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Let's make things better

PHILIPS

We will build a secure future for children: PM

banners.

TUNGIPARA, Mar 18: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday called for making sacrifices to ensure a bright future for the next generation of the country, reports UNB.

"The government is committed to building a new society where the children could be grown up as worthy citizens of the country," she said while addressing a children's rally at Tungipara G T High School

ground. Hasina reached her ancestral home in the morning to attend the national programme in observance of the 78th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman. "We'll build up a sound and secure future for our next generation, we'll build up our children as worthy citizens," she said, calling upon all to work together for achieving the goal. The Cultural Affairs Ministry organised the children's rally at Tungipara as part of the

2 accused in rape case get anticipatory bail

By SC Corespondent Having absconded for 92 days, both the chargesheeted accused, doctor Mominur Rahman alias Zinnah and Jostshna Begum of Niramoy Clinic in Mymensing, yesterday obtained anticipatory bail from the High Court in the Rony

Akhter rape case. Rony Akhter, daughter of Kachu Miah of village Nalgora under Dharmapasha thana in Sunamganj district had lodged a case with Mymensingh Kotwali police on January 5, 1998 against the two persons under elion (1). 14 of the Cruelty to

women and Children (Special Provisions) Act, 1995. It was alleged in the FIR that while Rony Akhter was attending her father in the clinic on the night of January 4, 1998 doctor Mominur Rahman had violated her with the help of aya Jostshna Begum.

In the bail petition, it was submitted that the case was false and fabricated.

Punitive action From Page 1

"It was my constitutional obligation to submit the list in parliament on demand. I did not give the list on my own," Kibria said.

In anyway the defaulters issue should be widely discussed to reach a solution to the vexed problem and for the sake of the banking sector, he said. .

The Finance Minister welcomed FBCCI's suggestion for forming two committees for dealing with investment and defaulters. 'They have given a very constructive suggestion which they could advance much earlier." he said adding he will soon meet the business community to discuss the proposals The bank-client relationship should be the main mechanism in solving the defaulters'

problem, he said. "I am the last person to agree to a collective bargaining for rescheduling or waiving loans,

said the Finance Minister. Asked about recovery of outstanding debts of the stateowned losing enterprises, the minister said the government has taken bold steps for recovery of such loans with equal seriousness. The public sector enterprises found not viable are

being sold out to repay their

Eastern Refinery

From Page 1 stalled capacity to refine 1.5 million metric tons of crude oil, but later it could only refine

around one million tons of Steps for its major renovation was taken several years ago, but due to bureaucratic

tangles, it was delayed. OIC urges

From Page 1

"Israel is also called upon to completely withdraw from the whole of Syria's Golan Heights captured during the 1967 Middle East war," the statement added.

Turning to Iraq, the OIC called on Baghdad to "closely cooperate" with UN disarmament experts and also reaffirmed its commitment to Iraq's sovereignty and its solidarity with the Iraqi people.

national programme. A huge number of boys and girls in colourful dresses joined the rally carrying national flags and coloured festoons and

Ministers, MPs, diplomats, party leaders and workers and a huge number of children attended the function.

bandhu was earlier declared as the National Children's Day. The Prime Minister said her government is taking all possible steps so that not a single child remains illiterate and

The birthday of Banga-

deprivation. Later, the Prime Minister distributed prizes among the children who took part in various competitions - song, dance, essay writing and painting.

suffers from malnutrition and

Pakistan survive close call

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, Mar 18: A stubborn fifth-wicket century stand between Yousaf Youhana and Moin Khan helped Pakistan stave off defeat and salvage a draw against Zimbabwe on the final day of the first cricket Test today, reports AFP.

The two put on 110 in five minutes short of three hours to guide Pakistan to safety as they finished on 258-6 in their second innings.

With Zimbabwe needing four wickets and Pakistan another 113 runs to win with only 7.3 overs remaining, the two captains agreed to call the match

off early. Acting on a tip-off, police cordoned off the Huang Boiyeba club in the area at about 3:30 pm and arrested them while they were holding a meeting

2 PCP leaders held in CHT

KHAGRACHHARI, Mar 18: Two leaders of Pahari Chhatra Parishad were arrested from a club in the town today, reports

Police said they arrested Sanjoy Chakma, 32, and Dhruba Jyoti Chakma, 26, leaders of Prosid-Sanjoy group from Shawnirbhar area on charges of anti-CHT accord ac-

tivities. LPG shortage

From Page 1 It is alleged that some officials in the depot are distributing quotas of the dealers irregularly. The dealers are allegedly selling the quotas to mastans

who create artificial crisis. A card system was introduced for the consumers two years back but it is alleged that they are not getting LPG cylinders against their cards.

A section of officials of the three distribution agencies -Padma, Meghna, and Jamuna are allegedly involved in the irregularities.

2 guards killed

From Page 1

be involved in the killings. Gulshan police arrested a young man, Faruk, as a suspect in the incident.

A gang of three on board a pick-up van stopped on the road beside a house on Road-6 in block-C of Banani at about 3 am. As they jumped over the boundary wall of the house and entered inside, Zahir got out of the guard room and had an altercation with them. At one stage, the gang members stabbed Zahir indiscriminately. police said quoting 'witnesses.

The assailants then entered the next house in a similar way fatally stabbed Jamal and left the spot in their vehicle. They attacked Jamal as he saw them stabbing Zahir, police said.

Bodies of both the persons were sent to DMCH morgue for

A case was lodged with Gulshan thana in this connection.

2 burnt alive

From Page 1 come groups. Many stranded Pakistanis known as Biharis also lived in the slum which is also called School Camp.

Fire fighters recovered the bodies after the fire was put out. The bodies were handed over to Pallabi police.

Relatives of the dead took the bodies from police yesterday. However, the extent of damage could not be known.



Polythene sheets being washed in the Buriganga river at Kamrangirchar for reuse.

Mugger beaten to death in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Mar 18: An alleged mugger was beaten to death and two others were injured by a mob while they were snatching money from a hawker at Baluchhara under Panchlaish thana yesterday evening, police said.

The dead was identified as Abdul Karim. The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Minor girl raped in Ctg ward

commissioner's office CHITTAGONG, Mar 18: A minor girl was allegedly raped by one Jahangir in a room of Enayetbazar ward commissioner's office here today, reports BSS.

According to Kotwali police and local people, Jahangir, a peon of the ward commissioner, took nine-year-old Papiya Chakravorty to his room in the name of getting his clothes washed by her.

As soon as Papiya, a poor girl, entered the room of Ja-

hangir, she was violated by Ja-On hearing the scream of the victim, local people rushed to

the spot, rescued her and nabbed Jahangir. Jahangir was taken to police custody, along with Papiya, police said, adding that a case was filed with Kotwali police in this

Kibria

From Page 1

possible areas of bilateral trade between the two countries, which figured only 12 million US dollars in 1996-97 fiscal

At the end of the JEC meet on Tuesday, the two countries signed an agreed minutes to promote bilateral economic cooperation.

The possibilities of joint ventures have also been explored. Agreements have been signed for two joint venture banks - Nabil Bank and Nepal-Bangladesh Bank - and one in surance, both in the private sec-

The JEC meeting decided to hold its next meeting in Dhaka

Boulders and stones, which are now being imported from India for Bangabandhu bridge, can also be imported from Nepal without any delay, Kibria

Nepal wants duty free trade which they enjoy with India. Since Bangladesh-India trade is not duty free, Bangladesh is not in a position to extend such

concession to Nepal, he added. Nepal expressed its deep interest in importing natural gas from Bangladesh. "But we haven't given any commitment," he said.

The Ganges water issue also come up for discussion. But, he said, the responsibility of ensuring the flow in the Ganges lies with India following the signing of the water accord with Bangladesh.

For augmenting the flow of the Ganges, Nepal can develop storage of water in its part of the Ganges. But Nepal is to as-sess its own benefit, he added.

No alternative to agri development: President

President Shahabuddin Ahmed Tuesday distributed the "Bangabandhu Award-1403" among 28 people, most are farmers, for their contributions to the development of agriculture, fisheries and livestock. reports UNB.

Of the recipients, two farmers got gold medals, nine received silver and 17 bronze. The President distributed the awards at a ceremony at Osmany Memorial Auditorium.

The Bangabandhu Award was introduced in 1973 to encourage increased production in the agriculture sector. There is no alternative to agricultural development for

flourishing the national econ-

omy," the President told the function after distributing the Talks with Unocal

From Page 1 cleared but progress is slow because of some legal complexities and its disagreement with the Petrobangla over a Gas Purchase Sales Agreement (GPSA) and with the BPDB over a fuel

supply agreement. Unocal signed a PSC with the government in the middle of last year for development of the Shahbazpur Gas Field, setting up a pipeline from Bhola to Kushtia and building power plants having 360 MW generation capacity.

Petrobangla has been disagreeing over the proposed WRIP agreement because, according to its calculation, the "costly" WRIP will hurt Bangladesh's interest. Petrobangla experts said that the country will loose 2 to 3 billion US dollars in 35 years if the deal is

From Page 1

offices remained closed to mark

the birthday of the greatest son

of the soil.

Newspaper and news agency

Television and Radio put up

special programmes while

newspapers brought out sup-

plements on the life and contri-

bution of the greatest hero of

Hasina garlanded the portrait

bandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi

Chowdhury, ministers, leaders

of Awami League and its front

organisations, Muktijoddha

Sangsad, Muktijoddha Sang-

hati Parishad, Ghatak-Dalal

Nirmul Committee and Banga-

bandhu Parishad placed

including women and school

children, placed wreaths at the

portrait of the Father of the Na-

Besides, thousands of people.

The main attraction of the

President Justice Sha-

Bangabandhu was born on this

habuddin Ahmed and Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina visited

the remote village and placed

wreaths at the mazar of Father

A milad mahfil and a dis-

wreaths at the portrait

Speaker Humayun Rasheed

of Sheikh Mujib at Banga-

Prime Minister Sheikh

the Bengali nation.

in the morning.

day in 1920.

of the Nation.

He said the change in the agri-policy is inevitable to give a boost through proper utilization of limited resources and

creating employment opportunity in the agriculture sector. President Shahabuddin Ahmed said both the government and the private sector had a complementary role in maintaining agri-production stable in the country.

The award recipients are: Gold medal-Md Ebadul Huq and Abdul Majid Munshi; Silver medal-Anil Chandra Tangchonga. Mosammat Hachena Begum, Abdul Kader, Abul Kalam, Enayetur Rahman (Baby). Shajahan Ali (Badsha). Kamruzzaman Khilji, Munshi Zahed Alam and Abdur Rashid.

Bronze medal-M H S Suhrawardy, Ansar Ali, Ekramul Huq. Mohammad Ali. Abdur Rashid, Abdul Karim, Abul Kashem, Humayun Kabir, Harun-ur-Rashid, Jahangir Alam, Majid Mollah, Shahana Ferdous, Rowshan Ara Haider. Subhas Chandra Mallik, Enamul Hug, Hamidur Rahman and Afaz Uddin.

Naziur made JP Secy Gen

Chairman of the Jatiya Party H M Ershad yesterday nominated presidium member and additional secretary general Naziur Rahman Manjur as the secretary general of the party, reports BSS.

The nomination was made under the sub-section 2 of section 20 of the party constitution with effect from vesterday morning, said a JP press re-

Bangabandhu's birth anniversary

In the capital, a colourful

children and juvenile proces-

sion was brought out from

'Shikha Chironton' and 'Swa-

Prime Minister Sheikh

dhinata Stambha' at Suhra-

Hasina inaugurated the rally of

school boys and children, and

led the procession that ended at

Shilpakala Academy. The

Women and Children's Affairs

function was organised at

dred tiny tots and school chil-

dren joined a colourful rally at

Ganabhaban. The Prime Minis-

ter spent some time amidst the

children who sang songs on Mu-

organised at Ramna Batamul in

the afternoon. Prof Kabir

Chowdhury chaired the discus-

sion on "Bangabandhu in the

Awami League held discus-

National and party flags

were hoisted atop central

Awami League office, Banga-bandhu Bhaban and other

Awami League offices through-

The divisional, district and

thana administrations also or-

Hearts of the Bengalees.

A discussion meeting was

After the rally, a cultural

In the evening, several hun-

Ministry organised the rally.

Shishu Academy.

jib's birthday.

wardy Udyan in the morning.

cussion were held there.

BCL leader killed in Comilla

COMILLA, Mar 18: A local Chhatra League leader was killed allegedly by his friends at Doulatpur near the town on Monday night.

The body of Jalal Uddin Chowdhury, 24, nephew of Afzal Khan, district Awami League general secretary, was recovered from a pond on Tues-

Police arrested two BCL workers, Ehsan Mahmud and Golam Samdani, on Tuesday night after a case was filed against them with Kotwali thana by Jalal's brother Kamal

Chowdhury. Kamal alleged that Jalal was called out of their house and killed at Doulatpur by his close friends Mahmud and Samdani.

Police said Jalal had 12 cases filed against him. He was wanted in the Kalu murder case of February 10 and an award of Tk 5,000 was declared for helping the police to nab Jalal.

District Awami League held a rally and submitted a memorandum to the DC protesting the killing of Jalal.

Tk 20 lakh worth of gold chains seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent Customs personnel at Zia International Airport seized gold chains worth about Tk 20 lakh from three passengers of a domestic flight of Bangladesh Biman Tuesday afternoon.

According to airport sources. three passengers of the BG-046 flight from Dubai via Chittagong, that landed at ZIA at about 1:30 pm, were carrying the gold chains in the pickets of their trousers. These were concealed in paper packets. A passenger from Dubai

handed over the chains to the three young men, who boarded the plane at Chittagong, the sources added.

But the passenger concerned could not be identified immediately.

BJP

From Page 1 He said the new government would take steps for the economic and educational development of the minorities.

Vajpayee said his government would appoint a commission to review the Indian Constitution in the light of the experience of the past 50 years and to make suitable recommendations.

"We will set up a national judicial commission which will recommend judicial appointments in high courts and supreme courts and draw up a code of ethics for the judiciary. he added.

Vajpayee said the new government would enact the Lok Pal Bill with adequate powers to deal with corruption charges against anyone, including the prime minister.

ganised elaborate programmes.

Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina and

foreign dignitaries were among

the distinguished visitors who

came to the ancestral home of

Bangabandhu to pay their

to place a wreath at the mazar

of Father of the Nation at about

10:35 am and stood in solemn

Hasina followed the President

and placed a wreath at the

smart contingent of three ser-

vices gave the salute.

Affairs Ministry.

Sheikh Mujib.

Prime Minister Sheikh

As the army bugle played, a

Ministers, MPs, diplomats,

Some 52 foreign dignitaries

A huge crowd waited outside

A munajat was offered at the

chiefs of three services, politi-

cal leaders, and high military

and civil officials were present.

were present at this state func-

tion, organised by the Cultural

the mazar premises to pay their

respect to their beloved leader

mazar of Bangabandhu seeking

divine blessing for him, his

parents, the martyrs of libera-

tion war and all democratic

movements, and for peace and

progress of the country.

The President was the first

homage to the great leader.

silence for a few moments.

mazar

At Tungipara, President

slum dwellers attacked a garments buying house at Banani in the city yesterday, alleging that it was involved in women and child trafficking. The slum dwellers demon-

strated in front of Macev residential area.

factory of his factory brought the alle-

thana against him. The incident ensued after four minor girls who were

building escaped early yester-

the CMH in the city. "We are convinced after a primary investigation that the arrested man raped the minor girl," said a senior CID official last night. Maria's description

added.

Our court correspondent day remand.

Additional CMM Habibur Rahman, who is heading a magisterial probe into the incident, interrogated Obayedul in the court.

CID sources said he had lured Maria offering her money

Rumour of women trafficking

Slum dwellers storm garments buying house

By Staff Correspondent

At least five persons including a policeman were injured when more than one hundred

Bangladesh on Road No. 2A throughout the day, pelted stones and at one stage stormed it, creating panic in the posh

Police later arrested the owner of "Macev Bangladesh", Mahfuz Chowdhury, on charges of alleged sexual abuse and torture of female workers of the

Police said Mahfuz was arrested after five female workers gations to the Cantonment

workers of a garments finishing unit located in the same

Suspected rapist From Page 1

room, the sources said. Maria was now improving at

of the rapist matched with Obayedul's appearance, he

Obayedul, whose wife resided at Narayanpur, was once caught red handed by local people earlier when he allegedly tried to sexually harass a young girl in the same court area, CID sources said

adds: Obayedul was produced before Metropolitan Magistrate Shawkat Nabi yesterday. CID prayed for seven days' remand to further interrogate him. The court, however, granted a three-

Obayedul was absconding

since the incident of rape. and took her to the toilet in the

Cantonment police held the girls when they were sitting in front of a roadside shop in Kachukhet area at about 3:30

The girls, aged between eight and twelve, told police that they ran away from the house as the owner misbehaved with them and did not give sufficient food. The manager of the buying

house said that some extortionists spread the false rumour of trafficking and provoked the slum dwellers as they refused to pay them toll. A director of Macev said the owner of the buying house also

owned the finishing unit, set up for pre-shipment finishing of garments produced in his factory, 786 Garments Ltd in Bo-The director said they used

to bring female garments workers from their Bogra factory to work at the Banani finishing unit. There are accommodation facilities and a canteen for the workers in the same building. he added.

Talking to this correspondent, some female workers including their supervisor said all of them came from different places in Bogra. The supervisor said they have been working in 786 Garments Ltd in Bogra and in its finishing unit in Dhaka for quite sometime. They did not have any such problem in working with their employer, she said

The four girls were under Gulshan thana custody till last night. Police were yet to file any case in this regard. A senior police official said they will produce the girls in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court today.

BNP

From Page 1

creasing support to BNP." Turning to law and order, she said the situation is getting worse with every passing day. The government is giving shelter to the offenders and police in many cases are being

the culprits, Begum Zia alleged. Those present on the occasion included M Morshed Khan MP, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury MP, Jafrul Islam Chowdhury MP, Shahjahan Chowdhury MP. Mirza Abbas and

forced to refrain from nabbing

Sadek Hossain Khoka MP. Legal process delays

From Page 1

police control room.

from July 2 till August 13, 1997. This was subsequently extended till March 8, 1998. Meanwhile, about two and a half years have passed since the notice was served by the BB.

Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury of UCBL who got notice on August 23. 1995, also filed civil petition before the Appellate Division which allowed stay order from July 7, 1997 till August 13, 1997. He also had his stay order extended till March 8. 1998. His case is pending for more than two years.

K Z Mahmood of NCCBL, Habibur Rahman of Pubali Bank, Md Yakub of Pubali Bank, Bazal Ahmed of UCBL, and Abdul Alim of National Bank Ltd (NBL) have all obtained stay orders from the HC and their cases have been pending before the Appellate Division for more than two years

and four months. Moazzem Hossain of NBL obtained stay order and his case is pending for over two years and three months.

The case of Abdul Hadi of City Bank has been pending for over two years and eight

months. M A Hashem of the same bank obtained injunction until further order on August 29, 1995 and the case is pending before the 5th Sub-Judge Court. Dhaka for over two and a half

Abul Khair Chowdhury of

UCBL obtained stay order on November 3, 1996 and the case has been pending for one year and three months. Sultana Hashem, Kazi Enamul Huq and Hazi Yunus Ahmed, all directors of UCBL, obtained stay orders for eight weeks in May, 1997. Those were

later extended. Their cases have

been pending for over nine

months. Others who also obtained stay orders are: Shafi A Chowdhury of Pubali Bank (in a separate case). Kazi Monirul Alam of NCCBL, Moulana Abdul Jabbar of Islami Bank, M A Khaleque of Prime Bank, Abdul Malek Mollah of Al-Arafah Bank, M N Amin of Social Investment Bank Ltd (SIBL), Dr J H Gazi of SIBL, Mohammad A Awal of NBL, Aminul Huq Chowdhury of IFIC, Khushi Akhter of Prime Bank, M A Hashem of City Bank, and Ibrahim Mia of City Bank. Their cases are pending for varying periods ranging from

one month to eight months.

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OBITUARY

Begum Jaynab Nessa, wife of Late Hassanuddin Sinha breathed her last on Monday, March 16, 1998, (Inna lilla he . . .). A Kulkhwani will be held today Thursday, March 19, 1998 after Asr prayer at Road No 12/A, House No 69, Dhanmondi and tomorrow Friday, March 20, 1998 at Vill: Dohori, Thana: Lawhajang, Dist: Munshigani

All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to participate in the Milad Mahfil and pray for the departed soul.

Sons & Daughters of Late Begum Jaynab Nessa

For hundreds of years, the south of China has enjoyed the exquisite cuisine of Canton, and now Serai is offering it to you in carefully selected authentic dishes. Serai opening March 19 with spectacular views from the top floor of the Aarong House 65-66 Mohakhali. RESTAURANT Open daily for lunch & dinner.

day was Tungipara, where sions and rallies across the

country.

out the country.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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