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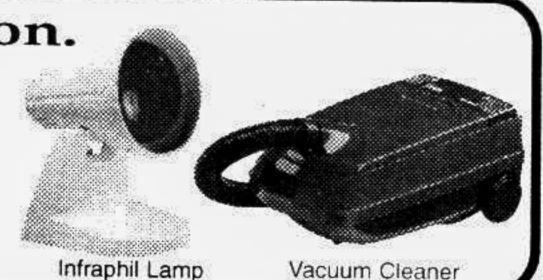
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## **UNESCO** award Clinton lauds Hasina's efforts to end CHT crisis

US President Bill Clinton on Friday congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her winning the UNESCO peace award and lauded her efforts to end the decades-old fighting in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, according to a message received in the city yesterday, reports BSS.
"The world heartily com-

mends your efforts," Clinton said, adding "the selection of Bangladesh prime minister to receive the prestigious award was justified.

He said Sheikh Hasina now joins a very select group that has been honoured.

In the message, which was received by Bangladesh ambassador to the USA K M Shehabuddin on Friday afternoon. the US President said, "please accept my sincere congratulations on your selection as one of the two recipients of UNESCO's 1998 Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize.'

President Clinton said. "your efforts leading to the signing of a peace accord to end the fighting in the Chittagong Hill Tracts reflect political courage and statesmanship of the highest order.

### Power failure

# Hartal at Barguna today

BARGUNA, Apr 10: Power Subscribers Association has called a half-day hartal in the town tomorrow protesting power frequent failure, reports

Barguna pourasava ward commissioner and convenor of the Association Mosharra Hossain Khan announced the 6hour hartal programme from 6 am at a press conference at Barguna press club this evening.

The association will also gherao the local power supply station and submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister through Deputy Commissioner. PDB officials here said the

power supply from Rupatoli station of Barisal district was snapped on April 7 due to technical fault.

They said it will take another 2-3 days to restore power supply in the district.

Meanwhile, staff of the local power supply station fled today when agitated people stormed the centre demanding immediate resumption of power supply.

## Hartal called at Jaintapur today

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Apr 10: A day-long hartal was called by the people of the Jaintapur thana tomorrow to press for 6 point-demand of the area.

The demands include job for the local people in the Occidental's proposed gasfield at Kapna, development of roads and educational institutions, expansion of gas supply to the Jaintapur thana.

Speakers at a meeting held at the Jaintapur bazar this afternoon said, the country's first gasfield was discovered in Jaintapur and a huge quantity of gas is being produced here, but the local people are not getting any benefit out of it.

#### Tokai From page 1

tivists more than an ordinary handyman.

One day, he was assigned to hide locally manufactured rifle during a police raid. From that day onward, there was no looking back. Mizan started taking part different heinous terrorist activities - gunfights, toll collection and what not.

In no time, he became one of the confidantes of Shamim and put in charge of the Zahurul Huq Hall in 1997. Since then he has occupied Room 208. While bona fide students grumble, the hall administration remains oblivious.

He is now a front-line terrorists under the BCL fold, masterminding a wide range of anti-social activities, dealing in phensydil being one of them.

There are several cases of murder and kidnapping filed against him with Lalbagh and Ramna police stations, including the killing of Ashike Goala, a tempo driver who was mur-

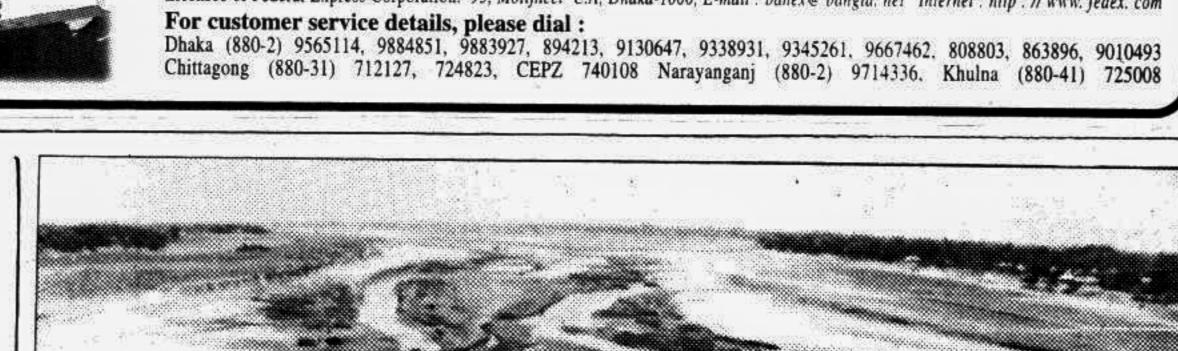
u. six months back. The Detective Branch made an abortive attempt Thursday night to nab him from Zahurul Haq Hall. He fled after an exchange of fire with the DB men. He fired at least four round of bullets at the DB men. Police is

yet to trace him. Meanwhile. DU authorities have formed a three-member probe body to investigate into the incident of Zahurul Haq Hall and asked it to submit the

report within 10 days. Mizan is not the only tokaiturned-terrorist on the campus. There are more. Yateem Rashid is one of them. Rashid, who stayed at a hall of residence be-

fore being ousted by Mizan. Tonai Molla, another nonstudent terrorist of BCL, was stabbed to death by his rivals in early 1998. He used to be the

canteen boy of Shahidullah It is an open secret now that terrorists use employees at canteen and dining rooms to hide their firearms during police raids.





#### The overflowing Padma during floods last year left heavy layers of sand on croplands in Harirampur thana, Manikganj, making them barren. - Star photo

# Siltation, crop failure hit thousands in Manikganj

By Abdul Jalil Bhuyian back from Manikganj

Azizur Rahman, a farmer at Dakkhin Chandpur village was sitting helplessly near his wilted peanut crop.

He is among about 10,000 farmers and share croppers in the village where about 80 acres of once-fertile crop lands have turned virtually barren by a heavy layer of sand, deposited during last year's devastating flood.

As the lands became unfit for paddy cultivation, they tried to grow peanut, but that also failed due to sand and drought. Most of them said they bought peanut seeds at high prices of Tk 2000-2200 per maund, investing whatever they had.

The situation in neighbouring Bhelabash village is no better. Farmers grew IRRI in about 50 acres but the paddy in most of the fields is becoming unsubstantial (cheeta).

There were drizzles in the last two days, but this will be of little use to the crops, they told a group of environment journalists who visited the area on Friday. Only a good shower can

be useful to the crops, they said. Many of the land owners have, by now, abandoned farming and turned to other professions, but the share croppers and farm labourers have nothing to do except cursing their

Many sharecroppers and

farm labourers have become

rickshawpullers or auto-rickshaw drivers. Many have sent their teenaged sons to Dhaka city to earn a living. - Added to crop failure, there is continued erosion by the

Padma. Jatin Chandra of village Bowta, Jalil Mian, Sheikh Rahman and Shakun Begum of Narayankandi, Oliullah, a medicine retailer of Dakkhin Chandpur bazar and a group of

farmers at Danestapur village told same stories. All of them said the government gives no agricultural loan in the area, fearing that it may be eroded by the mighty river. Gusai Das Mondol, an Assistant Teacher of Dakkhin down to about 500 from 1200 because families have settled elsewhere as their homesteads have been devoured by the Padma. Construction of the first

number of students has come

floor of the school building has been postponed as the school can be eroded by the river, he Five villages in the area un-

der Harirampur thana vanished

into the Padma in about one year, he said. The people in the area got no government help except rice doles under VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programme but that is stopped for about a

month now. The number of VGF cards is too inadequate, said Abdul Halim, a tailor at a local market. When asked, he however said there was no irregularity or influence by local leaders of the ruling party in distribution of the cards. The cards were distributed through Union Parishad chairmen and members, he said.

# Worst water crisis in city

Chandpur High School said the

thousands were seen running

for collecting water. In many residential areas, people complained that they had been unable to do normal

household activities such as

cooking and washing since the crisis began. As there was no alternative to WASA water in these areas. some households in narrow lanes could not benefit from the

emergency supplies by lorries. "We have had no water since Thursday. My three children and mother-in-law could not bathe today and use toilet due to the reasons," a resident of Jatrabari said yesterday.

Another resident said he and his six-member family had to decide to move out of their house to a relative's at Goran from Mugdapara. But there was no water in Mugdapara too.

Responding to the crisis. WASA deployed 10 more water lorries in addition to the 15 regular ones, each having capacity of carrying 800 gallons

From page 1

each other. Politicians deviated

from welfare-oriented politics

and resorted to power politics.

This led to division, conflicts,

mistrust in each other and cre-

ated an opportunity for the civil

and military bureaucrats as

well as other vested quarters to

indulge in corruption and ex-

ploit the commonman, they

prevailing socio-economic con-

dition, political situation and

law and order, they said if the

politicians fail to build consen-

sus on national issues, exis-

tence of the country o would be

bold defence policy in the pre-

sent perspective of global poli-

sion, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed

said a very small number of

people have materialised all

their hopes and aspirations af-

ter independence but the great

"We don't want to think India

On national security, he said

majority got nothing.

Taking part in the discus-

They stressed the need for a

Expressing concern at the

added.

endangered.

combat the emergency," a WASA engineer said. "It's the worst water crisis I

have witnessed in my life," the WASA engineer said. The WASA engineers were

working round the clock to restore water supply in the areas. However, although power supply resumed in most of the places by evening yesterday but there was not sufficient voltage

to put the pumps in operation. "A pump requires at least 380 volts to operate but in most cases we receive less than 360 volts of electricity. In such circumstances, we are unable to put the pumps in operation but public would not understand. They believe we are not putting on the pumps deliberately.

said another WASA engineer. Several hundred people blocked the road near the Saydabad over bridge for about three hours from morning yesterday demanding water and power supply. Riot police were deployed at the site. Demra thana

said that some of the water pumps in the Zones 1 and 2 were in full operation.

"Majority of the pumps in the zones resumed operation," a senior WASA official told the Daily Star.

Water supply in most of the areas under the two zones late yesterday evening. Many people who had earlier moved to different locations were seen returning home in Saidabad, Lalbagh, Nawabpur, Mugdapara

and Motifheel. Meanwhile, WASA has recently taken an extensive programme to increase its water supply capacity. They have taken two separate projects for installing water pumps in different parts of the city to boost

#### Deputy HC to Calcutta recalled By Staff Correspondent Sheikh Jalal Ahmed, Deputy

High Commissioner to Calcutta

No reason was mentioned in this regard. However informed sources said that his performance during Bangladesh delegation's visit to Calcutta Book Fair came under criticism from all quarters which may have

# tion would be endangered in case of failure to build consen-

sus on national issues, he said. Editor of the Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman blamed the politicians for the present situation in the country and said they are solely responsible for creating the gap between people's expectations and the real-

On defence policy, he said the generals have raised the issue after their retirement. But previously they were busy in strengthening the defence forces and increasing the number of their members.

On national consensus, he said he does not see any possibility of reaching this as the civil society and people from top to bottom are divided." Maj Gen (Retd) Ibrahim in

his paper said, "The clarion call of the hour is for a national reconciliation. Let every one who matters and every segment of the population confess every mistake they may have made and if needed apologise to the nation and then let all of us enter the next century as a united nation."

# Oust-govt movement soon: Khaleda

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said that her party would soon launch a one-point oust-government movement, reports UNB.

"We have no alternative to launching an oust-government movement. People do not want to see the Awami League gov-ernment in power as it has failed to meet basic needs of the people," she said.

Addressing a gathering of newcomers to BNP at 29 Minto Road in the evening, Begum Zia said there are many issues to pull down the government but now people have only one de-mand to remove this autocratic Over 500 leaders and sup-

porters of Awami League and Jatiya Party of Foolpur thana in Mymensingh district joined the BNP expressing allegiance to the leadership of Begum Zia. They included former DIG Ziauddin Ahmed Murad. Reacting to the arrest of

Alamgir Kabir, MP, BNP chief said the government implicated him in a false case fearing his popularity. She urged the newcomers to carry out party programmes on

April 15, 17 and 18 and be pre-

pared for the next course of

### anti-government agitation. JRC meet concludes

NEW DELHI, Apr 10: The 33rd meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) ended here today. reports BSS.

Minister for Water Resources, Abdur Razzak and the Indian Minister of State for Agriculture and Water Resources. Sompal led their respective sides at the two-day talks that stressed the issues of mutual interest in the field of water resources of both the countries, a joint communique

The two sides discussed the issues of tying up of embankments on the common rivers, sharing of the Ganges and Teesta waters, improvement of flood forecasting and warning, sharing of waters of other common rivers and problems of common rivers.

### Passengers of 4 buses robbed in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Apr 10: A group of dacoits equipped with firearms and other deadly weapons waylaid four passen-Cooperatives Minister Zillur ger buses at Baishtoli in the dis-Rahman today inaugurated the trict last night, police and witnewly-constituted Ghatail nesses said, reports BSS. Pourashava in Tangail district, They looted money, in clash, reports BSS.

gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk 31,350 from the bus passengers at gun

The dacoits left the scene with the booty safely, the sources said.

# Kushtia

From page 1

The law enforcing agencies do not know the exact number of arms possessed by the extremist groups in the region. They also failed to track down the outlaws despite drives from time to time.

According to reports, the outlaws belonging to Purba Banglar Communist Party and Sharbahara Party looted as many as 46 firearms in Jessore. Khulna and Bagerhat districts during the last one year and five months.

In the latest incident, 12 rifles and 155 bullets were looted from Akiz Jute Mills at Noapara in Jessore on the night of January 19, giving an insulting blow to the ongoing combing operation by BDR, police and

#### Khaleda

From page 1 would be held responsible for any consequences, Begum Zia warned. She said BNP has already

condemned the killing of two local Awami League leaders in Naogaon and called for pun-· ishment to the real culprits. Alamgir Kabir himself had condemned the killing and made a statement at a press

conference on April 7 where deputy opposition leader Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan demanded judicial probe into it. The BNP Chairperson said

whenever any killing and terrorism takes place, the government tries to shift the blame on BNP without unveiling the truth and detecting the culprits. She alleged that Chhatra Dal leader Sajal Chowdhury was

killed in firing from the vehicle of ruling party MP. A case has been lodged accusing the MP as the mastermind, but the government did not arrest him. Rather, the government arrested some witnesses, she said. Similarly, the government yet to arrest its party MP after unearthing bomb factory at his house at Chhatak. Many ruling

spite specific charges of murder. terrorism and occupation of land against them, she added. "Alamgir Kabir's arrest is another glaring example," Begum Zia said.

party MPs are moving freely de-

# NGOs for social movement against fundamentalism, terrorism & corruption

vice-chairperson Aroma Goon

ADAB treasurer Abdul Matin,

executive committee member

Shahidul Islam and executive

director of NGO "Usha" Hosne

development. A large number of NGO leaders and activists took

part in the discussion on the

were made for taking legal ac-

tions against those who, in a re-

cent public meeting at Paltan

Maidan, openly declared to es-tablish a "Taliban state" in

Bangladesh and overthrow the

elected government. The decla-

ration also condemned the

threat on the life of renowned

immediate implementation of

national education policy and

also introduction of identical

curriculum and education sys-

tem at all levels of education. It

also called for unearthing false

educational institutions and

demanded legal actions against

those involved in various cor-

rupt practices in the name of

running educational institu-

of the government to take steps

against oppression on women

and annulment of the laws

detrimental to the fundamental

rights of the people and the

spirit of the country's Constitu-

The declaration demanded

tions.

from the same meeting.

personalities and intellectuals

The declaration called for

In the declaration, demands

Noted journalist Abed Khan,

also spoke.

papers presented.

An emergency general meeting of the country's NGOs yesterday pledged to build up a 'social movement' against fundamentalism, terrorism and corruption for keeping the pace of development uninterrupted, Ara presented four separate pa-pers on 'impending dangers of fundamentalism and national reports BSS.

The meeting, attended by over 600 Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) member-organisations. in a unanimously adopted declaration also called for recasting the bureaucracy and law enforcing agencies to free them from corruption and make them accountable to the people. The declaration called upon

the members of civil society, NGOs, people's organisations, grass-roots level, intellectuals writers, journalists, litterateurs, freedom fighters, cultural activists and professionals to fight fundamentalists, terrorists and corrupt elements.

It also urged the government for taking drastic action against fundamentalists and corrupt forces which were out to destroy social values and development activities. Disapproving opposition's

frequent "hartal-calls" which disrupt peace, stability, progress and development," the declaration urged various political parties to find out alternative to hartal. Held at the LGED Bhaban,

the meeting was chaired by ADAB chairperson and Proshika president Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed while ADAB director Shamsul Huda gave introductory speech. ADAB

From page 1

and frozen foods have been

added recently, though on a

to import more non-traditional

On Tuesday Li Peng will lay

the foundation stone of Banga-

bandhu International Confer-

ence Centre which is being con-

structed with a Chinese inter-

est-free soft loan of 24 million

dollars. The two-storied com-

plex will have a floor space of

20,000 square feet and include a

1500-seat plenary hall. The

construction work will be su-

pervised by Chinese engineers

Ghatail now

pourashava

TANGAIL, Apr 10: LGRD and

Addressing the inaugural

function he said the govern-

ment has created 51 new

pourashavas during the last two

and a half years to fulfil peo-

ple's demands. The government

of Sheikh Hasina is pledge-

bound to work for people's

progress and it has been work-

ing ceaselessly for that purpose,

rejected those who are calling

hartal, creating anarchy and

violence and involved in sub-

versive activities in the name of

opposition politics.

Zillur said the people have

he said.

deficit," said an official.

"Our stress will be on China

small scale.

Li Peng due tomorrow and builders and the complex is being built keeping in view the NAM Summit in Dhaka in 2001. The loan would be paid back in cash and through commodity exchange, with a 10-

items to balance the trade year moratorium. Beijing is expected to commit assistance for the construction of a bridge at Gab Khan in Jhalakathi. This would be the fifth bridge involving Chinese assistance.

During the forthcoming visit of Li Peng, the date for the next meeting of Bangladesh-China Joint Economic Commission is. likely to be fixed. His visit this time will take

him to Greece. Turkey and Pak-He will leave Dhaka on Tuesday at 3:30 pm.

# Iranian army commander

TEHRAN, Apr 10: An Iranian army commander was assassinated today while on his way to work, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported, says AP.

assassinated

The agency identified the officer as Brig. Ali Sayyad Shirazi, deputy chief of the joint staff command of the armed It said Shirazi, a senior

army commander during Iran's 1980-88 war with Iraq, was assassinated by 'terrorists.' a common euphemism for the Iraq-based opposition group Mujahideen Khalq.

#### Judicial enquiry into BDR firing in Jaintapur demanded

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 10: Judicial enquiry into the BDR firing in which one person was killed was demanded at a rally at Haripur bazar of Jaintapur thana yesterday.

The rally also threatened to call a day-long strike on April 21 in the thana if immediate measures are not taken.

Presided over by Fatehpur UP chairman M A Matin, the rally was also addressed by Sylhet district BNP Vice-President Advocate Nurul Haque, ex-UZ chairman Md Abdullah, ex-UP chairman Alhaj Modoris Ali, UP Chairman İsmail Ali, UP Chairman Alhaj Rashid Ali, ex-Chairman Moulvi Rahmatullah and Advocate Mohammad

The speakers alleged that the BDR men had been harassing poor traders even in the areas much far from the borders in the name of anti-smuggling drive. They demanded probe into the incident by an additional District Judge. The agitators demanded financial assistance for the family members of trader Jalaluddin who was killed in the BDR firing and financial help for Shafiqur Rahman, who sustained bullet wounds.

The BDR opened fire on a group of betel leaf traders at village Bagerkhal under Jaintapur thana on April 1. BDR alleged smuggling while the traders said that the BDR men demanded toll from them. As then refused to pay toll the BDR men opened fire. The spot is at least 30 miles off the border, the traders said.

# 12 killed

From page 1 Abdur Rashid, 10, Jasim Hossain, 22, Yunus, 55 and Latif,

Of them, Yunus and Latif drowned in boat capsize in river Meghna during the nor'wester while the rest were buried under debris of their houses or fallen

According to officials, as many as 411 anchored small fishing boats and three passenger launches sank in the Meghna during the storm.

They said some 1172 thatched houses were damaged totally and 1,428 partially. Also affected in the tropical storms are 317 business establishments, two colleges, six high schools. 10 primary schools and 11 madrassah.

The storms lashed 17-kilometre area of the thana affecting the chars like Krishnapur. Gazaria, Alexzander, Basu. Pagla, Kadira, Kalkini, Balurchar Balab and Kalakupa

Power supply in the areas also snapped as the raging storms levelled 17 electric poles. The severe nor'wester that

struck Bakerganj, Bhola and Patuakhali on Friday claimed four lives. The deceased were identified as Solaiman, 11, of village Laxmipasha and Abdul Khan, 90, of Niamati union in Baker-

ganj, Rezaul Haq, 25, of Taju-

moddin in Bhola and Nupur, 7

in Mirzaganj under Patuakhali

# CHANGE OF ADDRESS NEW ADDRESS Janata Bank Dilkusha Corporate Branch 29 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000 Long-Term Partner for Success The branch has been shifted on the 11th April '99 OLD ADDRESS Janata Bank Dilkusha Corporate Branch 23 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000 Janata Bank

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DHAKA BANGLADESH

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#### has been recalled, diplomatic of water, and five stationary Sporadic reports of violence water tanks in these areas yeswere also reported from various terday. other areas of the affected zones The stationary water tanks yesterday. Small processions were placed each at Saidabad, were also brought out. Police Arambagh, Gendaria, Mugdaconfirmed minor violences in para and Jatrabari. "We have at least two places in Demra requisitioned two fire brigade and Jatrabari. and eight municipal vehicles to WASA officials last night led to his recall. Corruption by bureaucrats

as our enemy. Let India be our

friend but we have to remain

alert so that it cannot become

our master." All irrespective of

party affiliation and opinion

should unite on the issue of na-

Shawkat Ali said the leadership

and the politicians have

miserably failed to utilise peo-

ple's power in nation building

he said it is not a "very tough"

task if there is a consensus on

quzzaman urged the leadership

to come out of the 'vicious circle

of power politics' and build con-

sensus on national issues with-

Rahman Khan, said the World

Bank wants to see the develop-

ing countries like Bangladesh

"remain in the same position."

ruling party MP KM Shafiullah

regretted that the difference

among political parties is

widening .The future of the na-

Another BNP MP, Ziaur

Former army chief and now

out wasting time any more.

On elimination of terrorism,

BNP MP Mohammad Khale-

Ruling party MP Col (Retd)

tional security, he added.

activities.

the issue.