

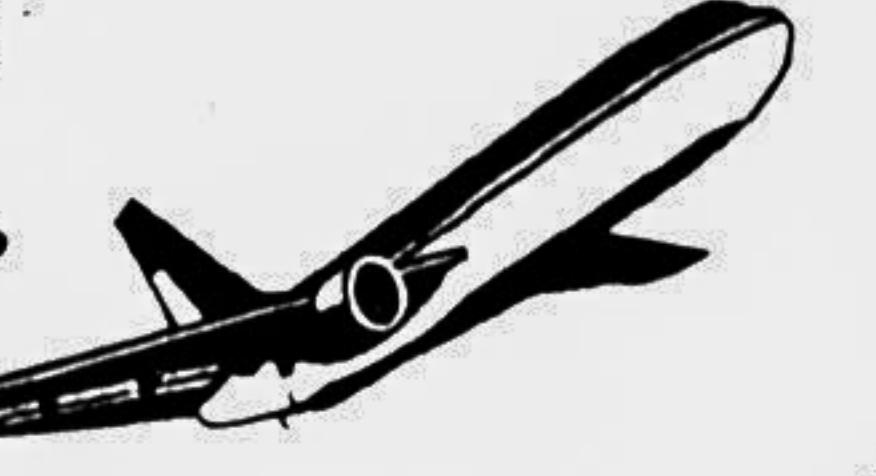
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Salman Shah's father rejects police report, files petition with CMM's court

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 'narajti' 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 Sharmi Group and Ratan Group, two central leaders of the BCL, used brickbats 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, Jatiyatabadi Chittagong Dal (JCD), the student wing of the opposition BNP, at an instant really 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 manufacturers 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 musclemen in Calcutta, Delhi, Agra, Firozabad and Karachi.

Members of a local NGO, 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 Ubing at the Narigrantha Prabartana was attended by journalists, top CID officials and members of some NGOs.

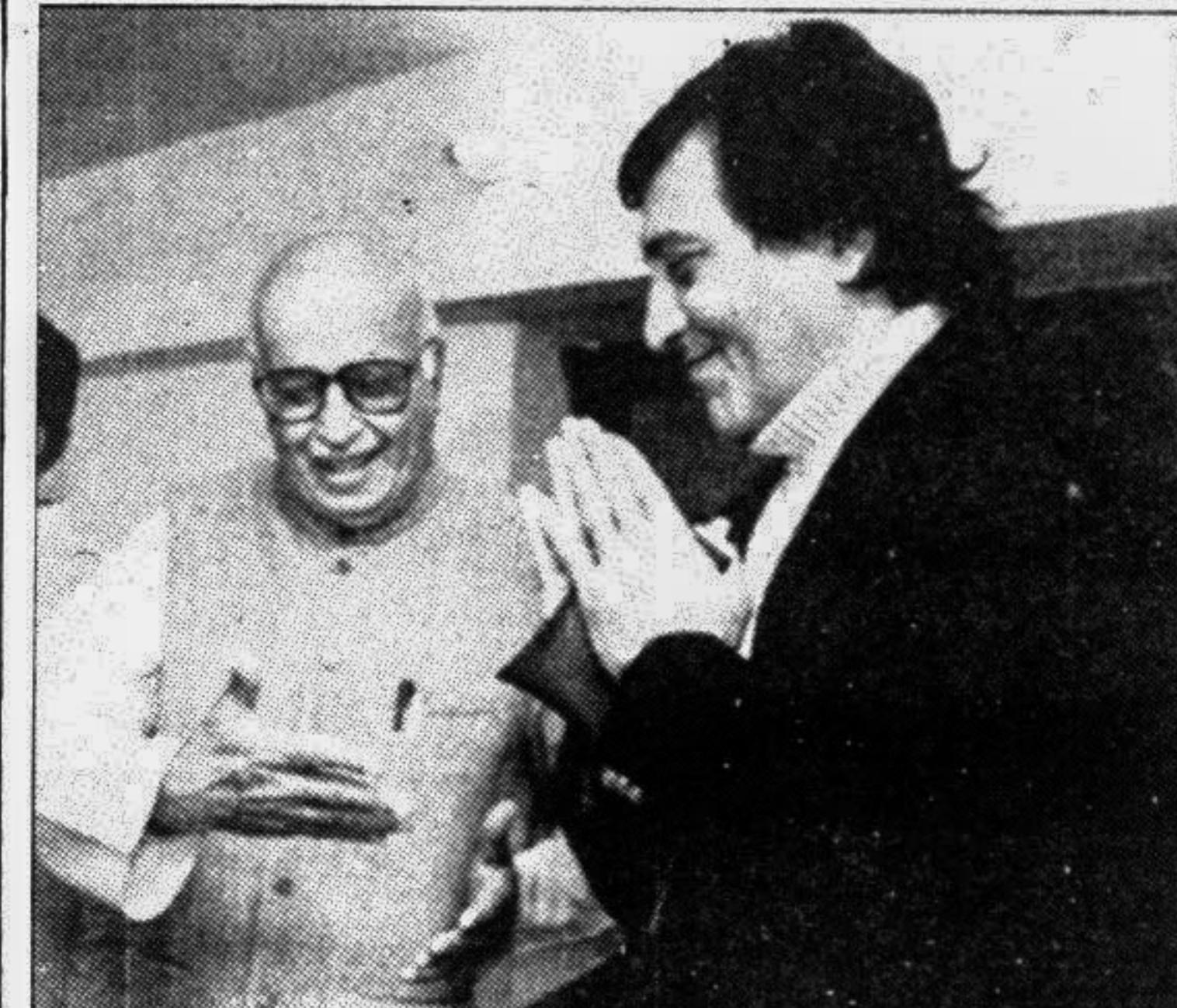
Narrating her experience as a fact-finder in India, Ubing's Shima Das Shimi said most of these women were lured by brokers who promised them a better life. Once across the border, the brokers sold them to different quarters. Some girls as

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

A journalist from Champaibawganj, 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.

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



BJP President Lal Krishna Advani (left) congratulates filmstar Vinod Khanna after he joined the party in New Delhi yesterday. Vinod Khanna, who has acted in several megahit Hindi movies, said that he wanted to work for the country.

— AP/UNB photo

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.

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).

Repeating to a supplementary from Alhaj 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.

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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.

Each of the guerillas 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, Kalparanjan Chakma MP, to recommend necessary steps for implementation of the accord.

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

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 Mujib 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 guerillas after their surrender.

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Ctg markets

From page 1

"manage" fake buying orders from some "organised clients" staying in Singapore and Hong Kong to import cloths under back-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 utilising those cloths. They get it done in collusion with a section of officials in the customs.

Talking to this correspondent, Commissioner of Chittagong Custom House 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.

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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.

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

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