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

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 education, reports UNB. She said her government was taking all-out 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 13-member 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 department. Talking with the DUTA delegation, Sheikh Hasina alleged that the previous government had patronised terrorism and weapons entered into the campuses during their rule.

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 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 union. The two groups used lethal weapons during the clash.

Hasina's call to BNP

From Page 1 district Awami League general secretary Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. 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 feteha 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 stated. 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 sector. 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 industries. It said protection would be provided to them only in a pre-announced and time bound way. 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 important 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.

Outgoing Russian envoy meets Khaleda

Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Eduard Shevchenko paid a farewell call on BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence yesterday, reports UNB. During the meeting with Begum Zia, he recalled many development works participated by Russian Federation during his four-and-a-half years' assignment in Bangladesh. Shevchenko particularly expressed satisfaction over the progress made in energy sector and bilateral ties which he said increased three times during the BNP regime.

Death of Shima Probe body given 4 more weeks to submit report

The enquiry commission has been given four more weeks to submit its report on the death of Shima Chowdhury in 'safe custody' of Chittagong Jail, reports UNB. The commission was formed on February 15 to find out the causes of Shima's mysterious death in jail custody on February 7. It was instructed to submit the report within seven weeks. The government has extended the time-limit for submission of the report following request from the commission an officials handout said yesterday.

Tokyo Int'l Fair begins

Forty-one countries, including Bangladesh, are taking part in the Tokyo International Fair began in the Japanese capital yesterday, reports UNB. Various exportable items like jute and jute goods, ready-made garments, tea, leather goods, and jewellery were put on display at the Bangladesh pavilion. Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito visited the Bangladesh stall, said a PID handout. The Crown Prince was welcomed by Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Rashed Ahmed, his wife, senior officials of Bangladesh Mission and director of the pavilion. The Japanese Crown Prince showed keen interest during the discussion with the Bangladesh Ambassador.

AL for non-minister GS

From Page 1 with the councillors. Out of 70 organisational districts, councils in 63 districts had been completed, said Jallil, 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 fixed, he added. Before the council in Gopalganj, Sheikh Hasina is now on a two-day visit there. She would inaugurate the City unit council on April 27 at the Engineers' Institution at 3 pm, sources said. On Wednesday night, Sheikh 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, formed on March 21. Though 11 sub-committees 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-

Gujral for enhanced Indo-Pak cooperation

NEW DELHI, Apr 24: India's new Prime Minister I. K. Gujral today called for greater cooperation 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 soldiers 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

constructive approach, bilateral meetings will lead to results. "I am determined not to spare any effort in this endeavour," 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 mid-term elections, reports AP. Lal Krishna Advani, president 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 Swaraaj, 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 Kazakhstan, 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.

10 Indian states 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 north-east, however, continued to cause concern," it added. The seven eastern Indian states are in the grip of insurgency, with 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 said. 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 guerrilla groups remained active through last year. "Manipur state continues to be affected by violent activities of extremist groups," it said.

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 Bhabwanpora, Rawalpora and Watlab areas of Baramulla district last night.

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. Few days earlier, another Thai fishing trawler was impounded from the same area.

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Prabartona organised a cultural function at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka auditorium yesterday in memory of Shailen Guha, a promoter of Khadi products in the Subcontinent. — Star photo

UN should expand social, economic activities: FM

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 UNB. 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 yesterday. 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 Welfare Ministry were scheduled on those days, said an official handout yesterday.

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 yesterday. The petition was made on the grounds that the prosecution was unable to contact witnesses who were to be examined. The defence lawyer submitted a medical report on behalf of the prime suspect, Akhtaruzaman Babu, explaining his absence from the court. The other accused persons who are currently in custody appeared before the court.

Musica Presents Hot Summer Nite. Venue: 1 No. National Stadium, Dhaka. 29th April Salman Khan, Monisha, Bappi Lahiri, Poomima, Mou, Shakila, Shubhorodev. Prices: Tk. 300, 1500, 2500. 30th April Baba Sehgal & group, Bappi Lahiri, Poomima, Kuru, Bishwajeet, Ruksi, Mou. Prices: Tk. 200, 500, 1000. Tickets available at: Candy Floss, Yum Yum, Seven Eleven, Lamiz (Salmajid Rd.) Golpeda Burger, Amer's (Uttara), Rainbow Icecream, Jeni Kabab Ghar, Dolci Vita, Decorous, Malancho, Ambala Sweets, Hall Mark (Banani), Ebong Departmental Store (Malibagh), Lion King (Moghbaraz), Hungry Eye (Mouchak). With sole aim to promote and foster culture and ties all over the world. 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, Kakrail, 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

Loan default: BB claim denied

By Staff Correspondent Younus Ahmed in a statement 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). He said he was not involved in any way with the loan mentioned in the Bangladesh Bank statement. He said the party in whose 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 suits are pending before the court.

Stenographer, not personal officer

By Staff Correspondent Akbar Ali Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, has clarified a news item published in The Daily Star yesterday which said Habibur Rahman, the alleged killer of Reshma, was the Personal Officer to the Secretary. Khan said Rahman had never been a personal officer to the Secretary. He was a stenographer. Police arrested Rahman in connection of Reshma killing on Wednesday.

Complaint lodged against editor of Banglabazar Patrika

Rina Sultana Kibria filed a complaint with the Bangladesh Press Council against the editor, and the managing director and printer and publisher of the Banglabazar Patrika on Wednesday, reports BSS. Rina Sultana, daughter-in-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 family. 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 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 this area," Haq said. "Even in the most repressed society, education of the masses can break through and liberate the people," he remarked. But, he said, one of the main problems Bangladesh faces is poverty — since most people are still engaged in the struggle for survival, they are unable to contemplate education or economic development. Over 50 per cent of the population live on 'one dollar a day' and only 37 per cent of the population are literate. Nevertheless, Haq said he remained optimistic about Bangladesh's future — the discovery of huge reserves of natural gas offers opportunities for a huge influx of foreign investment.