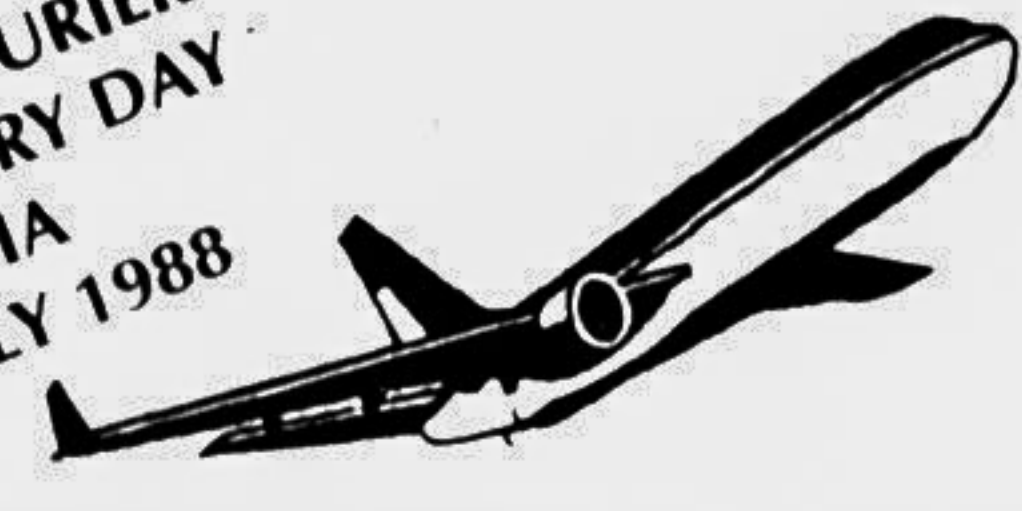


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### Salman Shah's father rejects police report, files petition with CMM's court

Late Salman Shah's father filed a petition with the CMM's court in the city yesterday, rejecting the final report of the police on the death of popular film star, reports UNB.

Kamruddin Ahmed Chowdhury filed the 'naraj' petition with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, expressing his disappointment over the final report by police that dismissed the possibility of Salman Shah's murder.

In the petition, he also said that there was no material fact in the final report and sought the court's intervention for framing chargesheet and continuation of the case on murder charge.

Salman's father filed the petition after the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) recommended to accept the final report which was submitted by the Detective Branch.

The court will hear the petition on January 25 to determine whether the final report will be accepted or not.

### DCC asks hawkers to vacate footpaths

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has again asked the hawkers to vacate the footpaths and to sit in the places earmarked for them for the convenience of pedestrians and smooth movement of vehicular traffic, reports UNB.

### 8 hurt as dacoits, villagers clash in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 22: Eight people were injured in a clash between villagers and a group of dacoits at Char Raipur in Sadar thana on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Police said the villagers caught one of the robbers, Zahurul Islam, 25, along with a dagger and handed him over to police. A case was filed.

### BCL factions

From page 1

Mohsin Hall and Zahurul Haq Hall following the incident but failed to recover any arms. An activist of BCL, Saroj, was arrested from the spot.

According to witnesses, the feuding groups took position at the old Commerce Building early morning on the last day of tender dropping although additional police forces were posted around the area on the occasion.

The clash ensued as one group asked the other group not to submit tender forms, the sources said. The activists of both Shamim Group and Ratan Group, two central leaders of the BCL, used bricks during the hour-long clash which started at around 11 am.

Sources in the department said that a large portion of the total amount for buying the computers was collected from the students of the Marketing Department.

Meanwhile, Jatiatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the opposition BNP, at an instant rally condemned the incident and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those responsible for the incident.

### Blast kills 7

From page 1

due to power failure. The factory is one of many such match-makers of nail-polish and lipstick in the area. The products are supplied in domestic markets.

Fire brigade officials said the explosion did not cause a big fire. The workers suffered burns as they were very much exposed to a bowl containing inflammable chemical.

"Almost all the workers inside the small workshop suffered burn injuries before they could understand anything," said a fire fighter, who participated in the rescue operation. There is only one staircase, about 20 inches wide, to get out of the factory is a very old building.

Lalbagh police said the explosion occurred when a burning candle somehow fell into a bowl full of 'spirit-like substance'. Some other raw materials used in manufacturing nail-polish were also piled up inside the factory, reportedly without any legal authorisation.

The explosion occurred with a big bang. On hearing it, local people rushed to the spot, extinguished the fire and took the injured to the DMCH with the help of Lalbagh police and fire fighters.

Relatives of the victims, most of whom are residents of Lalbagh area, rushed to the DMCH to identify the bodies and see the injured. Many people gathered near the factory building which was cordoned off by police till last night.

The bodies were kept at the DMCH morgue for autopsy. A case was lodged with Lalbagh thana in this connection.

## Bangladeshi women among many sold openly in Agra!

By Staff Correspondent

An increasing number of women are being lured out of the country illegally and they end up leading a miserable life abroad.

Thousands of such victims were now in the grip of muscle-men in Calcutta, Delhi, Agra, Firozabad and Karachi.

Members of a fact-finding team of the Ubinig, a local NGO, who recently visited Pakistan and India to investigate trafficking of women and children, disclosed this at a discussion meeting in the city yesterday.

The discussion organised by Ubinig at the Narigrantha Prabartana was attended by journalists, top CID officials and members of some NGOs.

Narrating her experience as a fact-finder in India, Ubinig's Shima Das Shimu said most of these women were lured by brokers who promised them a better life. Once across the border, the brokers sold them to different quarters. Some girls as

young as 12-year old were sold to brothel houses, some were handed over to organised gangs who decided their fate.

In Jamuna Posta, a Delhi suburban area, a whole block of slums is full of Bangladeshi women who live in a subhuman condition," said Shimu, adding, "Many of those met said they were forced to become sex workers."

She said that in Agra there is a market called Malkabazar where women are sold openly at a specific time of the day. The women in large scarves over their heads sit in the market holding their thumbs upward which is an indication that she is for sale.

Munni Shaha, a journalist, who had visited Karachi on the mission said that, in Yashinabad, a huge slum on a five-mile long area is inhabited by Bangladeshis. She said many female beggars could be seen in

Karachi streets. They took to begging after being dumped by the brokers.

A journalist from Chhapnawabganj, Shamsul Islam Tuku, said over the last 10 years, upto 15,000 women have left their homes from his area. In most cases, these young women were married to men who come from across the border. Many of them find good husbands and live decent life but many others were sold out, Tuku added.

Phani B Choudhury, Special Superintendent of Police (CID) said no statistics on woman and child trafficking was available. In 1997, 1,025 cases were filed for abduction in the country. This did not reflect the actual situation, he said. "CID is forming a special squad to tackle the problem and we are also trying to make short films to create awareness among the people," he said.

### Sonia last hope for Cong: BJP

GORAKHPUR, Jan 22: Hindu nationalist prime ministerial candidate Atal Behari Vajpayee kicked off his party's election campaign here today with a personal attack on Italian-born Sonia Gandhi, reports AFP.

Vajpayee, the country's most versatile political speaker, told some 20,000 people at a college ground that the rival Congress Party had roped in Sonia Gandhi as its last hope for survival.

The induction of Sonia Gandhi in the election campaign shows the sheer helplessness of Congress," he said in a 40-minute speech.

"The Congress has no policy which will attract the people," he added. "So they have no alternative but to bring in Sonia."

Vajpayee's speech in this northern city, about 100 kilometers from the Nepal border, marked the start of the campaign of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the sprawling northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

### MOU for F-28

From page 1

landing of the Fokker-28 aircraft on December 22 last year. The aircraft which is sitting on a mudflat, eight-kilometre off the Sylhet airport, has been written off. Biman has received five million US dollars from its undertakers for the accident.

Only one ATP aircraft is currently running in the domestic route. But the small aircraft cannot haul all the cargoes forcing the national carrier to borrow a Air Force aircraft since Wednesday.

The Air Force AN-32 ferried five tonnes of cargo of passengers who arrived from Dubai to Chittagong yesterday.

Earlier on Wednesday it carried the baggage of transit passengers for Sylhet who came from London. The Air-Force plane will continue its services for Biman, the sources said.

### Writ rejected

From page 1

cept it.

Attorney General KS Nabi, on behalf of the government, submitted that the writ petition is not maintainable as the same is premature, suffers from one-sided political views, full of politically motivated facts and also does not contain sufficient ingredients of a writ petition.

BNP legislature Barrister Nazmul Huda prayed to the court to allow the petitioner to take back the petition so that he can correct it and file it again.

But the petitioner who moved his petition in person affirmed to the Court that the content of the petition are correct and he will not take it back.

At this stage, the court passed the order rejecting the petition summarily.

The peace agreement is not legally valid and acceptable as per existing provision of law of this country," the petition contended.

The petitioner submitted that Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah for the government did not sign the agreement as per the order of the President of the Republic, whereas, Shantu Larma alias Jyotirindriya Badipriya Larma also cannot be said to be a 'legal person' to sign the agreement.

### Ban of TU

From page 1

moil created by workers.

Monday's violence is now thought to be instigated by a section of loan defaulters against whom the BB had conducted investigations and found severe irregularities.

The decision of the government was placed before the board meeting of the BB yesterday. Board members condemned Monday's violence and urged the Governor to take strict measures against the unruly elements.

### Minister tells JS Foreign docs won't be allowed to do pvt practice

The government has decided to allow foreign investment in the health service sector, but will not permit foreign doctors to do private practice in the country, reports UNB.

Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf stated this in parliament yesterday while replying to a question from Begum Meher Afroz (AL).

The minister, however, said that in case of foreign investment in the hospital sector, the government will examine the volume of investment for setting up hospital, facilities to be provided by investors and subjects of treatment.

In such cases, he said, foreign physicians will be allowed to practise in the hospital temporarily, provided they get registration from Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council.

Under no circumstances, foreign doctors will be allowed to do private practice, he added.

Replying to Adv Fazle Rabbi (JP-Gaibandha), Salahuddin Yusuf said that there is no X-Ray machine at 157 Thana Health complexes. Steps have been taken to import and supply 70 X-Ray machines within this year, he said.

Replying to another question, the health minister, said vacant posts of anaesthetist in hospitals and health complexes will be filled.

### Govt to arrange accommodation for 9000 pilgrims this year: JS told

Government will arrange accommodation for a maximum 9,000 pilgrims during the hajj this year, reports UNB.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam said this in parliament yesterday replying to a question from Abdul Latif Mirza (AL-Sirajganj).

Replying to a supplementary question from Alhajj Makbul Hossain (AL-Dhaka), he said the government has no plan to set up any permanent hajj mission in Saudi Arabia.

"But if the wealthy Muslims of the country agree to provide money, the government will consider it," he said.

### Nari Samaj memo to Speaker

A delegation of Sammilita Nari Samaj called on Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury at his Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday, reports UNB.

The delegation, led by Dr Naila Khan, submitted a memorandum to the Speaker containing their views on the proposed law on women and children-related crimes.

The Speaker gave them a patient hearing and advised them to contact with the authorities concerned in this regard.

The other members of the delegation were Farida Akhtar, Shirin Akhtar, Natasha Ahmed, Seema Das and Badrunnesa.

### 10 killed in Kashmir gunfights

SRINAGAR, Jan 22: Six separatist guerrillas and four Indian soldiers have been killed in two separate gunbattles in the troubled Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir, police said today, reports Reuters.

"In an encounter with security forces on Wednesday evening in Kupwara, five militants were killed," a police spokesman said.

The district of Kupwara lies near the Pakistani border, 87 km (57 miles) north of Srinagar, the state's summer capital.

Also on Wednesday, four paramilitary soldiers and a militant were killed in a gunbattle at Naga-thub Rajouri in the Jammu region.

### Clinton

From page 1

claimed the advent of 'naughty-gate' while the Mirror declared: "Kiss and tell girls line up." Heavyweight newspapers showed on less interest, publishing photographs of all the president's women and mapping out a path to impeachment if the accusations proved true.

Clinton has denied accusations that he had an improper sexual relationship with a 21-year-old White House intern and that he later pressed her to deny the affair under oath.

The woman, Monica Lewinsky, was being questioned by the lawyers of Paula Jones, who has brought a lawsuit against the president on accusations of sexual harassment.

"Seventeen sex tapes that may destroy Clinton," said the Mirror. "Sex, lies and Clinton," said the Guardian, in reference to tapes of Lewinsky's accusations that US media said were made by another former White House employee.

"Clinton faces new Watergate," was the splash headline in London's Evening Standard. The presidency, it said, faced its biggest crisis since the Nixon era.

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PHILIPS



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presenting Begum Rokeya Padak '97 to Nurjahan Begum, Editor of weekly Begum, at the Shishu Academy in the city yesterday. —PID photo

## PM distributes Begum Rokeya Padak '97 'Role of women in dev process to be ensured'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said women participation in the development process will be ensured through the implementation of Women Development Policy, reports UNB.

"Women of the country will be able to play an effective and strong role in the empowerment and decision-making process through the implementation of the Women Development Policy," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the Rokeya Medal distribution function at the Shishu Academy in the morning.

Nurjahan Begum, the editor of Begum, the oldest women's weekly of the country, received the national award, Begum Rokeya Padak '97 for her contribution to the development of women.

The Prime Minister said the present government has given a specific guideline through the Women Development Policy for empowerment, equality, rights, awareness, education, health and employment of women.

"We've created scopes for utilising the skill and efficiency of women at different levels," she said, adding that the government is implementing many programmes, giving priority to women and children development.

Hasina recalled the contribution of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain for creating awareness among the women for their development and education.

She said, "Half of the country's population is women and without their progress, no real development of the country will be possible."

The government, she said, has taken up a project in Myemensingh, titled "Begum Rokeya Training Centre", for imparting training to distressed women and also made arrangements to give them loans on soft terms.

Later, the Prime Minister handed over the Begum Rokeya Padak to Nurjahan Begum. The award included a gold medal, a cheque for Tk 10,000 and a certificate.

## JS session adjourned

From page 1

session, Col (Retd) Shawqat Ali, who heads the JS committee on the private members' bills and resolutions, submitted the committee's second report in the House.

The report suggested placing in the House BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury's bill seeking amendments to certain articles of the Constitution. It preferred forwarding to the law ministry Chowdhury's another bill on the conditions of services of officials and employees of private companies.

It, however, viewed the Administrative Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 1996, by M K Anwar of BNP as redundant because a similar bill by the law ministry was adopted by the House. One BNP legislator Hafizuddin Ahmed's bill seeking amendment to Article 118, the committee mentioned a progress report.

Col (Retd) Shawqat Ali sought 90 more days for further scrutiny of six more private members' bills and the House granted this.

Four private members' resolutions were placed in the House, of which two were discussed — one on appointment of female doctors to do autopsy on female bodies at government hospitals by Hajj Mohammad Selim and another on power supply at Atghoria thana in Pabna district by Shamsur Rahman Sharif. Both the treasury bench members, however, withdrew their resolutions for allowing assurance by the ministers concerned.

Ruling party MP Joyanal Abedin Hajari declined to discuss his resolution on widening the Feni-Sonagazi road in his area as Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju was not present in the House. State Minister for Textiles A K M Jahangir Hussain, who was authorised by Manju to reply, could not satisfy Hajari.

The session began at 11:35 am with Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid in the Chair and was adjourned at 3:40 pm. Panel member M Rahmat Ali chaired the session after the one hour recess for Zohr prayers.

## PM visits Tungipara today

From Our Correspondent  
GOPALGANJ, Jan 22: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to arrive at Tungipara at 11 am tomorrow.

The programmes of the Prime Minister include placing wreaths at the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and distribution of warm clothes among the distressed people.

## Arms surrender

From page 1

Larma alias Shantu Larma. The committee will supervise the implementation of the agreement, fix up programmes and implement all works related to arms surrender and general amnesty under the agreement, provide suggestions and directives to all the concerned ministries, departments and other offices.

It will coordinate among the offices involved in the process of implementation of the accord.

It will also supervise the repatriation and rehabilitation of tribal refugees and internally displaced people of the three hill districts.

Meanwhile, the Special Affairs Division has received Tk 30 crore against the required Tk 40 crore for the rehabilitation of refugees. The remaining Tk 10 crore will be made available shortly.

A source said the Division has requested the government for an additional Tk 10 crore for the rehabilitation of about 2,000 tribal guerrillas after their surrender.

Each of the guerrillas will get Tk 50,000 as per the CHT agreement. This amount is equal to what is spent for ration and house building of a repatriated refugee.

A meeting chaired by Home Minister Rafiqul Islam in Dhaka yesterday discussed various aspects of the implementation of the CHT peace accord.

The meeting constituted a committee, headed by the minister without portfolio, Kalpanarajan Chakma MP, to recommend necessary steps for implementation of the accord.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Bir Bahadur MP, Khagrachhari Local Government Parishad Chairman Samiran Dewan and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Mostafizur Rahman.

## Ctg markets

From page 1

"manage" fake buying orders from some "organised clients" staying in Singapore and Hong Kong to import cloths under duty-to-back LCs without any duty.

But after selling the imported cloths in the local markets, the racketeers manage to get it recorded in their pass books that readymade garments were exported by using those cloths. They get it done in collusion with a section of officials in the customs.

Talking to this correspondent, Commissioner of Chittagong Customs House Abul Kasem ruled out the possibility of such racketeering.

"Sometimes we even write to the Dhaka customs authorities to check when we suspect any such consignment being released in the local markets after delivery from the port here," Kasem said.

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