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## Dhaka to sign trilateral transit accord soon: Iranian DFM

**By Staff Correspondent**  
A trilateral transit agreement among Bangladesh, Iran and Turkmenistan is going to be signed shortly to facilitate trade and commerce, Alaaddin Brujerdi, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran said here yesterday.  
The Iranian government has given legal status to those Bangladeshi wage earners in that country who did not have valid documents, he said.  
Brujerdi was addressing a press conference at the Iranian embassy on conclusion of his two-day visit to Bangladesh.  
Brujerdi talked in Persian language which was translated into English by an interpreter, Mohammad Abbaszadeh, Charge de Affairs of the Iranian embassy, was also present.  
The Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister said his visit was part of a regular goodwill programme between friendly countries. The issues of bilateral cooperation in energy and power sectors, Chittagong Oil Refinery Project and estab-

See Page 12 Col 5

## Dhaka, Delhi agree to increase survey teams for boundary demarcation

**NEW DELHI, Feb 27:** The three-day secretary-level talks between Bangladesh and India ended here today with both sides emphasising the need for closer and coordinated work on matters of mutual concern, reports BSS.  
Bangladesh Home Secretary Rezauul Hossain and his Indian counterpart K Padmanabhaiah led their respective sides at the meeting.  
The two sides discussed cooperation on matters relating to curbing trans-border crimes, child and women trafficking and drug smuggling, said a Bangladesh official.

## Use of loudspeaker without permission banned: DMP

Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday imposed a ban on using loud speaker and microphone in the city without prior written permission of police authorities, reports UNB.  
DMP Commissioner AK Al Mamun imposed the ban according to Article 31 of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Ordinance.  
The DMP authorities also cautioned all that occupying roads and footpaths in the city by construction and other materials is punishable.

## Inside Today Article

**A Visit to Tehran**  
Column: Between the Lines  
by Kuldip Nayar  
Page 4

## International

**Sharif for referendum in Kashmir to improve ties with India**  
Page 5

## Business

**Tofael opens 3-day US Trade Show: Bangladesh best place for investment**  
DSE index loses another 18 points  
Pages 6, 7

## Teens and Twenties

**Heaven is not far away; and 'the last mission'**  
Page 8

## Rising Stars

**Indo-Pak foreigners cup goes to Akram and associates: 'A thrilling experience in my life'; and A topsy-turvy day**  
Page 9

## Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 3-page supplement on Prince Charles' visit to Bangladesh  
Pages 13, 14 & 15

## Heated debate in JS over Feni incident Home Minister regrets attacks, assures exemplary punishment

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Home Minister Rafiqul Islam yesterday regretted the attacks on BNP supporters in Feni that left a number of people injured, including a legislator of the party, and assured the opposition party that the government would ensure exemplary punishment to those responsible for the attacks.  
The minister was giving a statement in the Jatiya Sangsad following a heated debate on the reported attacks on BNP supporters who were on their way to join the public meeting addressed by party chief Begum Khaleda Zia in Feni on Wednesday.  
"I am sorry that the BNP supporters were exposed to terrorist attack on their way to join the party rally in Feni Wednesday. I also express deep sympathy for the BNP legislator who received injury," the Home Minister said adding, "I assure that exemplary punishment would be given to those responsible for the attacks."  
The minister also informed the House that he had taken adequate steps to ensure peaceful holding of the rally. "There was no trouble in the meeting venue, but the BNP supporters came under attack on the way to the venue at three places."  
He also informed the House that he had already asked the Inspector General of Police to conduct a neutral probe into the incident to identify the terrorists who had launched the attacks.  
He also urged the leaders of both the Treasury and Opposition benches to stop the accusations and counter-accusations against each other, and cooperate in uprooting terrorism from the country.  
Earlier, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in parliament Prof

## 10 injured : Arms recovered JCD rivals exchange gunfire at DU

**By DU Correspondent**  
Violence flared up once again on the Dhaka University campus yesterday as rival factions of BNP-backed Jatiyaatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were locked in a gunbattle leaving at least 10 persons injured, one with bullet.  
Police arrested two persons from Zia Hall and recovered a foreign made gun and a barrel, a chapat, a cartridge and some materials used for making cocktails in a joint raid by the Metropolitan Police and Detective Branch police in five residential halls of the university just after the incident.  
According to witnesses, a group of 20 to 25 armed youths entered the Zia Hall at about 1:10 pm firing gunshots. They were reportedly led by one Shohel belonging to Babu group of JCD of Jasimuddin Hall, the witnesses said. They took position in the 1st and 2nd floors and shouted firing shots indiscriminately. They also damaged eight to ten rooms belonging to activists of rival Zakir group.  
Some ten to twelve activists of the Zakir group who were at the Madhu's Canteen during the incident rushed to the hall and got into the hall jumping over the locked gate.  
Two of them, Litu and Mizan, were caught by the Babu group and severely beaten and injured in the head, the witnesses said.  
Activists of the Zakir group somehow managed arms and shouted firing shots from outside the hall in front of on duty police. During the hour-long clash, more than fifty rounds of shots were heard, the witnesses said.  
At one stage, Detective Branch police entered into the hall breaking the gate and



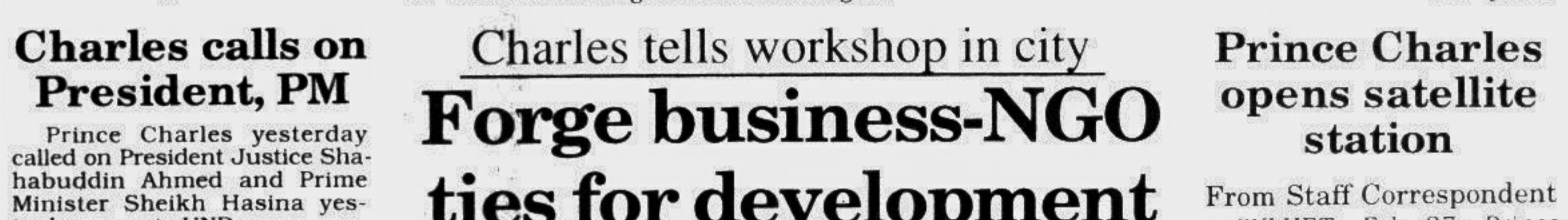
President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed with Allama Dr Shaikh Ali Bin Abdur Rahman Al-Huzafi, Chief Imam and Khatib of Masjid-e-Nabubi at Madina-Munawarah, at a Waz Mahfil and Hizful Quran certificate giving ceremony organised by Sobhanbag Masjid and Madrasha Complex at Dhanmondi playground yesterday.

## South Asia Dialogue concludes More cultural exchanges among 5 S Asian countries suggested

**By Staff Correspondent**  
The three-day Fifth South Asia Dialogue on Cultural Cooperation concluded yesterday with several recommendations including composing of a literature anthology for each of the five South Asian countries and translating it into one another's languages.  
The anthology of literature of the last fifty years of Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka could be set up involving quality writers and translators and be made available in one another's languages, said Prof U R Ananthamurthy, President Sahitya Parishad, India, recommending that the universities of South Asia may then be advised to introduce courses on South Asian literature. The anthology should be between 250 and 300 pages, he said.  
The dialogue, organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), was attended by more than 20 participants from the five South Asian countries. A number of South Asia's eminent creative artists from various disciplines presented papers in the dialogue.  
Dr Anisuzzaman, Professor of the Department of Bengali, Dhaka University, summing up the dialogue, suggested that more cultural exchanges among the South Asian countries should be initiated. "We should also establish institutions to help grow better relationship among these peoples," he said.  
Prof Rehman Sobhan, Executive Chairman of the CPB, summing up the dialogue suggested that there should be art exhibitions, theatre festivals, shared theatre and cinema production, folk festivals and other joint endeavours in the major cities of the South Asian countries.  
"You, the artistic community, should come ahead to plan these exchanges," Prof Sobhan added. "We will provide with the logistical support."  
A Nepalese participant, Yadev Kharel, however, disagreed with the number of suggestions and said, "we should not overload ourselves with so many suggestions. I would recommend that we stick to only a few of them and ensure their implementation."  
The Pakistani team leader, Dr Mubashir Hassan, said "if we can evolve something on video production as regard these exchanges then the message was sure to reach millions of people." He further added that something must be done to throw out 'intolerable' materials from the textbooks taught in the schools throughout South Asia.  
Indian team leader V A Pal Panandiker said that a common text book for South Asia

## PM tells banquet hosted in honour of Prince Charles Govt working in close cooperation with private sector, NGOs

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government is committed to a vibrant market economy with a strong private sector as its key player aiming to provide an enabling environment for economic growth, reports UNB.  
"We are doing all we can to facilitate new business in Bangladesh," said Hasina while speaking at a banquet hosted in honour of Prince Charles at Bangabhaban last night.  
"We not only welcome but strongly support British investment in Bangladesh," the Prime Minister said.  
Recent agreement signed between Petro-Bangla and Cairn Energy and its associates for natural gas exploration and development is a proof that Bangladesh is an attractive investment proposition for British business, she pointed out.  
Hasina said bilateral trade between the two countries continued to grow and Britain is now the second largest export market for Bangladesh products, which again shows that producers can meet the growing expectations of British buyers.  
"My government realises



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaking at a banquet hosted in honour of Prince Charles of Britain at Bangabhaban last night. — PID photo

## Charles calls on President, PM

Prince Charles yesterday called on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday, reports UNB.  
Welcoming the Prince at Bangabhaban, President Shahabuddin said Bangladesh has always looked upon Britain as one of its trusted friends and partners in development.  
The President said Bangladesh and Britain maintain excellent bilateral relations which have grown over the years through mutual cooperation.  
Bangladesh attaches great importance to her relations with Britain. He said mentioning Bangladesh is the second largest recipient of British economic aid.  
President Shahabuddin Ahmed mentioned that Britain has been an important source of foreign investment in Bangladesh and expressed the hope that the British investors would take advantage of the congenial investment atmosphere, now existing in the country.  
The Prince of Wales thanked

## Charles tells workshop in city Forge business-NGO ties for development

Prince Charles has stressed the need for businesses to forge a partnership with the society to help develop a strategy for sustainable development in the changing world.  
"We are aiming at coupling economic development with social development as businesses cannot flourish indefinitely while the society it serves is in poverty," he said at the concluding session of a daylong workshop at a city hotel yesterday.  
The Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum (PWBLF) and the PRIP Trust organised the 'Partners in Development' workshop in collaboration with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).  
The concluding session was also addressed by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Planning Dr Mubashir Khan Alamgir, Yusuf

## Prince Charles opens satellite station

From Staff Correspondent  
SYLHET, Feb 27: Prince Charles was given a hearty welcome on his arrival here this afternoon.  
The Prince, who reached Sylhet by a Royal aircraft from Dhaka, was presented with a bouquet of flowers by a group of children and Manipuri girls.  
The girls also presented traditional Manipuri dances to welcome the heir to the British throne.  
Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim and government officials received the guest in the airport.  
Shortly after arrival, the Prince drove in a ceremonial motorcade to the satellite station at Kazitola. He formally inaugurated the station by talking with the Bangladesh High Commissioner to UK. The station, set up in 1995 with British aid, has 120 circuit telelinks with the UK.  
Prince Charles was later

## Solution to CHT issue soon, Chief Whip tells press at Agartala

**By Monitoring Staff**  
The Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, now leading a 12-member delegation for talks with Chakma refugees in Tripura, told newsmen at Agartala yesterday he was quite hopeful that the Chakma refugees would soon return to Bangladesh.  
According to a BBC commentary monitored here yesterday evening, he said a political settlement of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) problem would take place soon.  
Abul Hasnat said, a peaceful atmosphere now prevails in the CHT for the Chakma refugees to return to their homeland.  
The Chief Whip is expected to have talks with the Chief and the Deputy Chief Ministers of Tripura, Dasharath Dev and Baidyanath Majumdar, senior government officials and refugee leaders during his four-day visit.  
The Bangladesh team will also visit the six refugee camps today.

## Japanese prince, princess make stopover at ZIA

Prince and Princess Akisano of Japan made a brief stopover here yesterday on their way to a visit to Nepal and Bhutan, reports BSS.  
State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury received them at the airport.

The minister invited the Prince to pay a visit to Bangladesh and it was gladly accepted. The Prince said he will look forward to the visit at a convenient time.

## 500 houses gutted in Ctg

**From Staff Correspondent**  
CHITTAGONG, Feb 27: About 500 kutcha dwelling houses were gutted in a devastating fire that took place in Sholoshahar area at around 6 pm today, fire brigade sources said.  
The loss of fire was estimated at around Tk 30 lakhs, fire brigade said.  
The origin of fire could not be ascertained.

### রাতের বেলা সেচ পাম্প চালানো উত্তম

- রাতে মাটি ঠাণ্ডা থাকে, সূর্যতাপে পানির অপচয় হয় না, ফলে পানি সেচে খরচ কম হয়।
- রাত ১০-৩০ মিঃ এর পর সেচ পাম্প চালালে সঠিক ভোল্টেজ ও অব্যাহত বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ পাওয়া সম্ভব। এভাবে অধিক ফসল ফলিয়ে নিজে লাভবান হোন ও দেশের অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নে সহায়তা করুন।
- সন্ধ্যা ৫-৩০ মিঃ থেকে রাত ১০-৩০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত সেচ পাম্প বন্ধ রাখুন এবং রাত ১০-৩০ মিঃ এর পর থেকে রাত ও দিনের অন্য সময় পাম্প চালান।
- কৃষি নির্ভর বাংলাদেশে সেচ পাম্পগুলোর সর্বোত্তম ব্যবহার করে অধিক ফসল ফলান। বিদ্যুৎ দেশের প্রাণপ্রবাহ, এর সুষ্ঠু ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করুন।
- রাতের বেলা সেচ পাম্পগুলোতে একটানা বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড এবং ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ একটি সমন্বিত কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করেছে।

বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড    পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড    ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ