World newspaper exhibition: The time of the New Millennium World Newspaper Exhibition has been extended for two more days. Venue: National Museum. Shahbagh. It will remain open from 3 pm to 7.30 pm on Friday and from 9.30 am to 5 pm on Saturday.

Drawing competition: Padatik Natya Sangsad organises a drawing competition for the children to mark the Ekushey February. Venue: Shishu Academy. Time: 10 am.

Discussion on PSA: Bangladesh Manobdhikar Sammonnoy Parishad Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh has organised a discussion on 'Public Safety Act and Human Rights. Venue: Gano Unnayan Granthagar auditorium. Time: 3.30 pm.

Workshop: A two-day regional workshop on 'Settlement of the Urban Poor: Challenges for the New Millennium," will begin. Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP) and ADAB will jointly organise the regional workshop. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium. Chameli House, 17, Topkhana Road.

Confce on N-disarmament: The three-day international conference on Nuclear Disarmament in South and Southeast Asia will begin. Organisers: Community Development Library and FOCUS on the Global South. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 9 am.

Mass rally: USC Canada-Bangladesh in collaboration with Adolescent Development Forum-Bangladesh organises a mass rally to mark the Adolescent Day. Route: Shahbagh National Museum to Jatiya Press Club. Time: 9 am.

IUBAT workshop: International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) is organising a 3-day workshop on 'Economic Management' in collaboration with the Canadian Consortium of Management Schools (CCMS) and Dalhousie University, Canada. Venue: IUBAT campus, Dhanmandi.

Annual convention: The seventh annual convention and scientific seminar of Bangladesh Gastroenterology Society will be held. Chief guest: Dr M Amanullah, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare. Venue: BCPS auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 9.00 am.

Charity Bazar : Zonta Club IV will hold a day-long Charity Bazar and food festival in aid of acid burn victims. Venue: RAOWA Club ground, New DOHS. Time: 10.00 am - 5.00

Annual sports '99: Nayan Action Foundation (NAF) holds the annual sports '99 for Jiban Sena under the ISCO Programme. Chief guest: Prof Jinatun Nessa Talukdar, State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs. Venue: Lalmatia Housing Society Boys School Playground. Time: 9.00 am.

Int'l workshop: A two-day international workshop on Small-scale Food Processing for Sustainable Livelihood in Asia begins. Organiser: Intermediate Technology Group-Bangladesh, a UK based international development organisation. Chief guest: Amir Hossain Amu, Minister for Food. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9.30 am.

Debate: . North South University Debating Club in association with Democracywatch begins the eight day long 'Democracywatch Democracy Debates'. Venue: North South University Hallroom. Time: 11.00 am.

Workshop: A weeklong workshop on 'Carbon Dioxide Enrichment Rice Research and Policy Interaction begins. Organisers: National IGBP Committee of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences. South Asian Committee (SASCOM) of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGE"). Asia Pacific Network (APN), BARC and SPARRSO. Venue: BARC auditorium. Time: 3.00 pm.

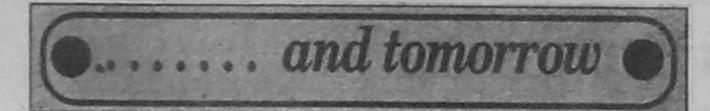
Photography exhibition: The High Commission of India and Pathashala - The South Asian Institute of Photography will begin a two-week long exhibition of photographs taken by Raghu Rai. Venue: Drik Gallery, House No 58. Road No 15/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4.30 pm.

Discussion meeting: A discussion meeting on Public Safety Act, 2000: A Jurisprudential Overview will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) seminar room, House-No 22. Rd No Z, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 3.30 pm.

FEMA discussion meeting: Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) in collaboration with Study and Research Group of MSS will hold a discussion meeting on the present political impasse. Venue: Seminar room of IDB Bhaban. Sher-e-Banglanagar. Time: 4:00 pm.

Inauguration: The two weeklong annual exhibition of the Institute of Fine Art, Dhaka University will be inaugurated. Venue: IFA premises. Time: 4.30 pm.

Classical vocal recitation: Indian Council for Cultural Relations and The High Commission of India holds an evening of classical vocal recitation by Madhup Mudga Venue: National Museum auditorium, Shahbagh, Time: 6.30 p...l.



Discussion meeting: Bangladesh Arthanity Samity will hold a discussion meeting on 'Study of Economics in Bengali: Problems and Scope of Research.' Venue: Planning and Development Academy auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 10.00

Ghazal evening: The National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh will organise a solo ghazal evening by Tamanna Khanam Kanti. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Rd No 7, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.30 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Light rain may occur at one or two places over Khulna and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country with partly cloudy sky over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius, Met Office

Yesterday's highest temperature of 28.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna and Hatiya and the lowest of 9 degree Celsius at Sitakunda.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.55 pm and rises tomorrow

(Saturday) at 6.29 am. Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
Dhaka	Max 24.8	Min 13.8	Morning Evening	
			69	43
Chittagong	27.7	13.0	66	50
Rajshahi	26.2	11.0	84	71
Khulna	28.3	11.8	70	50
Barisal	27.2	10.0	85	62
Sylhet	25.7	13.4	79	56
Cox's Bazar	27.8	13.6	50	58

Explosion in rice mill: Death toll

rises to 5

JOYPURHAT, Feb 17: The death toll in the boiler explosion at a rice mill rose to five after another injured died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital today, reports UNB.

On February 11, three workers were killed and three others injured in the explosion at the rice mill at Hichmi area, four km off the district headquar-

Seriously injured Bulu Mia, 35. Nurul Islam, 34. and Jasimuddin, 40, were admitted to Joypurhat General Hospital and later shifted to RMCH. Bulu succumbed to his injures on Sunday.

Nurul Islam died today while condition of Jasimuddin was stated to be critical.

No hartal in Pirojpur

PIROJPUR, Feb 17: No hartal was observed in Pirojpur on the final day today of the opposition-called hartal three-day shut down, reports BSS.

Traffic movement in the district was unhindered and all offices, business houses and financial institutions worked uninterrupted.

> 17 miscreants held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Feb 17: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) rounded up 17 miscreants from different areas of the city today, reports BSS.

Police said absconders, violators of CMP Act and terrorists were among the arrested.



BNP activists brought out a procession in the city's Bijoy Nagar area during the hartal - Star photo hours yesterday.



Police patrolling the overbridge at Jatrabari during the hartal hours yesterday. - Star photo

Video art film show today

A two-day long video art film exhibition titled "Nordic Video Week" will be held at the Institute of Fine Arts (IFA) premises today and tomorrow, says a press release.

The exhibition, sponsored by Olaf Palmes Foundation. will feature four video art films by Andreas Nordin, Ajhar Uddin Ahmed, Andreas Nilsson, and Mattias Nordstrom.

The film show will begin at 7 pm daily.

Puja Committee Family Day The Mohanagar Sarbajanin

Puja Committee will hold its Paribar Dibash (family day) on the Dhakeshwari Mandir premises today, reports BSS. The day-long programmes include staging of a drama -

"Moyur Singhashan" by Aranyak. Justice Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya will attend the

function as chief guest while Major Gen (retd) C R Datta, Bir Uttam, will inaugurate the programme.

US embassy closed on Feb 20, 21

The offices of the US Embassy and the United States Information Service (USIS) in Dhaka will be closed on February 20 and February 21 on the occasions of President's Day and Mother Language Day, a USIS press release said, reports

It said the President's Day is a national day, which is celebrated throughout the United States to honour all Presidents of the country.

Death anniversary



death anniversary of Manu Munshi. founder member of Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association

The second

will be observed today, says a press release. On the occasion Qurankh-

wani and feeding of the destitute programme will be held at his Azimpur residence at noon. A milad mahfil will also be held at the association office after A r prayers. * * * *

The second death anniversary of Abdur Razzak Khan, former president of Jessore Chamber of Commerce and former executive committee member of FBCCI, will be observed today, says a press re-Khan died while attending

the SAPTA Conference in Delhi in 1998.

Chehlum

The chehlum of Altaf Husain will be held after Asr prayers today at his residence at House No 84, Road No 13, Block-C, Banani, says a press release. Altaí Husain died on Jan-

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the chelilum and pray for the departed soul.

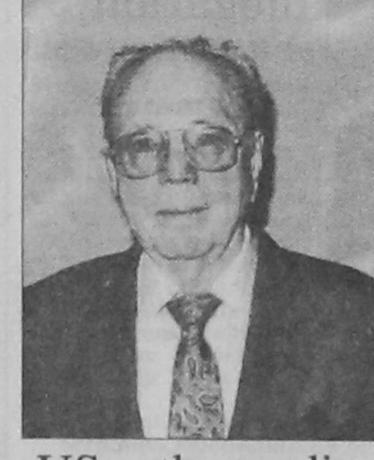
ICDDR,B fund-raising event tonight

By Staff Correspondent International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) will hold a fund-raising event at Hotel Sonargaon in aid of its Hospital Endowment Fund with a slogan We are saving lives.

The event will feature live music, raffle draw and dinner. Prizes will include airlines

The entrance ticket per person has been fixed at Tk 1500. ICDDR,B provides treatment to some 300 patients everyday. Apart from its medical services, the centre has also come up with such research resultants as the life-saving Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS).

In our news item published yesterday, the venue of the event was inadvertently published as Hotel Sheraton instead of Hotel Sonargaon. The mistake is regretted.



US orthopaedic surgeon due tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent Professor R J Garst, a noted orthopaedic surgeon of USA, will arrive in the city on Saturday next. He will leave on February 27, a press release of the Orthopaedic Hospital said. An expert will accompany

him during his visit for taking necessary measures to modernise the artificial human organ-manufacturing workshop of the Orthopaedic Hospital and Rehabilitation Organisation. the press release added.

Mummy murder Bail petition of 3 accused rejected

From A Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 17: The District and Sessions Judge Court today rejected the ball petition of three accused in the sensational Mahmuda Sultana Mummy Murder Case.

Court source said, the three accused in the case - husband of Mummy. Abul Kalam Azad Ripon, sister-in-law, Roksana Yasmin and mother-in-law Monwara Begum - were not produced in the court due to hartal.

Police also could not make the charge due to hartal. The hearing of the case took place in the court at 11 am.

PSA to help stop illegal toll collection on roads: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday execution of the Public Safety Act would help stop illegal toll collection and musclemanry on roads and urged transport workers to strictly follow traffic rule for safe journey of passengers, reports UNB.

"Strict provision has been made in the Public Safety Act against illegal toll collection, mastani and dacoity by felling trees on highways ... Whoever commits crimes would be punished," she told a meeting of representatives of Bangladesh Road Transport Federation at her office.

Hasina warned that the government would not allow occupation of terminals by force and business of illegal drugs and phensidyl run with the help of a section of transport work-Responding to 11-point de-

prime minister said most of the demands were in the process of implementation and other legitimate ones would be consid-A committee has been work-

mand of the Federation, the

ing to make recommendation to remove flaws in the labour laws, she told the union leaders and assured that minimum wages for transport workers would be looked into. She assured them that the

government would make a lump grant to transport workers welfare fund. Hasina said necessary in-

structions had already been given to apply Section 304 (Kha) instead of Section 302 in case of any road accident. She urged the federation

leaders to ensure that traffic rules are strictly followed. She said high speed, carrying excess goods and passengers and overduty of drivers led to accidents in most cases. Hasina also asked them to remain vigilant against fake driving licences.

Mentioning government's various measures to ease traffic congestion, the prime minister said three additional terminals and flyovers would be constructed in and around Dhaka city. Roads were also being widened.

Full text of the Public Safety (Special Provision) Act in Bangla on pages 8 and 9.

PSA

From page 1 case filed by a businessman in North Kafrul area, accusing him and four others of kidnapping his son and demanding ransom, police said.

Others accused in the case

were yet to be arrested. Four cases - two each with Demra and Sutrapur thanas in the city - were filed under the PSA yesterday, police said.

None of the accused could be arrested till the filing of this report last night. UNB adds from Comilla: A case was filed against six

snatchers with Kotwali police

here yesterday under the Public

Safety Act. This is the first case under PSA in the district. Police caught the alleged snatchers while they were trying to rob one Kabir, taking him at a lonely place.

Adulterated food

From page 1 year training. But sources said, in addition to 13 trainees, about 12 inspectors "are regularly

doing their beat". When contacted, DCC's Chief Health Officer Ashraf Uddin said activities of the PHL could not be geared up due to shortage of manpower. He however said 'hundreds' of cases have been filed with the DCC court against unscrupulous traders and businessmen who sold or displayed adulterated food stuff.

He said the health department could not even evict unauthorised butcher shops and restaurants due to lack of logistics. He said they had a year long scheduled program for a crackdown but it could not be implemented as DCC's Estate Department could not provide assistance.

But Chief Estate Officer Ehsanul Fattah said that eviction of such unauthorised establishments was at the bottom of DCC's priority list. The DCC is now busy seizing illegal rickshaws, he said.

The General Manager (Transport) who has magistracy power, has been given the responsibility to evict illegal meat shops but the drive is yet to take off," Fattah said.

The PHL remained almost inactive since the DCC office was shifted from Luxmibazar to Nagar Bhaban more than two years ago. The PHL was also shifted to a new office in May last year. New equipment were bought and the building housing the laboratory was given a facelift. The Daily Star had earlier published several reports on the FHL.

According to municipal laws, the PHL is the sole authority in the city to test food items. Inspectors can prosecute the offenders. According to the Pure Food Ordinance, 1959 and the Pure Food Rules, 1957, any one found adulterating foodstuff can be fined up to Tk 4,000 or sentenced to three months' imprisonment or both.

50 injured

From page 1 tral leaders Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Abdus Salam, Ziauddin Ahmed Murad and Rezvi Ahmed led the BNP proces-

Processions of other parties were led by their respective leaders.

Awami League and its front organisations also brought out separate anti-hartal processions at Bangabandhu Avenue, Topkhana Road, Motifheel, Dholairpar and Shahbagh areas and held a rally at Muktangan in the afternoon.

Except two domestic flights of Biman, all domestic and international flights operated normally. Train and launch services were normal, according to sources in Bangladesh Railway and BIWTA. A good number of auto-rick-

shaws, private minibuses and some state - run BRTC buses plied some specific roads in the city while movement of rickshaws was almost normal.

Educational institutions, business establishments, shops, shopping complexes and most of the private offices remained closed. Some shops at Farmgate, Moghbazar, Santinagar and Khilgaon were seen open yesterday.

Attendance in the Secretariat and other government offices was thin.

Some commercial anks in the city did transaction behind closed doors.

There was no business at Dhaka Stock Exchange during the three day hartal, DSE officials said. In Khulna city, ten people

were injured in two incidents of

clash between activists of BNP and Awami League. Our correspondent from Rajshahi reported that said activists of both AL and BNP went on rampage in the city during

the hartal hours.

AL activists brought out an anti-hartal procession at about I lam and pelted stones at some buildings belonging to BNP leaders at Sovadighi crossing. attacked a Rupali Bank branch at Shaheb Bazar, a residential hotel owned by a BNP leader and two shops in presence of police and BDR

The AL activists also attempted to attack the local BNP office and Rajshahi City Corporation office, but police obstructed them.

BNP activists exploded several bombs and ransacked two shops and damaged two motor bikes in the court area in the city. Pickets also pelted stones on a shuttle train standing at Rajshahi Court Station. At Netrokona, a clash be-

tween pro - and anti-hartal activists at Kendua College in the afternoon left a JCD leader bullet-hit and a Chhatra League leader stabbed.

Clinton: Kashmir talks

Clinton's visit to South Asia during the week of March 20 will be the first by a US president since former President Jimmy Carter made a trip to the region in 1978.

Pakistan's military ruler Army Gen. Pervez Musharraf. who ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a bloodless coup on October 12, has urged Clinton not to boycott Pakistan presidential visit.

during the trip. Skipping Pakistan could chill US ties with Islamabad, which was a Cold War ally of the tralise US concerns about ter-United States and a main conduit for arms to the guerillas who fought against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

The White House has so far said Clinton would visit India and Bangladesh, but US officials have not ruled out the possibility of his making a quick, airport stop in Pakistan as a gesture of goodwill.

Clinton said he believed India and Pakistan could flourish if they found a way to live with each other in peace.

"It is heartbreaking to me to see how much they hold each other back by being trapped in yesterday's conflicts," he said. "If the tensions between India and Pakistan... could be resolved the Indian subcontinent might very well be the great success story of the next 50 years," he said.

Earlier AP says: India and Pakistan have fought two wars over disputed Kashmir. Their simmering dispute over the part of the Himalayan state controlled by India is considered even more dangerous now that they both have exploded nuclear devices. Clinton intends to visit India

and also Bangladesh in March. but has taken no decision on Pakistan, This week, Sandy Berger, his assistant for national security affairs, met with several academics at the White House to discuss a possible presidential visit. Clinton said he would base

his decision on what would best serve US interests in trying to stop "a nuclear arms race."

There is a precedent for going to India and not to Pak-

istan. President Jimmy Carter

pected of supporting terrorist groups that attack Hindus in Kashmir weighs against a

trends. Gen Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's military ruler, urged Clinton earlier this month not to bypass his country, saying a visit would go a long way toward easing tensions with India.

At a House International Relations Committee hearing. Gejdenson criticised Musharraf for undercutting the country's court system and for preparing to try former President Nawaz Sharif.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who was testifying. "many of us in Congress have felt tremendous frustration. first with the coup, second, now, with the assault on the judiciary, the connection, at least, with some elements of terrorists and obviously the connection with the Taliban," the group that controls most of

Albright told the committee. however, that 'We have to remember the very important relationship that we have had

Irish-American deal

From page 1 9 shelved. At that time, Tullow pressed for an equity sharing formula where it gets 45 per cent, Chevron-Texaco 45 and BAPEX 10.

However, after US President Bill Clinton's schedule for Dhaka visit was announced last month, the government took steps to revitalise the Second Round Block Bidding process with special focus on the US companies. As part of these steps, Chevron-Texaco were invited along with other American oil companies which were somewhat discontinuing with

the bidding process. The energy ministry and Petrobangla jointly resumed the negotiation process on Monday. They have already held new rounds of talks with Shell and Unocal-- both of whom expressed their reluc-

tance to drill exploratory well. The energy secretary instructed the officials yesterday to take steps and prepare a draft PSC at least with Unocal by February 25, so that by the time the US President visits Bangladesh, an agreement may be signed.

Tullow, an oil company that has a total annual revenue of around five million Irish pounds, was selected by the government out of six bidders trying to win block 9 in the second round bid floated in mid-1997. Tullow was also offered block

Although Tullow's financial health and experiences are not as sound as Shell, Mobil, Chevron-Texaco and Petronas. the government chose it on the ground of their work programme for both blocks 9 and

Soon after the offer was made to Tullow, the government started seeking a 'financially strong' oil company or group of companies. In this process, the Mobil-Petronas joint venture, that had proposed a carried over interest of 20 per cent to BAPEX, was invited first and then Chevron-Texaco. Mobil-Petronas was at first asked to tie up with Tullow for both the blocks. At that time Mobil-Petronas expressed their reservations about the work programme and a week later, the government deferred its original proposal and suggested them to tie up for block 11 only.

then said they were interested in the negotiations only if they were offered partnership in both the blocks. They were never invited after taking this stance. Ultimately, Tullow-

programme. Mobil-Petronas

Chevron-Texaco talks failed

and Chevron-Texaco left

doctor who owns a homeo By that time, Chevron-Texaco was invited to talks and they accepted Tullow's work

memory.

pharmaceutical shop at Feni yesterday, on charges of supplying rectified spirit to different outlets in the district. Police. however, could not nab the owner of another homeo hall during a raid yesterday. District administration has

formed a three-member com-

mittee to probe the biggest alco-

holic tragedy of Feni in recent



Police arrested two young men from Purana Paltan area yesterday during the hartal hours - Star photo and recovered a revolver.

From page 1

did that in 1978.

The fact that Pakistan is under military rule and is sus-

Pakistan sen. a cabinet minister, Omar Asghar Khan, here this week to try to neu-

rorism and anti-democratic

But Rep. Sam Gejdenson, said Wednesday that "it would be the wrong signal to send."

"Obviously," Gejdenson told Afghanistan.

with Pakistan."

She said it had been interrupted, and that the Clinton administration consistently had urged Musharraf "to move in terms of some measurable millstones of a return to civilian government."

Bangladesh making a last 'stand alone' offer that sought no purchase guarantee of gas in

> However, such a lucrative offer did not attract the government, which clearly showed its preference to Tullow. In the last two years, Tullow's financial health deteriorated further and it incurred a net loss of 17.9 million Irish

case of discovery, typically a

headache for the government.

pounds against a total income of 4.9 million pounds in 1998. Sources further indicated that Tullow could be offered block 11 later, thanks to a strong political lobby. The decision on block 11 remains suspended and the government did not invite Malaysian company Petronas. Petronas' American partner in this block, Mobil,

officially withdrew from the bid early last year. "It is clear that only American companies, with the exception of Tullow, were getting preference this time," observed

Block 9 was originally intended to be kept for exploration and development by BAPEX as it already has huge seismic data and it would require comparatively lower investment to develop any gas field since the national gas grid goes right through the heart of

this block.

12 killed in Bihar polls violence

PATNA, Feb 17: Violence and election fraud marred the second phase of polling in the eastern Indian state of Bihar today, leaving 12 people dead and at least 19 seriously injured, police said, reports AP.

Activists of the ruling

Rashtriya Janata Dal allegedly

shot dead a member of Prime

Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's

Bharatiya Janata Party in northern Bihar, said police officials in Patna, the state capi-

Feni tragedy From page 1 hospitals and clinics at Feni. Earlier, police arrested a