kingdom and the Muslim world.

The Prince will have a tea-meeting with Prof Muhammad Yunus of Grameen Bank to discuss microcredit system.

get was nearly achieved", he said.

The WB resident representative said the challenge before Bangladesh is to broaden the base of the economy and to diversify exports.

About the prevailing investment environment, he said Bangladesh "has changed its image considerably. Well informed investors would feel confident that Bangladesh is on the right track and investment is profitable here."

"Bangladesh is emerging ever stronger" and there is a lot of investors' interest here. The country will see a steady increase in investment in the future, he asserted.

Williamson said the micro-economic situation is "threatening but not alarming."

Kibria said the government is carrying out reforms with as much speed as possible, feasible and practicable. "But the speed of reforms may vary from area to area," he added.

He attributed the present state of the economy to the abnormal credit expansion of Tk 3,500 crore in 1995 which caused rapid loss of foreign exchange reserve.

Compact Food Processor
Perfect gift for someone special

Let's make things better

PHILIPS

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics NV.
for lighting products, radio and TV sets
Dhaka: 815306-9, 819625-9, 889993
Ctg: 716353, 723578, Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215

Employees of C&F agents call off strike

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 26: The Chittagong Clearing and Forwarding (C and F) Agents Employees' Union called off its strike today following an understanding reached at a tripartite meeting.

They resumed their duties this afternoon.

All work relating to custom duties and delivery of goods came to a halt from yesterday after the employees of the C&F agents abstained from their duties to press home their demand for provident fund.

Bhorer Kagoj report incorrect, says Dy Speaker

By Staff Correspondent

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that an investigation found incorrect a report by the daily Bhorer Kagoj that a relative of the Chief Whip of the House, Abdul Awal, had entered the Sangsad Bhavan with a briefcase containing five bullets.

The investigation was ordered by the Deputy Speaker and the report was revealed in the House following a brief debate on the issue for the second consecutive day yesterday.

Quoting the probe report, prepared by the chief of the sergeants-at-arms in the House, the Chair said one Abdul Awal carrying a briefcase with five bullets of a licensed pistol was asked to return from the VIP gate of the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday.

35 houses gutted in Shahjadpur

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 26: At least 15 people were wounded, five of them seriously, in a fire at Shela-chapri village in Shahjadpur thana of the district today, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

The fire, that originated from a kitchen, gutted 35 houses at the village at 7 this morning. However, local people brought the fire under control.

The seriously wounded people were admitted to Potazia Health Complex.

B Chy alleges

From Page 1

Anam's vehicle was attacked on while he was on his way from Laxmipur to the meeting venue while the buses came under attack at Dagon Bhuiyan, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition added.

Regretting the assault on a Member of Parliament, Badruddoza Choudhury said, "It would be suicidal for all the members if no step is taken by the parliament."

He strongly condemned the attacks, which he said, were made to obstruct the people from attending the meeting of the leader of the Opposition leader, and demanded action by the Home Minister.

Protesting Badruddoza Choudhury's charge against the Chhatra League activists, Zillur Rahman asked how the BNP leader could make the charge instantly without any proof.

"Obviously, the Chhatra League workers would not go unpunished if their involvement is proved," the minister said. "We must hate and condemn the incidents, had those really happened."

Zillur Rahman also assured that he would request the Home Minister to probe into the alleged attacks and take action against the persons responsible.

Later, Ziaul Haq Zia, another BNP lawmaker from Laxmipur, alleged that Khairul Anam was stabbed by a knife and some 200 people received injuries from gunshots and other weapons on their way to Begum Zia's public meeting yesterday.

Joyanal Abedin Hazari, a ruling party MP from Fen-2 where the BNP chief's meeting was organised, said that he knew nothing about the attack on an MP from Laxmipur, some 80 km off his area, as well as the alleged attacks at Dagon Bhuiyan.

"I'm shocked to know about such incidents, if those really happened," said Hazari. "I may also come under such attack if action is not taken against the one alleged to have occurred."

BGMEA polls

From Page 1

rul Huq Sikder, M Jinnat Ali Mia, K M Zaman (Rome) and Md Lutfur Rahman from Dhaka while Mahabub Ali and Md Nasiruddin from Chittagong area.

The BGMEA Forum, led by incumbent President of BGMEA Anisur Rahman Sinha, won only two seats. They are Alamgir M Z Rahman and Md Rezauddin.

According to a BGMEA press release, 1385 voters out of 1485 cast their votes in the election held every year as per the Trade Ordinance '94.

Duty on reconditioned cars Assessment on basis of CRF, invoice declared illegal

The High Court yesterday declared "illegal" the assessment of import duty and sales tax of reconditioned cars on the basis of value based on Clean Report of Finding (CRF) and invoice given by importers, reports BSS.

The division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Huq and Justice Mohammad Abdul Matin gave the judgement after hearing both the sides while disposing off two writ petitions, Nasiruddin versus Commissioner of Taxes and Badul Islam versus Commissioner of Taxes.

The court in its judgement declared "illegal" the assessment of customs duty and sales tax for reconditioned cars on the basis of CRF and invoice value given by the respective importers.

Attorney General Barrister KS Nabil, appearing for the state, submitted that as per relative provision of the Customs Act 1969 the assessment is to be made on the basis of open market normal price prevailing in the country of export decided independently between a buyer and a seller in the open market.

For reference, Attorney General Nabil submitted that the reconditioned motor vehicles exporting country, Japan, and its internal trade and industrial ministries, their subsidiary organisation, Japan External Trade Organisation, published yellow book and silver book containing the value of each motor vehicle detailing each model and year of make, price for each prevailing in the open market of Japan and prices fixed by each manufacturer.

The Attorney General submitted that because of rationality this can be accepted as the basis for assessment of customs duty and sales tax in the light of the official notification by the National Board of Revenue allowing depreciation at a particular rate for each year.

He further submitted that

BNP launches agitation

From Page 1

ing smuggled out to India."

She said the people who are deprived of their rights would wrest those through movement.

The BNP Chairperson, said Awami League did not fulfil its pre-political commitments. Instead, it was busy with "killing, terrorism, extortion, repression and harassment" on its opponents.

"They have started the conspiracy in their old style, to sell out the country," she told her audience, adding "they do not want to keep Bangladesh as an independent country...they want to make it into a protectorate of India, but the people will not allow it."

The Leader of the Opposition said the ruling party was destroying the country, its economy, industries and business in a pre-planned way. "The economy has become totally stagnant," she added.

She criticised the government for "intentionally creating loadshedding and power crisis" to justify its plan to import electricity from India.

Begum Zia called the Ganges water-sharing treaty "an eyewash...they (India) are not giving us water, the flow is much less than last years'."

She said the country was getting only 22,000 cusec instead of 39,106 cusec that it should get.

"They will give water during monsoon to wash away the country," she said, adding "we don't accept the agreement because it is not in favour of our people."

About the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the BNP Chief alleged that the government was hatching a conspiracy to hand over the hill tracts to others. "We will

not sacrifice an inch of our land," she said.

Begum Zia said the army must stay in the hills. If the government tries to pull out the troops, she cautioned, it would also be resisted.

Referring to the insurgency in northeastern Indian states, she said: "They are fighting for independence. We also fought for it. So we are always in favour of independence movement."

She, however, said the people of Bangladesh would not go against any independence movement, if they could not extend their cooperation to it. "Using our army against the movement will not be allowed," she added.

Addressing the meeting, Khairul Alam, an MP from Laxmipur, alleged that "terrorists let loose by ruling party" attacked the people coming to Begum Zia's meeting. The BNP lawmaker and scores of party workers were injured in the attack.

The meeting was also addressed, among others, by Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, MP, Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui, Salahuddin Oader Chowdhury, MP, Zillur Rahman Patal, MP, Ma (Ret'd) Abdul Mannan, Gaeyshwar Roy, Amanullah Aman, MP, Barkatulla Bhulu, MP, Mohammad Shahjahan, MP, Jinal Abedin Fakir, MP, Ferdous Ahmed, Qureshi, Mahbubul Alam Taza, Ziaul Huq Zia, MP, Nazimuddin Alam, MP, Ehteshamul Huq, Nasim Biswas, MP and VP Jinal Abedin.

District BNP Convenor Mosharraf Hossain MP presided over the meeting.

ONLY TAKA 175 CAN SAVE A DHAKA VARSITY STUDENT

Kannunnahar mukul a final year student of geography department, Dhaka university needs your help for her treatment.

BANDS CONCERT FOR LIFE

DATE: MARCH 03, 1997 GATE OPENS AT: 9:00 AM SHOW STARTS: 12:00 NOON VENUE: DHANMONDI WOMEN'S COMPLEX TICKET: TAKA 175 ONLY

ORGANIZED BY: STUDENTS OF DHAKA UNIVERSITY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: EKUSHA BOHELA, RUKUL JANNAT, STALL NO. 131

Space donated by The Daily Star

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from 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