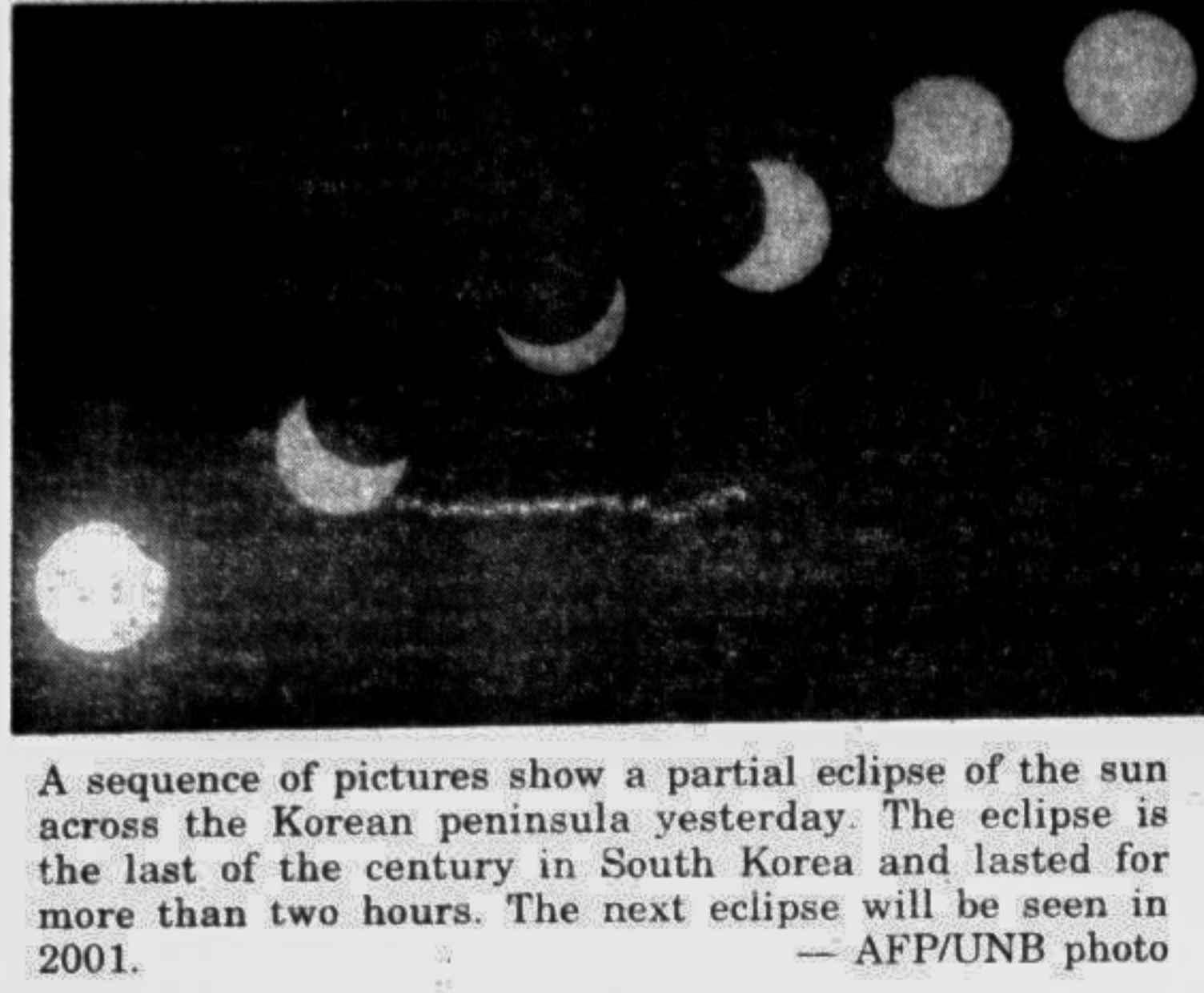


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A sequence of pictures show a partial eclipse of the sun across the Korean peninsula yesterday. The eclipse is the last of the century in South Korea and lasted for more than two hours. The next eclipse will be seen in 2001. — AFP/UNB photo

Partial solar eclipse sighted in city

Total eclipse of the sun took place yesterday morning which was partially sighted in the city, reports UNB.
The solar eclipse was sighted for 43 minutes in the city.
Bangladesh Astronomical Association made elaborate arrangements for the viewers. It organised a public observation camp at south plaza of Sangsad Bhaban. Renowned astronomer Dr A R Khan conducted the camp.
Interested people gathered at the camp site before sunrise at 6:13 am. The solar eclipse was viewed through telescope.

Demra AL demands removal of OC within 24 hrs

By Staff Correspondent
The leaders and workers of the Demra thana Awami League held a rally yesterday afternoon and demanded the removal of the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Demra thana within 24 hours for registering a false case against the local MP.
The Demra thana registered a case, lodged by one Abdul Motaleb, against a ruling party MP, Habibur Rahman Mollah, Wednesday afternoon on charges of threat, intimidation and assault.
The protest rally, presided over by Iskander Mirza, a city Awami League leader, was also addressed by, among others, the city Jubo League secretary Amir Hossain Gazi.

Hasina

From Page 1
Vietnam in to vigorous interaction in this area.
She said the Cultural Agreement which will be signed today would provide a framework for bringing the two peoples closer.
Hasina hoped the agreement to be signed today between the FBCCI and the Vietnam Chamber of Industries and Commerce would help to bring out private sectors into direct interaction in economic, trade and commercial sectors.
"Further, in our formal talks Monday, we will be seeking other areas for cooperation. I have thus great hope for the future of our bilateral relations," the Prime Minister said.
Referring to cooperation between the SAARC and ASEAN, Hasina said, "We welcome the membership of Vietnam in the ASEAN. We hope that in future, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the ASEAN would develop institutional links for cooperation."
"This, we believe, will help the peoples of South Asia and the member countries of the ASEAN to work together for the betterment of all concerned."
The Prime Minister said the governments of Bangladesh and Vietnam are confident to build a poverty and hunger free society for the betterment of both the peoples to successfully enter into the 21st century.
"I am optimistic that our friendship will be further strengthened in the days to come," Hasina told the banquet.

Chittagong gas plant

From Page 1
Chittagong Hill Tracts and the other in Rajuan in Halda valley — both under exploration Block No 15.
Pre-drilling work for the Semutang gas field, which includes 'rehabilitation' of a 28 km road from Karerhat to the

DSE index

From Page 1
the minister, however, denied having made any such statement.
Some of the kerb market traders tried to gather outside the bamboo fencing controlling the entrance to the DSE building, guarded by a contingent of riot police with their gears.
Leaders of the kerb market traders had also called off a planned demonstration to protest against, with they said, DSE's restrictions on transactions without sales receipts. They were, however, planning protests today.
The kerb traders knew their time was running out as the DSE went ahead with its modernisation scheme. But the certificates they were holding and the money they had invested kept them on their toes in a last ditch attempt to make business on the crumbling market.
The free fall had affected all, including the bluechips. Some bluechips, however, still maintained a dignified height.
The DSE chairman said bluechips had not gone down substantially. People were still buying, though the selling pressure remained high, he said in reply to a question.

Kiet

From Page 1
He said Bangladesh and Vietnam have similarity in many ways. Both the countries are in Asia and were under foreign domination for many years.
Both Bangladesh and Vietnam launched struggle uniting the people to liberate their land from foreign occupations. Kiet told the banquet.
The Vietnamese leader thanked the Bangladesh Prime Minister and people of Bangladesh for extending a warm reception and hospitality shown to him and his entourage.
Kiet hoped that the agreements which would be signed today between Bangladesh and Vietnam would further strengthen the relations between Hanoi and Dhaka.
The Vietnamese Prime Minister expressed his confidence that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Bangladesh would march towards peace and prosperity.
Chief Justice A T M Afzal, Former Chief Adviser of the caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Ministers, MPs and elites were present at the banquet.

2 killed

From Page 1
the area and opened fire on their rivals, police and DMCH sources said quoting local people and witnesses.
Mina Khatun and Kanchan Bibi were caught in the crossfire near a slum on Sarder Road. Kanchan died on the spot while Mina succumbed to her injuries on the way to the DMCH.
Police later arrested Ripon from the hospital for his alleged involvement in the gunfight, according to UNB.
The body of Kanchan Bibi was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital morgue and that of Mina to DMCH morgue for autopsy.
A housewife, Khadiza, was killed in the slum during another gunfight between the same groups on the day of Eid-ul-Fitr on February 9.
Following the killing, Demra police went on a massive manhunt and arrested 30 people from the locality.
Local people held only 13 people responsible for terrorism in East Jurain and said police failed to arrest them.
They identified the terrorists as Sanaullah, Mizan, Lulu, Dairia, Jahangir Sikder, Miru, Ranju, Sagir, Kader, Titu, Salek, Taber and Salahuddin.

Ctg: Quader

From Page 1
Salauddin Quader was favoured by Mir Nasiruddin, Ekramul Karim, former general secretary of city committee, who was expelled from the party because of factional rivalry and re-inducted into the party a few months back, and former JCD city unit president Abu Sufian respectively.
Intra-party rivalry had gripped the Chittagong unit of BNP before mayor election when a splinter faction led Ekramul Karim, backed by Oli Ahmed, emerged in the city, against Abdullah Al Noman. But the party high command to bury the factional feud expelled Ekramul Karim and three others from the party.
According to some insiders, the factional rivalry developed because leadership of the city BNP continued to remain in 'one hand' ignoring the pulse of majority of the party men.

Formal talks

From Page 1
aged economies.
Four agreements are expected to be signed between the two countries.
Official sources said an agreement would be signed to set up a Joint Economic Commission (JEC) to bolster ties between Dhaka and Hanoi.
Another accord will be initiated on cultural exchange programmes.
A third agreement will be between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the two countries to increase the volume of two-way trade.
The fourth agreement is likely to be signed for exchange of news and information between two national news agencies.
Vu Van Kiet will attend a reception to be hosted in his honour by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) today at 12:30 pm at hotel Sonargaon.
The Vietnamese Prime Minister is accompanied by his Foreign Minister Nguyen Van Cam, Trade Minister Le Van Triet and Minister for Science, Technology and Environment Pham Gia Khiem.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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July to January period Export target crosses

Goods worth 2,586 million US dollars were exported during the July-January period, posting a 1.23 per cent rise over the target fixed for the seven months of 1996-97 fiscal, reports UNB.
The total export target of the current financial year is 4,380 million US dollars, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed said this while addressing a task-force meeting on export here yesterday.
BNP: Ershad
From Page 1
being a convict in several of those.
At this stage, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid, without naming Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju, commented, "The communications minister of today and earlier is also fortunate."
Secretary General of Jatiya Party, Manju is a JP nominee in Sheikh Hasina's government of national consensus and he was also a communications minister in Ershad's cabinet.
Referring to Oli Ahmed's remarks, Khan Tipu Sultan of the ruling AL charged late President Ziaur Rahman of 'criminalising' national politics by introducing the politics of buying politicians. "Therefore, Oli Ahmed should know it better how many politicians they bought," he said.
Khan Tipu Sultan asked if the government of Begum Khaleda Zia influenced the Supreme Court that acquitted Ershad from the charge of the arms case.
Ershad, however, did not seek the floor for giving a personal explanation.

Main pump house of GK Project opens

KUSHTIA, Mar 9: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak today opened the main pump house of the Bheramara Ganga-Kapatakkab (GK) Project and started the flow of water to the main canal of the project from the river Padma, reports BSS.
This is for the first time water started flowing the main canal of the project after the signing of the water treaty between Bangladesh and India.

Bay Resort

From Page 1
City Corporation and the Golden Bay Resort Company.
Speaking on the occasion, the minister said, Chittagong, being the second largest city and international sea port, is becoming the target for investment by overseas investors.
Zillur Rahman said the tourist centre will also create employment opportunities.
Mayor A B M Mahiuddin Chowdhury and Project Director Mohammad Ibrahim also spoke on the occasion.
The mayor said Chittagong is blessed with vast resources and there is tremendous scope for the development of tourism to meet the increasing demand of tourists as well as to enhance the revenue earnings.
Initially, Taka one billion has been earmarked for the project. There will be modern recreational facilities like an extended air port, five star hotels with international class VIP chalets and tourist cottages, an international convention hall, a marine park and aquarium, a swimming pool and sun bathing space, a golf club, a shopping complex and a children's park.
Besides, an observatory tower on the bank of the embankment will be built to view the setting sun.

65 industrial units

From Page 1
Mills, Bangladesh Steel Industries, Bangladesh Bread Factory, Fish Export Company, Panchagarh Sugar Mills, Rangpur Sugar Mills and General Electric Manufacturing Company.
Share offloading companies are Reckitt & Colman (10.65 per cent Shares), National Tubes (51 per cent), Mirpur Ceramics (20 per cent), Leera Industrial Enterprise (62.5 per cent), Arco Industries (11.50 per cent), SAF Industries (13.65 per cent), Tiger Ware Products (23.38 per cent), National Iron and Steel (23 per cent), Banger Paints (42.33 per cent), Cement (31.66 per cent), Metalex (51 per cent) and Dhaka Match Factory (30 per cent).

BNP, Jamaat call

From Page 1
Dal leader Tajul Islam-Badal and Bhumihini Dal leader Mohammad Hanif.
"We want equal opportunities for both Bangali settlers and tribals... we will not tolerate any agreement neglecting the Bengalis," Bhuayan said adding that the Bengalis would resist any attempt of the government to withdraw Army from the CHT.
Meanwhile, the Banderban Hill District Bangalee Gano Parishad has called a day-long hartal in the hill districts on Wednesday, urging the government not to hold talks with Shantibahini on their 'unconstitutional and illogical' demands.
The Parishad announced the programme at a press conference at its makeshift office here this afternoon.
District BNP leader Advocate Kazi Mohtul Hossain Jatno read out a written statement at the conference.
Jamaat leader and Gano Parishad general secretary Mahbubul Alam, Jatiya Party leader Kabir Ahmed and Parishad president also spoke.

Chakma refugees

From Page 1
Councils for certain period.
17. Special consideration will be made to relax the age limit in the government jobs for the Bangladeshi refugees whose age expired during their stay in Tripura.
18. Steps will be taken to announce general amnesty to the tribal refugees who were convicted under criminal jurisdiction for sabotaging cases during the past governments.
19. The issue to withdraw camps in phases from the civil areas will be considered keeping consistency with the prevailing situation in CHT.
20. All the repatriated tribal headmen will be reinstated to their own posts.

Service quota

From Page 1
complete the unfinished task of Bangabandhu by upholding the spirit of Liberation War.
The government has attached top priority to education as a prerequisite for building a poverty-free Bangladesh and set a target to remove illiteracy from the country within next ten years, she said.
Bangladesh MuktiJoddha Sangsad Central Command Council organised the function, which was also addressed by its Chairman Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury.
A five-member committee was formed to select 100 meritorious students from the freedom-fighter families to award the stipend every year.
The members are Dr Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Prof Mostafa Nurul Islam, Prof Mostafa Chowdhury, Dr Mehnga Guha Thakurta and Dr Arefin Siddique.

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A girl performing a dance at the inaugural ceremony of the South Asian Theatre Festival organised by Nagorik Natya Sampradaya at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. — Star photo

City JCD leader held with pistol

By Staff Correspondent
A leader of the Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal, A Z M Rahim Ullah Chowdhury alias Bhutto was arrested in the city yesterday morning with a German made pistol in his possession. He was picked up from his Zakir Hossain Road residence at Mohammadpur, police said.
A smuggled car (Dhaka Metro Ka-03-2420) was also recovered.
Police said Rahim Ullah is the Assistant Publicity Secretary of the JCD, Dhaka city unit.

Acid thrown at teenage girl in city

By Staff Correspondent
A teenage girl received serious burn injuries in her face when a young man threw acid at her in the city Saturday night. Her eyes and other parts of the face were burnt.
Sonia, 13, was under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Her mother was also injured in the attack, police said last night.
The father of the girl, Md Firoz alleged that one Chan Miah of Chankharpu Lane attacked his daughter as he had refused his offer of marriage to Sonia, police said.
The attacker entered the house at Abul Hasnat Road under Kotwali thana when Md Firoz was watching television with his wife and daughter at about 9:30 pm.
A case under the Women and Children Repression Act was lodged with Kotwali thana. However, none was arrested till last night.

Emajuddin's remarks protested

By DU Correspondent
Forty-five teachers of Dhaka University in a statement yesterday protested the remarks of Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, a former Vice Chancellor that the present government was removing intellectuals from different important posts.
They said, the allegation of Emajuddin is false and motivated.
They said the persons appointed during the tenure of Emajuddin Ahmed as the DU Vice Chancellor were still in the university service.
In the statement, they also alleged that Prof Emajuddin Ahmed was not taking classes since he joined the Political Science department a few months back though he was receiving all benefits from the university.
The signatories to the statement include Prof Mustafa Chowdhury, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Dr Hosen Monsur, Prof Anwar Hossain, Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Dr Mohammad Samad and Dr Harun-ur-Rashid.

20 including ADC hurt Expulsion of 82 Dakhil examinees sparks violence at Comilla

COMILLA, Mar 9: A group of people damaged furniture and clashed with officials and police after 82 Dakhil examinees were expelled from a centre in the town today, reports UNB.
More than 20 people, including a female ADC, were injured in the melee during the 'Fikah' examination at Aleya Madrasa Centre.
Officials said some examinees started making noise and damaging furniture at about 12:30 pm after seven magistrates led by ADC (General) Gausur Zahura expelled 82 examinees for adopting unfair means.
The unruly examinees along with intruders pelted bricks at the officials and police and damaged two cars.

4 dacoits held in Barisal

BARISAL, Mar 9: Kotwali thana police arrested four dacoits from village Karnakati under sadar thana of the district in the early hours of yesterday, reports BSS.
The dacoits were identified as Razzak, 25, Yunus, 25, Shahid, 27, and Achmat Ali, 28.
According to the police, the dacoits entered the house of one Aleya Begum at dead of night on March 2 by breaking open the door and decamped with valuables worth about Tk 50 thousand in cash and kind.

Mongla Cement Factory opens

BAGERHAT, Mar 9: Mongla Cement Factory, the largest enterprise of the Sena Kalyan Sangstha (SKS), was inaugurated at Buridanga, Mongla yesterday, reports BSS.
President of the board of trustees of the Sena Kalyan Sangstha and Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman inaugurated the project, an ISPR press release said today.



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