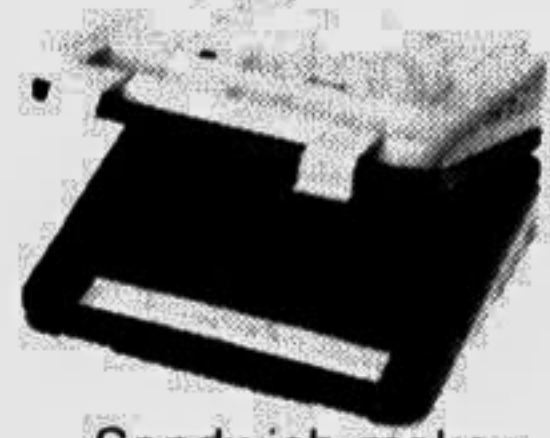


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Let's make things better



House of Commons lauds CHT agreement

The British House of Commons has lauded the recent political development in Bangladesh after the signing of CHT peace agreement, reports UNB.

According to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, an early day motion lauding recent political developments in Bangladesh was tabled in the British House of Commons on February 19.

The motion welcomed the steps to restore democracy in Bangladesh and congratulated the Bangladesh Prime Minister's efforts to bring peace to the region, particularly the successful negotiation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace accord.

It also recognised the need for increased foreign investment, particularly in the energy sector and the welcomed continued friendly relations between the British and Bangladesh governments to promote development in Bangladesh.

The motion was sponsored by members of the House of Commons Oona King (Labour), Jim Fitzpatrick (Labour) Stephen Twigg (Labour), Ernie Ross (Labour), Joan Ryan (Labour) and Judy Mallabar (Labour).

Earlier, a meeting of the All-

Manzoor Murder Case: Hearing on Mar 19

By Staff Correspondent

The hearing of the Manzoor Murder Case has been fixed on March 19, by the First Additional District and Sessions Judge's court, Dhaka yesterday.

Yousuf Hossain Humayun, the defence lawyer of HM Ershad, an accused in the case, told The Daily Star last night that the trial of the case is not being held on grounds of cancellation of the gazette notification that earmarked a building at Nazimuddin Road for holding the trial of the case.

The same building adjacent to the Dhaka Central Jail is now being used for the trial of the Bangabandhu Murder Case, he added.

The prosecution had earlier told the court that another gazette notification would be issued cancelling the earlier gazette, he said, adding that it was, however, not done as of yesterday.

In yesterday's hearing of the case, the defence counsel of Ershad pleaded before the court to fix such a date for hearing of the Manzoor Murder Case, when the trial of Bangabandhu Murder Case is not scheduled.

Political patronage

From page 1

According to the service rules of the banks, bank employees cannot be involved in politics. But the labour law permits TUs to work as fronts of national labour organisations. Taking advantage of this, the TUs of banks received certificates as fronts of labour organisations of different political parties. This way, the TUs gradually got directly involved in politics, the report pointed out.

In another startling revelation, the report said there are high officials in the management who had once been TU leaders and these officials act as 'shields' for the TUs against any management action. In exchange, these former TU leaders get a share of illegal earning of the TUs. This makes the banks internal control over TUs weak.

The task force report said although there are laws to curb corruption and irregularities of

the trade unions, these have not been applied. For example, clause 57 of the Bank Company Act says it is a punishable crime to stage rallies or processions inside a bank. This law is being violated almost every day in one or another bank, but not a single case had been filed till January 31 this year, the report said. The only instance of application of the law was in this month for harassment of the Governor and a general manager of Bangladesh Bank by some employees of the Bank.

The report said the bank managements have become conditioned by the misuse of power and corruption of the TUs and they take the misconduct of the TUs for granted. If any official is harassed by the TUs for his taking any action against any employee, instead of getting support from the bank authorities, he is often reprimanded for being tactless and transferred to other branches.

The young man, the only accused in the case, fled before police came to know about the incident. Later, the victim lodged a case with Mohammadpur thana Sunday night. Police were searching for the accused person.

The next day, the inmates of the house took the maid to a local clinic at Shyamoli as she fell sick. As her condition deteriorated, the maid was transferred to another clinic in Panthapath.

Tejgaon police somehow came to know about the incident and rescued the woman from the grip of Roni's family. The young man, the only accused in the case, fled before police came to know about the incident. Later, the victim lodged a case with Mohammadpur thana Sunday night. Police were searching for the accused person.

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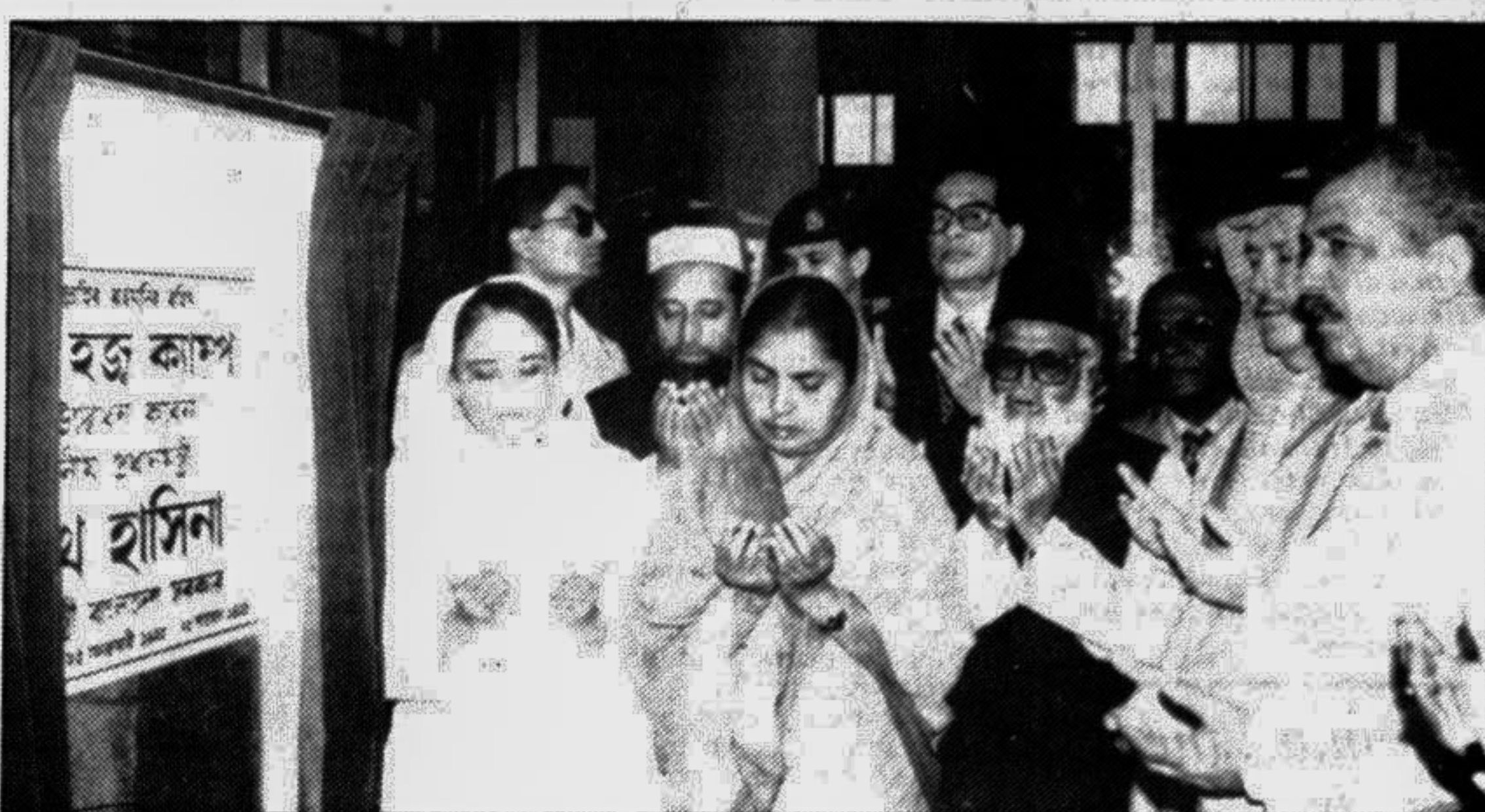
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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offering munajat after inaugurating the Hajj Camp at Uttara in the city yesterday. — PID photo

PM inaugurates permanent Hajj camp complex

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman failed to press its just procured F-28 aircraft into its domestic service yesterday.

The aircraft arrived on Sunday but the Civil Aviation Authorities could not receive the 'certificate of airworthiness' till yesterday, Biman sources said.

It will join the Biman's lone ATP, serving its domestic flights, as soon as it gets clearance, they said.

The F-28 has been procured on lease from an Indonesian airline through a British company.

It will replace the Biman's F-28 which was badly damaged during crash landing off the Sylhet airport on December 22.

The aircraft will be on one month's 'wet lease with pilots'. After one month, it would be on 'dry lease', when Biman pilots will fly it.

Meanwhile, Biman has formed an enquiry committee to investigate the cause of damage to the ATP's right landing gear during landing at Zia International Airport on Saturday.

The plane was returning with 67 passengers and four crew from Rajshahi.

Forex reserves go up

The country's foreign exchange reserves increased to 1831.56 million US dollars on February 18, reports UNB.

A Bangladesh Bank official said the reserves was 1719 million dollar at the end of June, 1997. It was 1731 million dollar at the end of January 1998.

As a result of current increase in export receipts and wage earners' remittances, foreign exchange reserves are showing a steady uptrend.

BNP unleashed violence at Shaheed Minar: Zillur

Awami League general secretary and LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday protested the statements made by BNP leader Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at the press conference at Minto Road and the rally at Rauna Batainool, reports UNB.

In a statement, he said, "It is only possible to display such insane attitude at the Shaheed Minar by the party born in the darkness of night through the politics of killing, coup and conspiracy."

Zillur said the people were stunned at the violence unleashed by BNP in broad daylight at the central Shaheed Minar on February 21 in "presence of and with provocation from their leader BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia."

The heinous and insane acts of BNP came as a rude shock to the people, he said adding that "their acts of terrorism even outshone the barbaric acts of the autocratic rulers against the language movement of 1952."

The Awami League leader said Mannan Bhuiyan had resorted to 'falsehood' at the Sunday's press conference to 'absolve themselves from any responsibility of the heinous act at the Shaheed Minar.'

He said on the one hand, the BNP partymen were saying that there is none in Awami League to be made minister' and on the other, Bhuiyan said 'we will make 50 ministers from Awami League, including the prime minister.'

This has unmasked their state of imbalance and abnormality, Zillur said. He requested the BNP to refrain from such irresponsible attitude and said, "otherwise, people will not forgive you."

Brojen Das hospitalised in Calcutta

Brojen Das, a legendary swimmer of the country, has been under treatment at a clinic in Calcutta, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already inquired about his health condition and extended her help for his treatment.

Biman fails to press F-28 into domestic service

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Young man beaten to death in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 23: A young man was beaten to death by an angry mob at the Patharghata Brickfield Road under Kotwali thana in the city last night, police said.

The dead was identified as Tarek Mahmud, 22, police said. Police arrested nine persons in this connection. The victim had come under attack at around 10:30 pm last night by about 30 people at a slum area in the brickfield road when he went there to rescue two of his friends confined by the mob.

Acid thrown on husband, wife

By Staff Correspondent

A middle-aged man and his wife were injured when an unidentified group threw acid on them at north Sayedabad under Demra thana in the city early yesterday.

Police identified the injured couple as Rana, 40, and Ranu Begum, 30. The injured were under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The attackers threw acid on them through a window while Rana and Ranu were sleeping at their house at Kajla at about 2:30 am, police said. The motive behind the attack could not be known immediately.

However, none was arrested till filing of this report in connection with the incident. A case was lodged with Demra thana in this regard.

Wife beaten up, set on fire

By Staff Correspondent

A woman sustained serious burn injuries when her husband allegedly doused her with kerosene and set her on fire at Matuul under Demra thana in the city on Sunday morning.

The victim was identified as Shahana Begum, 23, daughter of Awal Khan. She was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Quoting the FIR, police said her husband Zahurul Haque often tortured her.

On Sunday, Zahurul started beating his wife during an altercation with her at Mahjpara at about 11:30 am. At one stage, he poured kerosene over her and set her on fire.

A case has been lodged with Demra thana. However, none was arrested in this connection till filing of this report.

Activists of BCL, JCD clash at city college

By Staff Correspondent

Activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jatlyatabadi Chhatra Dal clashed at Kabi Nazrul Islam College over the incident of displaying a banner in the campus at Sutrapura area in the city yesterday.

The feuding student bodies hurled bricks and chased each other in the college for about half-an-hour from 1 pm, police said.

Witnesses said at least three gunshots were fired while several cocktails were exploded during the clash.

Police lobbed at least three rounds of tear gas shells and charged baton to disperse the activists of the feuding groups.

No casualty was reported in the violence. None was arrested in connection with the incident till last night.

Ctg airport

From page 1

With Japanese assistance. The visiting Japanese experts have already started the field survey to initiate the development work possibly early next month.

Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to formally inaugurate the airport development work next month, official sources said. The final date is yet to be fixed.

DSE index

From page 1

Last month, the government advised the nationalised commercial banks to operate in the market, which prompted two NCBs to start operation in the secondary market.

These few lakhs of taka is nothing and it does not affect the market much", a DSE broker said, pointing to Agran and Janata banks' fund size of Tk one crore each.

The government also agreed to inject part of pension and insurance funds into the market, but the proposed amendments to relevant laws are being scrutinised by the Law Ministry.

Rowdyism condemned

From page 1

dent Nasiruddin Yusuf, the rally was addressed by Justice KM Sobhan, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Gazul Haq, Ferdous Majumdar, Syed Shamsul Haq, Salahuddin Badal, Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Golam Kuddus, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Kamal Lohani, Aeysha Khanam, Shamim Akhter, Faiz Ahmad, Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Mamunur Rashid and Sharier Kabir.

Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Amirul Islam condemned the incident.

Sangrami Nari Samaj in a statement condemned the attack on Ramendu Majumdar.

Cabinet

From page 1

asked the minister concerned to submit the complete proposal, including its modus operandi, for consideration by the next Cabinet meeting.

According to the original idea, the government was supposed to set up a bank called Self-Employment Bank with the money. But some ministers yesterday objected to its nomenclature on the ground that donors including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund may 'misunderstand' the government plan as "it sounds inconsistent with the principles of the country's free-market economy".

The cabinet also approved a Housing Ministry proposal to set up a 'Housing Fund' of Taka 50 crore. The fund, a creation of the country's national budget for fiscal 1997-98 in last June, will provide loans to 'poor people' for construction of houses.

According to the Cabinet decision, a 15-member board of trustees headed by the Prime Minister will manage the fund. Some other members of the trustee board are Public Works and Housing Minister, Finance Minister, Labour and Manpower Minister, Social Welfare Minister, Relief and Disaster Management Minister, Cabinet sources said.

The Cabinet also approved a proposed amendment to the Acquisition and Reacquisition of Immovable Property Ordinance, 1982.

The Cabinet endorsed another proposal on promotion and protection of bilateral investment between Bangladesh and the Philippines. The content of the proposal could not be known immediately.

UP govt

From page 1

fine, swift, decisive victory for the moral standpoint" — for democracy, for the constitution, for the people of Uttar Pradesh.

Vajpayee's statement came after he broke his fast unto death in New Delhi which he began demanding dismissal of the Uttar Pradesh government.

He said the verdict was a slap in the face of the governor who, he alleged, had missed no opportunity to misuse his office for partisan ends.

Meanwhile, an indefinite curfew was imposed on four areas of Gorakhpur and police charged batons in Barhachia, Botin in Uttar Pradesh during a general strike called by the BJP, demanding removal of the governor.

Annan

From page 1

Clinton told a meeting of US governors that he had talked to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan after he concluded the deal today, as well as to British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

But he added that he must still talk with Russian Prime Minister Boris Yeltsin and French President Jacques Chirac about the agreement of which Washington has insisted on being the final judge.

New Telephone Numbers of The Daily Star

(With effect from Wednesday, 25th February, 1998)

Old Numbers New Numbers

500091 866771

500092 866772

500093 866773

500094 866774

QULKHAWNI

The Qulkhawni of Engineer Khurshid Anwar, Director of Confidence Cement Ltd., will be held today (Tuesday) after Asar prayer at the deceased's residence at Gandaria.

All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to take part in the Qulkhawni to pray for the peace of the departed soul together.

Address: -Requests the family of Late Engr. Khurshid Anwar 159, Distillery Road, Dhupkhola Play ground, (Near Kather pool), Gandaria, Dhaka.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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