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## Clinton's visit Dhaka may request for revising itinerary

**Diplomatic Correspondent**  
Dhaka is likely to request Washington to revise the itinerary of President Bill Clinton's visit to Bangladesh. A communication to this effect will be sent through diplomatic channel, sources concerned said.  
The decision to make the request follows reports that the US President will arrive in Delhi on March 19, stay there overnight and then proceed on his day-long visit to Dhaka on March 20. He will return to Delhi in the evening and begin his five-day tour of India from March 21.  
No reason for the US President's trip to Dhaka via Delhi was communicated to the authorities here.  
However, a highly placed diplomatic source said officials in Washington linked with Clinton's visit are learnt to have been "needlessly worried" about the President's security.  
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## Youngone fined Tk 20cr for tax evasion

**By M Shamsur Rahman**  
The Customs authorities have fined a top Korean company Tk 20 crore for evading Tk 35 crore taxes.  
The Company - Youngone Hightech Sportswear Industries Ltd - was directed by the Commissioner of Customs, Excise and VAT yesterday to immediately pay the fine and the evaded taxes.  
The company imports duty free cloth under bonded facility for manufacturing sportswear for export. Its factory is situated in the Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) at Savar.  
The most horrifying thing is that the owners of the company are also owners of the lone foreign-owned export processing zone in the country in Chittagong," the Commissioner said in the order.  
"During the course of hearing and inspection, it became clear that some of the companies in the export processing zones do not care laws of the country and resort to illegal acts for their own benefit," the order said.  
He said that the EPZ authorities and the customs officials concerned also failed to perform their duties properly.  
"If the activities of the industries located in the EPZs are not closely monitored, revenue and industrial interest will be seriously affected," the order said.  
During inspection, a customs team found serious discrepancies in the actual stock and the 'closing balance' as per the register maintained by the company.  
The Assistant Audit Com-  
See page 11 col 3

## Ekushey programme Showcause notices on 9 BTV men

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Two producers, one executive producer, the chief photographer and five other photographers of Bangladesh Television have been served with showcause notices for 'negligence' in broadcasting live the Amar Ekushey programme from the Central Shaheed Minar on February 20 midnight.  
Serving the show-cause notices, the general manager of BTV asked the nine staff to reply to the notices by noon today.  
They were asked to showcause why they 'tarnished' the image of the Bangladesh Television by failing to maintain due solemnity of the programme while putting it on air.  
"All of us received the notices today (Tuesday) with utter surprise. Where does the BTV authorities find fault in airing the Ekushey programme," wondered one of the notice recipients talking on condition of anonymity.  
He told Daily Star that though the notices did not carry any grievances regarding pro-  
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A child stands amidst the wreaths at Central Shaheed Minar in the city Monday evening. —Star photo

## Glowing tributes to martyrs

**By Staff Correspondent**  
The nation paid glowing tributes to the historic Language Movement martyrs on the Shaheed Day on February 21, pledging afresh to materialise the lofty ideals for which they had made the supreme sacrifice on that day in 1952.  
The Day bore special significance this year as the UNESCO has declared February 21 as the International Mother Language Day.  
For the first time, the Day was observed in the 188 UN-member countries.  
President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led the nation in paying homage to the martyrs by placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.  
The President placed wreaths at one minute past midnight Sunday night, followed by the Prime Minister. They stood there for some time in solemn silence.  
Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleeda Zia placed wreaths.  
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## Fresh quest for funds to feed Rohingya refugees

**By Reaz Ahmad**  
Amid a very slow pace of repatriation of Rohingya refugees, the UNHCR has made a fresh international appeal for funds to run the two camps in Cox's Bazar housing about 21,000 refugees.  
"Until there is an amicable solution to the refugee problem, we have to approach donors for funds," said an official at the Dhaka office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Positive response is expected, he told The Daily Star.  
"Since 1992, World Food Programme (WFP) provided food worth over 50 million US dollars for the Rohingya refugees. In running the camps, UNHCR had to seek funds from the international community several times despite a 'donor-fatigue' over the issue as refugee problems elsewhere shifted their focus.  
Out of some 21,000 Rohingyas residing in two refugee camps at Nayapara and Kutupalong in Cox's Bazar, only 7,000 have been recognized by Myanmar authorities as their citizens and are being taken back at the rate of 50 per week.  
As uncertainty loomed large over repatriation of the remaining 14,000, the UNHCR in  
See page 11 col 6

## Mother Language Day formally launched First step towards world peace

PARIS, Feb 22: UNESCO Director General Koichiro Matsuura formally launched International Mother Language Day here yesterday at UNESCO headquarters through an impressive and colourful ceremony, reports BSS.  
In his inaugural statement, the director general said mother language is one of the most appropriate ways of asserting our own identity and one cannot live without it as this carries our first notions of the world.  
He underscored that at a time when intolerance is the cause of many conflicts between peoples, promoting linguistic diversity and cultural pluralism will continue to be one of the prime objectives of the UNESCO.  
He thanked Bangladesh Ambassador Syed Muazzem Ali for the initiative that Bangladesh had taken in this regard and recalled the supreme sacrifice that the people of Bangladesh had made to preserve their language.  
Matsuura pointed out that the year 2000 has been proclaimed by the UN as the International Year of Culture and Peace and that the launching of the International Mother Language Day will be a first step towards world peace.  
The Bangladesh Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UNESCO, Syed Muazzem Ali, conveyed greetings and felicitations of President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The ambassador noted that every year on this day the people of Bangladesh not only pay homage to the martyrs, but also make a fresh vow to preserve and enrich their language, Bangla, which is spoken by more than 200 million in the world today.  
Syed Ali expressed his deep concern at the disappearance of a large number of languages and noted that this process must be halted and reserved, as mother languages are heritage of humankind.  
He hoped that UNESCO will undertake simple but cost-effective programmes for preservation, promotion and development of linguistic and cultural pluralism.  
Vigdis Finnbogadottir, UN-ESCO Goodwill Ambassador for  
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## AL led every struggle, says Hasina

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said it is Awami League which has brought the nation all its achievements.  
"Since its inception in 1949, the Awami League led each and every struggle for establishing the rights of the Bangalee nation - from the Language Movement in 1952 to the struggle for independence in 1971," she told a discussion meeting at Pallan Maidan in the city.  
The AL organised the meeting in connection with the International Mother Language Day that was observed across the world for the first time this year.  
Declaration of February 21 as the International Mother  
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**Inside Today**  
**Article**  
US President's visit to South Asia  
Why did President Clinton offer to mediate on Kashmir?  
by Harun ur Rashid  
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**Focus**  
Half of Bangladesh's population will live in cities by 2020  
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**Business**  
MCCI demands withdrawal of CIB report for capital financing by banks  
China, EU resume WTO talks  
DSE, CSE price quotations  
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**Prayer Timings**  
February 23

## Maj Gen JK Das made Quarter Master General

**By Special Correspondent**  
Major General Jiban Kanai Das has been appointed Quarter Master General (QMG) of the Bangladesh Army, sources concerned said.  
He is the senior most among five brigadiers promoted to the rank of major general on Sunday.  
Newly promoted Major General Abdul Matin, who is now Defence Attache in the Bangladesh Embassy in Delhi, on his return will take over charge as Area commander of Rangpur. The present Area Commander, Major General Nazmul Ahsan Amin, has been appointed Adjutant General.  
The post of full-fledged Area Commander of Bogra fell vacant following the withdrawal of Major General Anwar Hossain some months back. The post will now be filled up.  
It may be mentioned here that name of newly promoted Major General N A Rafiqul Hossain was inadvertently printed  
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Arsenic victim Mannan at Dhaka Community Hospital. — Star photo

## Arsenic poisoning Gangrene slowly eating away Mannan

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Gangrene is slowly eating away at Abdul Mannan, one of arsenic poisoning's latest victims.  
"We used to drink the water from a tube well for about fifteen years," said Mannan, who operates a tea stall to support his two brothers and two sisters. "But I haven't drunk water from it for the last six months. I was drinking water from a nearby pond after boiling and filtering it."  
"However, when my left foot swelled and turned black in December, one of the doctors told me I had developed problems from drinking contaminated tube well water."  
A team of doctors from Dhaka Community Hospital found Mannan, 27, during an arsenic screening at Rangaj police station in Noakhali district this month.  
Mannan arrived at the hospital on Friday. Doctors said they feared that Mannan, the father of a two-year-old daughter, could lose all the toes on his left foot, despite his precautions.  
Prof. Quazi Quamaruzzaman, chairman of Dhaka Community Hospital, said anyone who drinks arsenic contaminated water for about nine months could develop gangrene or cancer even after switching to arsenic-free water.  
The arrested accomplices of notorious Ershad Shikdar were being interrogated by a joint team of KMP and DMP personnel in Mirpur thana custody till filing of this report tonight.  
Meanwhile, people from all walks of life under the banner of 'Khulna Citizens' Committee' have again demanded immediate punishment to Ershad Shikdar's beneficiaries in the police department.  
These corrupt police officials should not be spared from being punished for helping Ershad Shikdar acquire fabulous wealth through criminal acts, including murders and rapes.  
His beneficiaries in the Railway Department and Judiciary should also be subjected to  
See page 11 col 6

## Eight chargesheeted in Nikunja murder case

The CID police submitted chargesheet against eight people in the Nikunja Bihar Nath murder case yesterday, reports BSS.  
Abdul Kahar Akand, a senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) who is also the Investigating Officer (IO) of the case, submitted the chargesheet before the CMM's Court, Dhaka.  
Court sources said the investigating authorities have implicated eight alleged muggers in the hijack and murder case. Of them six people have been arrested so far.  
The IO said they have listed a total of 28 witnesses, with rickshaw driver Abdul Matin being the principal witness in the case.  
"We have listed the recovered knife which was used in the killing of the joint secretary, and his blood stained cloths, and other recovered materials were shown as evidences of the case," the IO added.  
The arrested are Sukkur Ali, Deen Islam, Shahinur Rahman, Gaus Miah alias Rana, Khorshed Alam and Mujibur Rahman. Two others accused Ramzan and Mahinur are absconding since the murder.  
Police mentioned the motive of the killing as 'killing for dacoity'.  
The IO said Sukkur Ali, one of the main accused, has confessed his involvement in the killing and named his associates before a metropolitan magistrate.  
Besides, rickshaw driver Matin has identified all the arrested as attackers and killers of the joint secretary, the IO  
See page 11 col 1

## 'Jamai' Farooq arrested from city restaurant

**From Staff Correspondent**  
KHULNA, Feb 22: 'Jamai' Farooq, condemned to death along with Ershad Shikdar here on Sunday, was arrested from a Chinese restaurant at Mirpur 10 in Dhaka today.  
A team of Khulna police raided Paingking Chinese Restaurant at about 8:15 pm and arrested Farooq and Nasir Khan, also an accused in several cases.  
The Special Court of Khulna on Sunday awarded death sentence to Ershad Shikdar and 'Jamai' Farooq in Zainal Khan murder case.  
The KMP team was led by Deputy Commissioner (DC), North Mohammad Sarwar Hossain.  
The arrested accomplices of

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## Lone food testing lab limping

**By Naimul Haq**  
The country's only public food testing laboratory doesn't have the essential equipment it needs to perform routine tests for health hazards.  
"We have never had a chromatography machine so many of the tests performed for pesticide residue and heavy metals in a typical laboratory are not done here," said a senior official from the Institute of Public Health.  
This means we can't test the quality of our drinking water, or screen for radiation or dioxin, a deadly cancer causing agent. If you remember, a couple of months ago we imported vetch that later proved to have serious health effects. Unfortunately, the laboratory had no capacity to test for sub-standard substances.  
The Institute's laboratory tests about 100 foodstuffs under the 1967 Pure Food Rule.  
However, sources said the food, agriculture, commerce and fisheries and livestock ministries are importing large amounts of food monthly. Each ministry has a testing laboratory, but none follow the guidelines set out in the 1959 Pure Food Ordinance.  
"The ordinance must be amended immediately," said a source. "We cannot test for these items because they are not on the list and we don't have the equipment to test them."  
Sources said colouring agents added to foods like sweetmeat, biscuits, yoghurt, toffee and chocolates often fail food tests. Genuine colouring is very expensive, leading producers to opt for cheaper agents that can cause cancer if consumed over long periods. India has banned the use of colouring agents in food.  
"Butter oil, salt and honey are also heavily contaminated," said a source. "Out of every 100 samples, almost 99 per cent. Spices are another problem. Out of 100 samples, about 80 per cent fail."