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PHILIPS

PM to visit Patuakhali, Barguna Mar 14

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Mar 4: Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina is expected to visit two southern districts — Patuakhali and Barguna — on March 14.
She will inaugurate the BTV relay station at Patuakhali district headquarters and a newly built motel at Kuakata.
The Prime Minister is also scheduled to address public meetings at Barguna, Kalapara, Galachipa and Patuakhali.
She is also expected to attend a function of the 'Rakhain' tribal community at Kalapara.

Export earning

From Page 1
BGMEA team will hold talks with Andrew Samet, Deputy Under Secretary of Labour and Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Quidus said. Both the officials visited Bangladesh last year.
Stephen Solarz, a top US politician, is lobbying for Bangladesh for increased quota, he added.
The team will also meet importers in the US and textile industry protectionists to make them understand Bangladesh's need for additional quota.
Quidus suggested further devaluation of Taka, saying the Bangladesh currency is still strong compared to other currencies in South and South East Asia. The government should fix the value of Taka at 50 against Dollar now," he added.

Bangabandhu
From Page 1
cross-examined by the defence counsel.
The witness said he did not sell the copies of the video film of the Granada television to the customers before it was seized by the police.
When asked by a defence counsel whether the video cassette containing the interviews of accused Farook and Rashid was seized after the investigation in the case was closed, the witness replied, "I was not aware of it."
During the proceedings, the court allowed the prosecution's prayer to recall PW-35 for identification of the two accused Farook and Rashid from the video film produced by the British Granada Television, which was also screened in the court. The court was adjourned to sit on March 9.

2,117 defaulters owe over Tk 1 cr loan each, JS told

The number of bank defaulters with Tk one crore or more in outstanding loans stood at 2,117 till September 30, 1997, Finance Minister S A M S Kibria disclosed in Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.
Replying to Jainul Abedin Hazari (AL), the minister produced the names and addresses of the defaulters in the House.
The defaulters are from different sector corporations, state-owned mills and factories, private companies and individuals.

They include Eastern Housing Ltd, Soltech International, Bengal Carpets, AB Vegetable Oil Industries Ltd, M/s Four Brothers (BD) Ltd, Dhaka Vegetable Oil, Beximco Knitting Ltd, Beximco Engineering Ltd, Beximco Textile Ltd, M/s Concord Engineering and Construction Ltd, M/s Gachihata Aquaculture Farms Ltd, Phoenix Leather Complex, Bengal Leather Industries, Karnaphuly Cotton Mills, Eastern Pulp and Paper Mills, Mohamud Ali of Narayanganj, Apex Food Ltd, Quasem Textile Mills Ltd, Bengal Fine Ceramics, Abul Khair Steel Mills, Khan Sons (Pvt) Ltd, Media International, High Speed Navigation Co. Ltd.

Standard Ceramics Industries, Swan Textile Mills, KDS Packaging Industries, M/s Islam Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Rupan Oil and Feeds Ltd, Hyundai Cement (BD) Co Ltd, Khulna Tobacco Industries, Pioneer Printing Press Ltd, Mohammad Ali of Dhaka, Ovi International, Monno Textile Mills, Pharmaco International, Commander Soap Ltd, Bengal Ceramic Inds, M/s Cans Towels Industries Ltd, Tulip Dairy, Bengal Fish Processing and Food Products and Padma Printers.
The Finance Minister told Parliament that the vested quarters had managed to waive interest on their bank loans through political influence and corruption in the past.

"The trend of not paying interest on loans is a national problem which has hit the sanctity of the financial transaction," he said, replying to Mohammad Shahjahan (AL-Sirajganj).
The Finance Minister said the present government has been trying to restore discipline in the banking sector and economic management against the corrupt economic activities which created tremendous pres-

sure on the banking system.
Replying to Tajul Islam Chowdhury (JP-Kurigram), Kibria said the present government has enacted the Bankruptcy Act to deal with the loan defaulters who have misappropriated crores of taka from the banking sector.
He told the House that all district sessions and judges court will function as the bankruptcy court. Besides, a plan has been finalised to set up two separate bankruptcy courts in Dhaka and Chittagong, he said.

The names of the bankrupts would obviously be published in the newspapers after they were declared bankrupt by the concerned courts, he added.
In reply to Panchanan Biswas (AL-Khulna), the Finance Minister said the amount of default loans is gradually coming down and the government is realising the loans with interest.
To another question of Mustafizur Rahman (AL-Dinajpur) about smuggling and border trade, he admitted that there is a tendency of evading taxes and duties where many interested parties are involved.

Body of ADAB official recovered in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Mar 4: The body of an ADAB official was recovered from the river Kirtankhola here this afternoon.
The dead was identified as Arif Chowdhury, regional field officer of ADAB, Barisal chapter.
Arif was missing since Sunday evening when he slipped and fell into the river from a ferry at Dapdapia ghat.
NGO men conducted a search operation but failed to rescue him.

Agri Research Centre in Ctg ransacked
From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Mar 4: A group of agitating students of Pahartoli Veterinary College allegedly ransacked the office of Agriculture Research Centre in the city this morning, police said.
The students also damaged some vehicles in front of the centre.

Foreign debt
From Page 1
Replying to another question, the Finance Minister said the country's export earning has increased by nearly 19 per cent during the first six months of the current fiscal year.
He said the forex reserve was 1836.25 million US dollar on February 19 this year against 1719 million dollar in June, 1997.
And the export earning was 7018 million US dollar during July 1996-December 1997 period while the import bill was 9229 million dollar from July 1996-October 1997, he said.
The Finance Minister informed the House that remittance amounting to Tk 3415.96 crore was received in six months from July to December 31, 1997.
The volume of export has increased by 20 per cent following the devaluation of taka that also had a positive impact on remittance from overseas, he said.

Long march toward CHT, if necessary: Khaleda

GAIBANDHA, Mar 4: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today gave a broad hint of a long march towards Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) to protect the territorial integrity of the country, reports UNB.
"If situation demands, the long march towards the CHT may be called," she told a public meeting at Gaibandha Islamia High School ground this afternoon.
Begum Zia who is now on a three-day organisational tour of the northern region urged the people of Rajshahi, Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur and other northern districts to join the long march to the CHT.
The BNP chief said after the independence, the Awami League government had handed over Berubari to India and now it has given the Chittagong Hill Tracts to the tribal insurgents who are patronised by the neighbouring country.
Criticising various provisions of the CHT accord, she said the government has violated the Constitution and jeopardised the country's sovereignty by signing the accord.
She warned of a serious unrest across the country if the CHT accord is implemented.
Referring to the stock market scandal, BNP Chairperson said the government is busy serving the purpose of its alien masters who were allowed to funnel out crores of taka from the country. The government has no sympathy for the poor investors.
Painting a grim picture of the country's economy, she said the production in fields and factories have been declining, frequent devaluation of the currency is shying away investment and causing miseries to the people. Acute shortage of power hit hard the factories.
Begum Zia was critical of the government for its alleged failure to check terrorism and illegal collection of tolls.
She said jute, textile and leather sectors are on the verge of collapse due to wrong policy pursued by the government.
Apprehending the govern-

ment's attempt to impose fresh tax in the next budget, the BNP chief cautioned that people will not accept any measure which will overburden them.
Presided over by Sheikh Abdus Samad Azad, the meeting was also addressed by K M Obaidur Rahman, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Dr R A Gani, Mir Shawkat Ali, Mizanur Rahman Manu, Mirza Abbas and Prof Jahannara Begum.
Begum Zia on her way to Gaibandha from Rajshahi addressed a number of roadside meetings at Pabna, Mohonpur, Joypurhat, Mokamtala, Gobbindganj, Palashbari and Dohabanga.
She will stay overnight at Bogra and will go to Naogaon tomorrow where she will address a public meeting in the afternoon.

2 young men abducted in Ctg
From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Mar 4: Masked gunmen allegedly abducted two young men from Nasirabad area in the city this afternoon, police and family sources said.
They said Junaid Hossain, a college student and son of a businessman Shahadat Hossain, was abducted at 3 pm today while he was waiting on road for transport, along with his cousin Mohiuddin Ahmed.

NBR chairman made OSD
Chairman of the National Board of Revenue and Secretary of the Internal Resource Department Shah Abdul Hannan has been made officer on special duty (Additional Secretary), reports UNB.
The announcement was made in an official handout in the city last night.
Hannan earlier resigned from the post of Chairman of the NBR.

JCD, BCL clash in Comilla: 10 hurt

COMILLA, Mar 4: At least ten students were injured when activists of two rival student groups clashed at Chiora Government College in Chouddagram thana here today, reports UNB.
According to college sources, the clash between the activists of JCD and BCL started at about 9:45 am as a sequel to previous brawl over seating arrangement in the classroom.
The feuding groups fired several rounds of gunshots, exploded cocktails and ransacked shops in the area during the clash.

DU officers
From Page 1
versity organised a rally in front of the administrative building yesterday.
The rally, held with president of the Dhaka University Officers' Association A K M Ruhul Amin Akhand in the chair, was also addressed by Khondkar Abdul Hal, Syed Ali Akbar, A B M Abdul Kashem Khan, Ramizuddin Ahmed and Aminul Haque.
They later brought out a silent procession on the campus.
Meanwhile, the students of the university are facing acute problem as the library of the university is being closed after 2 pm due to the strike.

Dhanmondi Lake
From Page 1
ject.
"The sludge deposit on the lake bed is so much at places that we had to dig upto ten feet to remove it and this has inflated the costs," one source said.
An official at the site said they may do the remaining part of the excavation work next year during the dry season. "In the coming rainy season we will keep the excavated part of the lake separated from the part with sludge and next year, we will pump out the water and remove the toxic deposit," the site official said.
Work on the Taka ten crore project started on October 21 last year and is scheduled to be completed in June '99.

Chetia

From Page 1
Abdur Rouf and Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury rejected the petition as the counsel for the petitioner, after the hearing, prayed for not pursuing it.
In the mean time, the petitioner, Md Saiful Islam Dilder, Secretary General of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, in a letter dated February 27, sought permission of the Ministry of Home Affairs to meet Anup Chetia for consultation regarding the petition.
A writ petition challenging the proposed extradition of Anup Chetia to India was summarily rejected by the High Court on February 16.
Thereafter, on February 26, the petitioner filed the present petition for provisional stay of the HC order for extradition of Anup Chetia till filing of a petition for leave to appeal.
Dr Akhter Hamid moved for the petitioner, while Attorney General KS Nabi with Deputy Attorneys General Bakhtiar Hossain and Obaidur Rahman Mustafa appeared for the state.

PM: Change attitude

From Page 1
expenses of the government officials, including their study, training and salary, come from the taxes paid by the public.
She said the attitude of misusing and plundering public money should change. "All must make an effort to save the hard-earned money and utilise those in other planning and activities."
The government is trying to revitalize the rural economy and taking steps accordingly, but its success mostly depend on the government officials working at different levels, she said.
"Successful completion of various development projects is possible only by the skilled and trained people, on whose efficiency will depend the success of the government."
The Prime Minister said the present government has given importance to the training of the officials and employees of the republic to raise their skill and efficiency.
"We've taken steps to con-

Tongi College
From Page 1
ferent private clinics.
During the clash, armed cadres of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, indiscriminately fired shots from revolver, pistol and cut rifle and chased each other. The clash broke out as a sequel to previous enmity.
Mehdi, son of late Motahar Ali Pramanik of Khidramatia village in Belkuchi thana of Sirajganj district, lived with his elder brother at Civil Aviation staff quarters in Uttara. Local leaders of Chhatra League claimed that Mehdi was a student of the college and an activist of their organisation.
But Mehdi's brother Zahurul Islam told this correspondent that Mehdi had passed SSC examination and was yet to get admission in any college.
"We took breakfast together and Mehdi told me that he would go to a tailor at Tongi to bring his new trousers," a weeping Zahurul said. He could not say whether his brother was a BCL activist.
BCL, however, brought out a procession and barricaded Dhaka-Mymensingh highway for about an hour "protesting the killing of BCL leader Mehdi Hasan."
The barricade was removed by district officials who visited the spot along with local MP Ahsan Ullah Master.
The body of Mehdi was sent to Gazipur District Hospital morgue for autopsy. No case was filed immediately. But Tongi police said Mehdi's brother would file a case after the autopsy.

Pak floods
From Page 1
could be higher than the first estimates of 500 because many hamlets were submerged for 36 hours.
Army troops have been deployed for rescue operations, officials said.
The private Edhi Welfare Trust has rushed relief teams and an air ambulance to the area. The teams include volunteers and doctors as well as shelter material for the affected families.
A C-130 aircraft and a helicopter of the Pakistan army reached Turbat today after bad weather prevented sorties overnight.
Baluchistan Chief Minister Sardar Akhtar Mengal made an aerial survey of the region in a helicopter, which also dropped 350 bundles of food and relief items for the affected people, officials here said.
A local government official said the floods had destroyed at least 3,000 houses as people in the region live mostly in mud houses.

sider training as a criteria for promotion of the officials," she said.
Progress and promotion will be determined on the basis of talent, skill and efficiency she said, adding that now there is no scope for conflicts among the cadres for narrow group interests.
She asked the officials to work unitedly for the development of the nation.
Later, the Prime Minister laid the foundation of the 15-storied Academy building. The estimated cost of the new building is Tk 15.23 crore.
MOU
From Page 1
tification of possible areas and initiation of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of defence and defence related matters.
The Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Raffaele Miniero and senior officials of the armed forces, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Ministry of Defence were present.
Earlier, Alberto Zignani called on Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman at the Army Headquarters yesterday morning.
General Zignani discussed matters of bilateral interests and mutual cooperation with General Mustafiz.
Gen Zignani and his delegation also visited the Naval Headquarters and met Principal Staff Officers and other senior BM officers.
The guests were briefed on the prospects and possibilities of cooperation between the Italian and the Bangladesh Navy.
The Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Raffaele Miniero was present during the General's visit to the Army and the Naval Headquarters.

UMC
From Page 1
we have not suspended our work."
However, Petrobangla sources have confirmed that UMC has suspended its work and has officially informed about the security problem.
UMC signed its Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with the government in late 1996 for hydrocarbon exploration in Block 22.
But ever since it began working there, extortionists, in the disguise of hill students and activists, visited UMC offices in Dhaka and in the hill tracts asking for "peace money". Sources quoting UMC officials said that the extortionists had threatened the officials that there would be no exploration in the hill tracts without payment of "peace money".
A top leader of the hill tracts collected as much as 25,000 US dollars from UMC and gave a verbal assurance of security, the sources added. But his assurance did not work.

FFYP
From Page 1
country from poverty, hunger and illiteracy.
She also called upon the entrepreneurs, businessmen, peasants and workers to come forward to increase production and work unitedly rising above all personal and group interests.
The Prime Minister also emphasised on implementing the plan as per schedule.
NEC Vice Chairman and Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Energy Minister Noor Uddin Khan and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim also took part in the discussion.

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