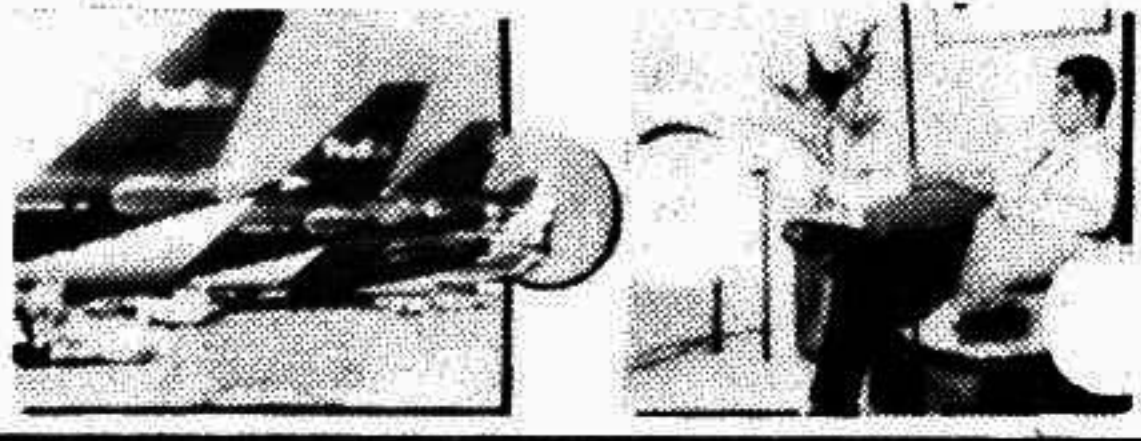


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Intra-SAARC investment flow should increase: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for expeditious adoption of regional investment agreement...

Trade and commerce minister of the Maldives Abdullah Yameen, finance and economic affairs minister of Pakistan Mohammad Ishaq Bar...

Investors as well. The prime minister said: 'While we seek investment from developed nations, we should ensure that surplus funds from member states of SAARC should flow into other member countries.'



A health worker administers polio vaccine to a child in the city on the second phase of the 5th National Immunisation Day yesterday.

Direct bus service Official talks with Delhi deferred

The official talks between Bangladesh and India for introducing direct bus service between the two countries are expected to be held in the third week of this month...

Earlier it was agreed that the talks would be held in New Delhi later this week.

A Bangladesh delegation comprising high officials of the ministries of Communications, Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs was due to leave today for India...

Replying to a question, the sources said there is nothing to worry about the delay.

Street drama

From Page 1 and Universal Theatre - presented their dramas.

Three more dramas will be staged today as part of the seven-day long National Street Drama Festival at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The main event of the Amar Ekushey programme, the month-long book fair will begin on the Bangla Academy premises on Friday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the fair as chief guest.

President's speech in JS Opposition MPs criticise, ruling party praise

Awami League and BNP legislators were of diametrically opposite views about the content of the President's speech as they continued debate in parliament over the presidential speech for the second day yesterday.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed delivered his annual speech in parliament on the opening day of this year's first session of Jatiya Sangsad on January 25.

Twelve MPs, six each from the Treasury and Opposition benches, made their deliveries on a motion of vote of thanks on the Presidential speech.

The ruling party MPs were all praise for the President as, according to them, the head of state rightly projected the performances of a successful government.

and activists across the country, shortfall in revenue collections, ruining of the country's industrial sector especially due to power crisis and so on.

The depression, formed over southwest and adjoining southeast Bay yesterday, further intensified and moved slightly north-westwards, reports UNB.

Maximum sustained wind within 44-km of the depression centre is about 40-kilometre per hour, rising to 50 kph in gusts or squalls.

JS snippets

By Nazmul Ashraf

Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury, before taking up the day's agenda yesterday, greeted the Jatiya Sangsad members with Assalamu Alaikum and Aadaab.

As the BNP MPs continued their protests, a visibly angry Speaker ruled that both Salam and Aadaab are applicable.

Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives and Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman was ridiculed by some opposition members as he was found busy talking to some of the colleagues from the back benches while issues relating to his ministry were being talked about.

At this, the minister moved his chair to try to understand what was being discussed. But moments after, he resumed his discussion with those sitting behind him.

Large advertisement for CMC Computer Education featuring the slogan 'Sky is the limit' and '500,000 IT jobs in Europe still unfilled'.



End of the ordeal? Asma (middle), flanked by her mother (left) and doctors and nurses, walk into the operation theatre for the crucial kidney transplantation yesterday.

Asma

From Page 1 The Nephrology Department after the operation while her mother was moved to the general Post Operative Intensive Care Unit', he said.

It was the 112th kidney transplantation at the hospital. Other doctors said Asma, who regained consciousness after about one hour of the operation, urinated normally in over five months, excreting 900 cc of urine.

Scrap Sec 54 From Page 1 Instead of producing her before a magistrate within 24 hours of her arrest as required by Article 33 of the Constitution of Bangladesh, the police took her to nearby Razonan Police Station the next day.

Month-long int'l trade fair opens in city

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday coined a new slogan, 'prosperity through trade', and urged entrepreneurs from home and abroad to take advantage of the 'most liberal trade policy' and an investment-friendly atmosphere in the country to inject dynamism in the economy.

Almost all the sectors have been opened to the private sector, both local and foreign, and 'very attractive and encouraging opportunities and facilities have been offered for investment and trade', she said while inaugurating the month-long Fifth Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

Bangladesh has been able to draw world attention as an attractive investment spot. Stability in the country, a growth-up framework for market economy and government's reform measures and sincere efforts have been praised abroad, she said.

Gunfight

From Page 1 joint team of Motijheel and Shabujbagh police went to Wabha Colony in Bashabo area to rescue two transport workers at around 11 am.

Witnesses and locals said, sensing the presence of police, the gang started firing at them. Police retaliated with a number of shots. Lition received bullet wounds at his waist during the clash.

Two separate cases were lodged with Sabujbagh and Motijheel thanas in connection with the incident yesterday.

World Heritage Flag to fly in the Sundarbans from tomorrow

From Quazi Amanullah KHULNA, Feb 2: The World Heritage Flag will fly from February 4 in the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to declare 1,400-square-kilometre area of the Sundarbans as the 'World Heritage Site' at a simple ceremony at Heron Point when she will unveil the World Heritage Plaque, said an official source here.

From now on, extraction of forest and fish resources will not be allowed in the Site, the source said.

The entire Sundarbans will come under this project covering Nilkamal, Tiger Point, Kata and Kanchkhali. The command area will be increased in phases, said a forest official.

The source said the function will be held at Nilkamal, 60 kilometres off the Mongla port where approach roads have been built and jetties repaired and forest offices renovated for giving the place a festive look.

Among others, as many as 15 ministers, many members of parliament, senior officials and foreign diplomats are expected to attend the ceremony at the 300-capacity inaugural function venue.

Opposition

From Page 1 A number of senior opposition leaders, while talking to this correspondent, observed that the government was now taking the 'hard line' and was resorting to repression on the opposition parties 'beyond any limit', forcing them to opt for tougher agitation.

Meanwhile, opposition sources confirmed hectic attempts by the diplomatic circles in Dhaka to persuade BNP and other parties not to go for the planned hartal on February 9-10. Representatives of the diplomatic missions, mainly those of the US Embassy, continued their parleys with the key figures in the opposition, they said.

Ex-army chief

From Page 1 windows covered.

When asked about his meeting with the opposition leader, Mahub just shook hands with the newsmen and smiled. Pressed, he said he had come to exchange Eid greetings with her. 'See you again,' he told the journalists as he hurriedly got inside the jeep.

A senior BNP leader told The Daily Star that several former army generals, who went on retirement recently, would join BNP soon. They include Mahub and former major general Mohammad Subed Ali Bhuiyan. The leader said a few others would join after completion of their leave preparatory to retirement.

Sources said Bhuiyan, who was sent into retirement in December 1997, is currently active as a social worker and busy doing 'mass contact' at his hometown Daudkandi.

Advertisement for 'Gentleman, The President is Coming to your City' featuring a large image of a modern building.

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