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## Kerb marketmen demonstrate outside DSE

By Staff Correspondent

A group of kerb market traders demonstrated outside the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday protesting the DSE's directive forbidding transactions of share certificates without *hawala* receipts and settlement bills.

The demonstrators said the DSE decision has put the fate of kerb traders in the stock market into uncertainty.

Police tried to stop the protesters when they made their way towards the DSE's main entrance, already protected by a makeshift bamboo barrier. However, police later relented and allowed the protesters to stage their demonstration.

The kerb market was virtually deserted yesterday as the DSE trading floor opened after the weekend. The DSE circular

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## 951 expelled on second day of SSC exams

A total of 951 examinees were expelled on the second day of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination under five education boards yesterday, officials said, reports UNB.

No untoward incident was reported from anywhere of the country during the Bangla second paper examination yesterday. Highest 574 were expelled in Rajshahi Board.

The break up of the expelled examinees in four other boards is as follows: Dhaka —142, Comilla —190, Jessore —10 and Chittagong —35.

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## Women Development Policy announced

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced the National Women Development Policy for upgrading social status of the womenfolk eliminating discrimination between man and woman, reports UNB.

Announcing the policy she told hundreds and thousands of cheering women at the International Women's Day rally that the government had taken comprehensive measures to implement this policy.

Sheikh Hasina hoped that international organisations and all other NGOs and social organisations would come forward to implement the policy for the development of the neglected and oppressed half of the country's estimated 120 million population.

"Keeping women, who constitute half of the population, degraded, social development is not possible," said the Prime

Minister. She told the function, organised at the Engineers Institute, that the government is determined to implement the policy and action-plan adopted in the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing.

Hasina gave highlights of the Women Development Policy, first of its kind in Bangladesh. It aims at establishing parity between men and women in all spheres of national life, she said.

Among other salient features of the policy are: Security of women in social, familial and state levels; empowerment of women in political, social and administrative matters; human rights for women and highlighting the positive image of women and girl-child through mass media.

Hasina said transforming the womenfolk into an efficient and enlightened human re-

source, freeing women from the curse of poverty, recognition of the contribution of women in social and economic sectors, elimination of discrimination against women and girl-child, ensuring healthcare and nutrition for women, giving priority to women in providing housing facility, rehabilitation of women affected in time of natural calamity and the acts of arson are also included in the policy.

The Prime Minister disclosed the strategy adopted by the government to implement the policy.

These include building institutional structure from grassroots to national level, coordination between the development policies and activities of different organisations, divisions and ministries through Jatiya Mohila Parishad, preventing oppression on women.

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## Processions, rallies on International Women's Day

By Staff Correspondent

The International Women's Day was observed in the country, as elsewhere in the world, yesterday.

Different socio-cultural and women's organisations marked the day through various programmes.

March 8 has been observed as International Women's Day since 1985, commemorating the sacrifices made by female workers of a needle factory in the US city of New York 140 years back. In 1857, female workers of the factory, led by Clara Jetkin, voiced protest against inhuman working condition and 12-hour working period.

In observance of the day, the Environment and Forest Ministry brought out a procession in the city; Sammilita Nari Samaj, a platform of various women's bodies, brought out another procession and a rally

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Sammilita Nari Samaj brought out a colourful procession in the city in observance of the International Women's Day yesterday. — Star photo

## Tk 234 cr plan to rehabilitate people affected by JMB

The government has launched a massive rehabilitation programme under which Tk 234 crore will be spent for resettlement of people displaced due to the construction of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB), reports UNB.

Officials said the money would be spent from domestic resources as compensation to some 90,000 people on both sides of the JMB project, under the Revised Resettlement Action Plan (RRAP) and Erosion and Flood Affected Persons (EFAP).

Besides, Tk 24 crore has been allocated for Environmental Management Action Plan (EMAP). This fund will also be provided from domestic resources.

The disclosure was given at a day-long workshop on "Compensation of Project Affected Persons of Jamuna Multipur-

pose Bridge project" in the city yesterday.

Jointly organised by JMB and Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM), it was participated by the representatives of World Bank, Japan, members of JMB's panel of experts, law advisers, NGO activists, representatives of affected people and union parishads. JMB officials and newsmen.

Speakers said adequate amount of compensation had been arranged for resettlement of over 90,000 people as per the government and WB policy.

The compensation ensures that the affected persons get enough money to buy land and other property at present market price.

In addition, JMB has kept provision for additional assistance to the affected people.

Addressing the function, JMB officials said that the government had adopted compensation policy to cover all kinds of losses.

Not only the landowners, they said, but also other people who have been affected in various ways during the implementation of the JMB project would get compensation money.

The government has acquired 7,900 acres of land for the implementation of the country's largest bridge which will greatly contribute to the overall political, economic, social advancement of the people on both sides of the Jamuna.

Speaking on the occasion, WB mission chief Pierre Landell-Mills said the principal concept of the construction of the bridge is the benefit of the people.

He said the displaced people

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## New method to detect typhoid germs in Children in 24hrs

By Staff Correspondent

A team of micro-biologists along with clinicians at the Dhaka Shishu Hospital has standardised an in-house blood culture method for children to detect typhoid germs within 24 hours.

Facilitating treatment of patients without delay.

In the current method used in the country, detection of the same germ usually took four to seven days. The new system is described as simple, sensitive and quantitative, which can easily be adapted by any 'good' micro-biology laboratory.

The same team also standardised the breaking point of anti-body level against typhoid in the children of Bangladesh. This data would be of 'great help' for the paediatricians in diagnosing the typhoid fever in children by measuring the antibody and comparing it with the

standardised normal level.

A paper in this regard was presented by Dr Samir K Saha at a scientific seminar held in the city last week. Dr Saha, an Associate Professor of Child Health, Dhaka Shishu Hospital, said that with the new method the patient would receive the correct antibiotic within 24 hours.

It was stated that in the 1990s scientific journals carried a number of reports about an epidemic with multi-drug resistant typhoid germ in the sub-continent including Bangladesh.

The reports sent the message that the common antibiotics failed to work on the patients of typhoid fever as the germs were increasingly acquiring resistance to those



## Vietnamese premier arrives today

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister of Vietnam Vo Van Kiet arrives in Dhaka this afternoon on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh.

The visit is expected to further strengthen economic ties between the two nations which have a shared history of struggle against oppression and for liberation. Bangladesh was among the first countries to recognise the provisional government of Vietnam in 1973. An accord on bilateral cooperation is due to be signed during the visit.

A warm welcome will be accorded to the Vietnamese Prime Minister on his arrival. Four jets of the Bangladesh Air Force will escort his aircraft after it enters Bangladesh territory. A 19-gun salute will herald his arrival.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will receive him at the Zia International Airport. They will ride in a ceremonial motorcade to state guest house Jamuna where the distinguished

guest will be staying.

Vo Van Kiet will head a 39-member delegation that will include Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Minister for Trade Le Van Triet and Minister for Science, Technology and Environment Phan Gia Khiem.

Nguyen Manh Cam had earlier visited Bangladesh in 1994 while Bangladesh Minister for Commerce and Industries Tofael Ahmed visited Vietnam this year.

Official talks between the Bangladesh premier and her Vietnamese counterpart will be held tomorrow. An agreement will be signed between the two countries for setting up a Joint Economic, Scientific and Technology Cooperation Commission during the visit.

A separate agreement for exchange of news and information between the official news agencies of the two countries is also due to be signed. A MOU is

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## Sadhapur killings 15 sent to jail after 3-day remand

By Staff Correspondent

Ten Ansars and five security personnel of the Partek Group arrested in connection with the Savar killing were sent to Dhaka Central Jail after the end of a three-day remand yesterday.

Besides, CID, investigating the Savar killing incident, forwarded another prayer to the District Magistrate Court, Dhaka, yesterday for a seven-day remand for further interrogating the 17 others — three Ansars and 14 security personnel of Partek Group — arrested following the incident.

Ansars had opened fire at Sadhapur village in Savar, about 46 kilometres from the city, leaving four persons dead and at least 25 people injured last month.

Following the incident, CID

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## Foreign currency, gold worth Tk 30 lakh seized at ZIA

Customs surveillance team at Zia International Airport seized gold and gold ornaments worth about Taka 19.70.658 and foreign currency equivalent to Taka 10,29,457 from two passengers on Friday night and yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

Air port sources said Mohammad Firoz Khan, a resident of Mohammadpur area, was scheduled to go to Dubai by a Biman flight yesterday. The customs personnel found 20,098 US dollars, 2500 pound sterling, 420 dirham and Taka 1700 while searching his luggage.

The same team seized 30 g old bars weighing 300 tolas and 200 grams of gold ornaments from a home-bound passenger coming from Hong Kong on Friday night.

The passenger was identified as SM Asgar, a resident of Humayun Road at Mohar Road in Sadhapur. The team searched him and recovered 30 gold bars and the ornaments from his possession.

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## Indian Ocean assoc launched

PORT LOUIS, Mar 8: A grouping of countries bordering the Indian Ocean have officially launched an association heralding a new era of cooperation. Mauritius's First Deputy Premier Paul Berenger said yesterday, reports AFP.

The official launch of the group coincided with the conclusion of a meeting of the first ministerial meeting between the 21 countries involved.

The charter, proposed by South Africa and India and seconded by Australia and Kenya, opens a new era of cooperation between the countries of the association, for their mutual interests and the well-being of their people, Berenger said.

The association counts 14 founder members: Australia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Yemen.

Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Iran, Pakistan, the Seychelles and Thailand have applied for membership. Japan has sought observer status.

## PM for ring-roads, rails around the capital

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to undertake a number of major rail and road projects to ensure the development of other sectors, reports UNB.

She asked for taking up immediately the survey work for constructing the Padma Bridge. The Prime Minister told officials to ensure rail-track on the Jamuna bridge. She also asked for the provision on the proposed Rupsha Bridge.

Hasina further directed them to expedite the road-construction work from Gazipur to Jamuna Bridge.

To solve the transportation problem in the capital, the Prime Minister suggested necessary steps for building ring-

roads and rails around the city for circular communications.

"Communications sector is a very important sector... development in other sectors will be hampered if the communications sector remain neglected," she told the Communications Ministry officials.

The Prime Minister's directives came when she visited the ministry yesterday morning to take stock of the overall situation of road and rail communications of the country.

Earlier, the Prime Minister was briefed by the concerned officials of Road and Rail Divisions, BRTA and BRTC on the overall situation.

The Road Division officials informed the Prime Minister

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## Body formed to improve services at city hospitals

By Nazmul Ashraf

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has formed a six-member committee headed by the Director of PG Hospital to look after the overall development of the government and semi-government hospitals in the capital.

The committee will hold weekly meetings at each of the city hospitals by rotation to take effective measures for improving the standard of services and management as well as

medical education there, according to health ministry sources.

The committee, with the Director (Health) of the Directorate of Health as its member-secretary, had been formed at a review meeting of the top officials of the health ministry recently.

The meeting also decided on the formation of similar committees headed by the Directors of the medical college hospitals

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## 3 cars damaged, 13 rickshaws gutted in Mirpur

Three cars were damaged and 13 rickshaws gutted in a fire at Rupnagar in the city's Mirpur area early yesterday, reports UNB.

The fire originated from a shop in the lowlying area of Mirpur Section 7 at about 5 am and spread to the adjoining shops. The flames also engulfed a motor workshop and a rickshaw garage.

Receiving the news, firefighters rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after battling for about an hour.

Fire Brigade sources said they could save one car and seven rickshaws from the nine shops which were affected by the blaze.

Cause of the fire and the extent of damage could not be ascertained immediately.

## 4 Shantibahini men arrested

BANDARBAN, Mar 8: Four Shantibahini gunmen were arrested along with arms and ammunition from Reita area in Sadar thana of the hill district on Friday night, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, securitymen gheraoed a house at 11 pm and nabbed Keo Mong, Diba Chakma, Apru Chakma and Anah Kriana Chakma who came to collect toll.

The security personnel seized a short machine gun, four magazines and 78 bullets from their possession.

## BAIRA Election '97 Introducing 'Sammilita Samannoy Front' Panel

Honourable 'BAIRA' members are requested to cast their valuable votes in favour of the candidates selected by 'Sammilita Samannoy Front'. On 13th March 1997.



The projection meeting followed by dinner at Hotel Sonargaon Ballroom is on 11th March 1997 at 6:00 pm. All Honourable BAIRA members are requested to attend.



Your kind support to this panel will inspire us to upkeep our dedicated services to the cause of BAIRA

Khondoker Haroon-ar-Rashid (Ex. MP) Chief coordinator SHAMMILITA SAMANNOY FRONT