Loan default: BB

claim denied

By Staff Correspondent

ment yesterday said the notice

issued under Section-17 of the

Banking Company Act against him is incorrect and baseless

since he did not take any loan

or credit facility from United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL).

in any way with the loan mentioned in the Bangladesh Bank

favour the aforesaid loan was

sanctioned has filed a suit against UCBL and later on

UCBL has also filed a suit for

realisation of its dues against

the loanee and both the suites

Stenographer, not

personal officer'

By Staff Correspondent

Ministry of Finance, has clari-

fied a news item published in

The Daily Star yesterday which

said Habibur Rahman, the al-

leged killer of Reshma, was the

Personal Officer to the Secre-

never been a personal officer to

the Secretary. He was a stenog-

rapher. Police arrested Rahman

in connection of Reshma

Complaint lodged

against editor of

Banglabazar Patrika

complaint with the Bangladesh

Press Council against the edi-

tor, and the managing director

and printer and publisher of the

Banglabazar Patrika on Wed-

law of Finance Minister Shah

AMS Kibria, in the petition

said that on April 7, the

Banglabazar Patrika published

a news item containing several

falsehoods and innuendoes to

undermine her reputation as

well as to harass her and her

technical education in the

country and donors give less

than one per cent in this sector.

The government should seek a

30 per cent rate of training in

society, education of the masses

can break through and liberate

problems Bangladesh faces is

poverty - since most people are

still engaged in the struggle for

survival, they are unable to

contemplate education or eco-

nomic development. Over 50 per

cent of the population live on

'one dollar a day' and only 37

per cent of the population are

ral gas offers opportunities for a huge influx of foreign invest-

the people," he remarked.

"Even in the most repressed

But, he said, one of the main

this area," Haq said.

Rina Sultana, daughter-in-

Rina Sultana Kibria filed a

killing on Wednesday.

nesday, reports BSS.

Khan said Rahman had

Akbar Ali Khan, Secretary,

are pending before the court.

statement.

He said he was not involved

He said the party in whose

Younus Ahmed in a state-



Fed Exx Federal Express

The World on Time

Outgoing Russian

envoy meets

Khaleda

ngladesh Eduard Shevchenko

paid a farewell call on BNP

Chairperson and Leader of the

Opposition Beugm Khaleda Zia

at her residence yesterday, re-

gum Zia, he recalled many de-

velopment works participated

by Russian Federation during

his four-and-a-half years' of

expressed satisfaction over the

progress made in energy sector

and bilateral ties which he said

increased three times during

Death of Shima

Probe body given

4 more weeks to

submit report

has been given four more weeks

to submit its report on the death

of Shima Chowdhury in "safe

custody" of Chittagong Jail, re-

The commission was formed

on February 15 to find out the

causes of Shima's mysterious

death in jail custody on Febru-

ary 7. It was instructed to sub-

The government has ex-

mit the report within seven

tended the time-limit for sub-

mission of the report following

request from the commission

an officials handout said yes-

Tokyo Int'l Fair

begins

ing Bangladesh, are taking part

in the Tokyo International

Fair began in the Japanese

capital yesterday, reports UNB.

like jute and jute goods, ready-

made garments, tea, leather

goods, and jewellery were put on

display at the Bangladesh

Naruhito visited the Bangla-

desh stall, said a PID handout.

comed by Bangladesh Ambas-

sador to Japan Rashed Ahmed

his wife, senior officials of

Bangladesh Mission and direc-

The Japanese Crown Prince

showed keen interest during

the discussion with the Bang-

From Page 1

Out of 70 organisational

districts, councils in 63 dis-

tricts had been completed, said

Jalil, councils of Dhaka City

unit will be held on April 27

Dhaka district unit on May 2,

Faridpur unit on April 28,

Gopalganj unit on April 29 and

Khagrachhari unit on April 25.

The dates for councils of

Kishoreganj, Pirojpur and Cox's

Bazar district units are yet to be

ganj, Sheikh Hasina is now on

City unit council on April 27 at

the Engineers' Institution at 3

Hasina along with members of

the party presidium had a

three-hour discussion at the

Ganabhaban on the progress of

preparations for the national

council. She is chairman of

101-member AL national

council preparation committee,

were also formed on March 21,

meetings of these committees

could not be held regularly due

to some 'mismanagements' a

party said sources requesting

anonymity. Convener of the

sub-committee on constitution

and manifesto, Abdul Mannan

MP, could not attend the com-

Though 11 sub-committees

formed on March 21.

Before the council in Gopal-

She would inaugurate the

On Wednesday night, Sheikh

tor of the pavilion.

ladesh Ambassador.

with the councillors.

fixed, he added:

a two-day visit there.

pm, sources said.

Japanese Crown Prince

The Crown Prince was wel-

Various exportable items

Forty-one countries, includ-

The enquiry commission

Shevchenko particularly

assignment in Bangladesh.

During the meeting with Be-

ports UNB.

the BNP regime.

ports UNB.

weeks.

terday.

pavilion.

Russian Ambassador to Ba-



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a meeting on law and order and development - PID photo activities in Gopalganj district at the district circuit house yesterday.

DUTA team meets PM

Help restore peace on campus, teachers urged

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought help of the teachers to free the campus from arms and violence, and improve the quality of educa-

tion, reports UNB. She said her government was taking allout measures to root out terrorism from the educational institutions and upgrade the standard of education to ensure a bright future for the

posterity.

"We are working ceaselessly to root out terrorism from the campuses ... We have no lack of sincerity to restore congenial academic atmosphere," she told a delegation of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) which called on her in the morning.

During the meeting, the 13member delegation led by **DUTA** president Prof Mostafa Chowdhury and general secretary Prof Hossain Mansur put forward some demands of the teachers, including opportunities of raising their professional excellence.

They also apprised the Prime Minister of their residential problems and wanted to know the progress in the murder case of Nuban Ahmed, a promising teacher of the university's Economics depart-

Talking with the DUTA delegation, Sheikh Hasina alleged that the previous government had patronised terrorism and weapons entered into the campuses during their rule.

She said, "Its consequences are still being suffered by the universities, colleges and other

educational institutions. Regarding their housing problem, the Prime Minister pointed out that the problem is acute for all classes of people.

To overcome it, she said, the government has a plan to construct multi-storied buildings at different places in the capital city and other areas of the coun-

She said if the plan is implemented, housing problems of the teachers will be resolved along with the others.

At the meeting, the DU teachers requested the Prime Minister to seat up a "Centre of Excellence" at the Dhaka University and to revive the "Dhaka University Overseas Training Programme" soon to help improve the standard of education.

32 injured in Cox's Bazar clash

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 24: Some 32 people were injured, 10 critically, in a clash between two rival groups of villagers in Teknaf thana today, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said the clash between Kachubania and Hariakhali villagers ensued following an altercation over teasing a school girl by some youths at Nayapara of Sabrong

The two groups used lethal weapons during the clash.

Hasina's call to BNP

Abdullah.

From Page 1 plan to recruit 5,000 more po-

lice personnel soon, the Prime Minister said the recruitment would be made according to merit and efficiency, not depending on any other criteria like politicisation or nepotism.

She said the government has also plan to give vehicle to every thana and wireless sets everywhere for the convenience of the police force.

The meeting, attended by po-

litical leaders, social workers and government officials of the district, was also addressed by Deputy Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Mohammad Abdul Khaleq, Farook Khan MP, Deputy Commissioner AZM Salahuddin and SP Abu Musa Mohammad Fakrul Islam and

PDB: Bills

From Page 1 cording to official figures. A one per cent system loss is equal to

a loss of Tk 20 crore. The system loss of the BPDB - which is responsible for power generation, transmission and distribution — now stands

at 20 per cent. According to top DESA officials, 4 per cent of the 30 per cent system loss could be attributed to technical faults and

another 4 per cent to the transmission system. "The remaining 22 per cent is purely theft by a section of unscrupulous ledger writers and meter readers, as well as by a

large section of unrecorded dishonest users," official sources The degree of revenue theft in the BPDB is much less than that of DESA. In BPDB, where the management introduced a reward and punishment system in 1995, based on employee per-

formance, theft of revenue by unscrupulous employees has been reduced to between seven and eight per cent, the sources added.

A BPDB official said: "The PDB's loan repayment is also very encouraging — it is over 98 per cent." "It shows that if we give an

allout thrust and realise our dues, we can solve a portion of the lingering power problem of the country," he added.

district Awami League general secretary Sheikh Mohammad

Later, the Prime Minister visited Doglus Memorial School to see the 'Spondita Gopalganj' literacy campaign where 150 adult women were provided education.

From the district town she went to her ancestral home at Tungipara and offered fateha at the mazar of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Prime Minister, who went to Tungipara after performing holy Hajj, will return to the capital today.

Private sector

From Page 1

direct investment (FDI) will have to play a critical role in accelerating the pace of industrial investment," the draft

It said public industrial investment would be undertaken where there was a special need to supplement private investment, or where there was an overriding social objective.

It also said when the special situation ceased to exist, the government would hand over the undertaking to the private

Outlining its strategy on competitiveness and human resource development, the draft added that a market-oriented production strategy would be followed to ensure the external competitiveness of local indus-

tries. It said protection would be provided to them only in a preannounced and time bound

Foreign direct investment would also be used as an important vehicle of technology transfer and skill development.

"The basic modality of implementing these strategies will be tripartite collaboration among the government, business and international agencies," it said, adding that regional collaboration and experience would also form an im-

portant part of this strategy. The draft emphasised the critical role a market-oriented exchange rate policy would play in facilitating the growth of export-oriented industries.

Gujral for enhanced Indo-Pak cooperation

NEW DELHI, Apr 24: India's new Prime Minister I. K. Gujral today called for greater cooper-ation between India and Pakistan, neighbouring countries that have been bitter enemies for much of the past 50 years, reports AP.

Responding to Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's greetings on his becoming India's prime minister. Gujral said he was looking forward to meeting Sharif next month during a meeting of a seven-nation regional economic grouping in the Maldives.

Gujral did not directly refer to the long-pending dispute over the Himalayan territory of Kashmir. India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir since Britain granted them independence in 1947. Indian and Pakistani troops

continue to regularly exchange fire across the border. Today, United News of India news agency said two Pakistani sol-diers were killed in the latest incidents.

Last week, two Indian villagers were killed by Pakistani shells in a remote border region, according to the Indian defence minister.

India is keen to expand economic ties, trade and cultural exchanges with Pakistan while the two sides tackle the intractable issue of Kashmir.

Gujral met with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub in New Delhi earlier this month in an attempt to break a stalemate in India-Pakistan relationship.

Yesterday, Gujral said in his message that he was confident that with both sides showing a

10 Indian states From Page 1

eastern state of Orissa," it said. The report said a Muslim insurgency in Kashmir, where more than 20,000 people have died since 1989 in violence linked to an anti-Indian campaign in the Himalayan region, had ebbed last year.

"The situation in the northeast, however, continued to cause concern," it added.

The seven eastern Indian states are in the grip of insurgency, with at least a dozen groups pressing demands for separate homelands.

Four of these states were most affected by 'insurgent activities' of various tribal militant groups during 1996, the report said. "Law and order in Assam

continued to be affected by violent activities of insurgent groups...violence increased significantly over the levels of past two years in the wake of general elections last year," it

The ministry added the United Liberation Front (ULF) of Assam separatist group was responsible for 107 deaths during the past year. Ethnic violence in Assam

also claimed 200 lives and led to the exodus of more than 100,000 people from two of its strife-torn districts. The ministry said similar

violence swept the northeastern states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Tripura, where 15 separate tribal guerilla groups remained active through

"Manipur state continues to be affected by violent activities of extremist groups," it said.

Thai trawler impounded

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Apr 24: Bangladesh Navy personnel, during a routine patrol, impounded a Thai fishing trawler from the Bay of Bengal inside Bangladesh territorial waters this morning.

The 13 crew members on board the trawler identified as Thai nationals were arrested, sources concerned said.

The trawler was caught off the Saint Martin island, the sources added. The trawler was being escorted to Chittagong.

mittee's last meeting as he was

abroad. Similarly, some min-

isters, who are also members of

these sub-committee, found it

difficult to manage time to at-

tee on election tribunal, headed

by Prof Quamruzzaman, has so

far received appeals from 10

district units where full-fledged

committees could not be formed

due to some problems. The sub-

committee would shortly give

dates for hearing the appeals

and later submit its recommen-

dations to the ALCWC for final

of the ALCWC would be held on

emerged as the single largest

party since its inception in

1948 and this has been possible

because of democratic practice

within different tiers of the

League has been facing many

adverse situations since its es-

the party was held in 1949

where Maulana Abdul Hamid

Khan Bhasani and Shamsul

Huq were elected president and

general secretary. Hussain

Shaheed Suharwardy and

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman took over the party

leadership in July 1952 after

tablishment and till to date.

Party stalwarts said, Awami

The first council session of

party hierarchy, he said.

Party sources said, a meeting

Jalil said Awami League

Meanwhile, the sub-commit-

tend the meetings.

decisions.

May 1 or 2.

constructive approach, bilat-eral meetings will lead to re-

"I am determined not to spare any effort in this endeav-

our," he wrote Sharif. "Though we may not agree on all issues, we see a wide range of subjects on which we believe we can collaborate effectively".

BJP asks partymen to prepare for mid-term polls

NEW DELHI, Apr 24: India's main opposition today predicted the country's new minority coalition government would soon fall and told its party workers to prepare for midterm elections, reports AFP. Lal Krishna Advani, presi-

dent of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), (Indian People's Party), said the party's leadership would meet on April 26, to finalise an "action plan" to face elections.

Sushma Swaraj, a BJP spokeswoman, said there was a 'lack of confidence' among the various ruling partners in the multiparty United Front coalition government which took office Wednesday.

Russia, China, 3 other countries sign border deal to limit troops

MOSCOW, Apr 24: In the latest sign of improved relations, Russia, China and three Central Asian nations agreed today to limit troops along their lengthy border, the scene of frequent tension during Soviet times, reports AP.

The presidents of the five countries, who signed the deal at a Kremlin ceremony, praised the agreement as an important step toward making the border area more secure and tranquil. Chinese President Jiang Zemin said the accord was a

"security model that differs from the Cold War mentality.' At the ceremony, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said the border agreement was "a break through for the Asian Pacific

region. "It took us seven years to achieve this unprecedented result," the Russian president said of the agreement, which was also signed by Kazakstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

The agreement reflects the steadily improving relations between Russia and China, Communist rivals for three decades after relations soured in the late 1950s.

The border treaty sets ceilings on the number of troops and the amount military equipment the sides can have near the border, but does not entail troops withdrawals, according to Russian reports.

12 more killed in Kashmir violence

SRINAGAR, Apr 24: Twelve people, including two army jawans and nine militants, were killed and 15 militants, including Mohammad Rafiq Shah, a close associate of Al-Fateh chief, were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir since last evening, reports PTI.

A militant gave himself up in the Kashmir valley during the period while eleven residential houses were gutted in a major fire which broke out under suspicious circumstances at Basant Bagh area in the heart of the city last night, an official spokesman said here today.

He said an army jawan was killed when militants targeted an army patrol at Sirigufwara in Anantnag district of south Kashmir last night, the spokesman said.

A defence ministry spokesman said six militants, including three foreigners, were gunned down in three separate encounters with troops at trict last night.

Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan

Bhasani formed a separate po-

litical party — National Awami

cal activities of the party were

prohibited during the martial

law regime of General Auyub

Khan from October 7, 1958 to

June 2, 1962. With the lifting of

martial laws Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had

reorganised the party once

again. In 1964, Ataur Rahman

Khan along with some leaders

also left Awami League to form

Maulana Abdur Rashid

During the 12th council ses-

Tarkabagish also left AL to

form Gana Azadi League, party

sion of the party on February 1,

1981 there was a lengthy debate

as to who would take over as

party chief, the sources said

adding, Dr Kamal Hossain who

is now chief of Gano Forum

proposed the name of Sheikh

Hasina in her absence and

ended the protracted bickering

hold its council session for the

of Sheikh Hasina. She would

have to take over the party pres-

there is no other aspirant for

The party is now going to

over the leadership issue.

Party sources said all politi-

Party (NAP).

Jatiya League.

sources said.





Francaise de Dhaka auditorium yesterday in memory of Shailen Guha, a promoter of Khadi products in the Sub-- Star photo continent.

UN should expand social, economic activities: FM are intimately linked. Foreign Minister Abdus

Samad Azad said economic and social activities of the UN need to be strengthened particularly in the context of post-Cold War era for bolstering international peace and security, reports He was talking to head of

missions of Nordic countries -Ambassador of Norway Hans Fredrik Lehne, Charge d' Affaires of Denmark Finn Thilsted and CDA of Sweden Britt F Hagstrom — when they called on him at his office yes-The envoys called on the

minister to hand over the report from the Nordic UN Reform Project in the economic and social fields. Samad Azad emphasised

that development and development-related activities were essential to remove the root causes of conflict since peace and security and development

PSC postpones viva voce

Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC) has postponed the viva voce that was scheduled for April 26-28 at its Secretariat due to unavoidable circumstances, reports UNB.

The viva voce for the posts of professor of cardiac surgery and medicine, and associate professor of neuro medicine, community medicine and micro-biology under the Health and Family Walfare Ministry were scheduled on those days, said an official handout yesterday.

He appreciated the role of the Nordic countries in general for their progressive and liberal attitude in respect of foreign aid to developing countries and mentioned that Norway, Sweden and Denmark had all met and even exceeded UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNP and ODA. He flagged that Bangladesh

felt that the role of ECOSOC in particular could be further strengthened and that there should be close inter-action between the Bretton Woods institutions and the UN system proper, in order to boost international cooperation in development.

Humayun Zahir murder: PP seeks time

By Court Correspondent The public prosecutor in the Humayun Zahir murder case submitted a petition seeking time in the Court of District and Session Judge, Dhaka yester-The petition was made on

of the prime suspect, Akhtaruz zaman Babu, explaining his absence from the court. The other accused persons who are currently in custody

Musica Presents

Sultana, daughter of late Mozammel Huq former news editor of the then Dainik Pakistan, said that she sent a rejoinder to the paper the next day but the paper published it in

an incomplete form and gave further false report. Bangladesh ready From Page 1 investment in education must be a priority, particularly in technical education," he said. "Only two per cent of the children avail themselves of

the grounds that the prosecution was unable to contact witnesses who were to be examined. The defence lawyer submitted a medical report on behalf

appeared before the court.

literate. Nevertheless, Haq said he remained optimistic about Bangladesh's future - the discovery of huge reserves of natu-

Hot Summer Nite Bhabwanpora, Rawalpora and Few days earlier, another Watlab areas of Baramulla dis-Thai fishing trawler was im-Venue: 1 No. National Stadium, Dhaka pounded from the same area. AL for non-minister GS



Rainbow Icecream, Jeni Kabab Ghar, Dolci Vita, Decorous, Malancho, Ambala Sweets, Hall Mark (Banani), Ebong

Departmental Store (Malibagh), Lion King (Moghbazar), Hungry Eye (Mouchalk)

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