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Armed Forces have earned faith, confidence of people: PM

Hasina said the distance between armed forces and the people has been reduced during the rule of the present govern-

certificates among the student officers of 24th Army, 18th Naval and 20th Air Force

cers including 21 from China, India, Kuwait, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, USA and Zambia graduated from the staff college.

Village' of the armed forces.

KHULNA, Feb 23: 'Jamai' Fa-

roog, condemned to death

along with Ershad Shikdar in

Zainal Murder Case, will be

produced before the Special

Court tomorrow in connection

named accused along with

eleven others. Nasir Khan, an-

other armed cadre of Ershad

Shikdar, will also be produced

in the court in the same case

rested by a KMP team from

Mirpur in Dhaka on Tuesday

evening. They were absconding

since the arrest of Ershad on

'Jamai' Farooq was the

adres of Ersh of

of white siled in

ander in chief of the

charge of Ersnad's hidden

armoury containing over 100

illegal firearms including two

AK-47 rifles. These arms are yet

to be recovered. Farooq is also

one of the masterminds of a

recent plot to snatch Shikdar

from police while he was being

taken to special court from

armed cadre and political advi-

sor to Ershad Shikdar. He also

used to maintain liaison with

political leaders. As the lone

Nasir was allegedly involved in

seven murders and several

They will be interrogated in

Meanwhile, trial of Panna

rapes and riots. He is also ac-

the KMP headquarters in con-

nection with recovery of arms

and ammunitions, said a

Murder Case will resume to-

graduate in Shikdar's gang.

Nasir Khan is not only an

Jessore Central Jail.

cused in all the cases.

source today.

Faroog and Nasir were ar-

Farooq is one of the FIR

with Panna Murder Case.

tomorrow.

August 11 last year.

ment of one composite brigade, one support battalion, one engineering construction battalion, one ordnance company, one field ambulance and one riverine engineering battalion."

The Military Trust Bank has been established for the welfare of the members of the armed forces, she said, adding that the Military Institute of Science and Technology. Armed Forces Medical College and Peace Keeping Operation Centre have been established. She said the government has decided to hand over Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory to the army Some financial benefits including salary and allowance of the armed forces have been increased. "We have started establishing a separate infantry brigade at Sylhet and Bangladesh Infantry Regiment in Rajshahi.

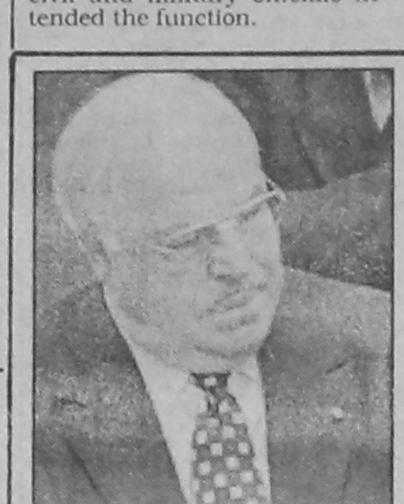
The government has approved a DOHS project at Mirpur to establish private housing for the officers of the armed forces and an area of 74 acres of land has been allocated for this.

The prime minister said the government has completed the formalities for procurement of a modern frigate for the navy. Moreover, two gunboats including modern 'Action Speed Tactical Trainer' have been procured for training in Navy.

modern ship for the Navy is at

She said the government wants to ensure the basic needs of the people and is drawing up a long-term plan to build Bangladesh as a developed nation by the year 2020. "We will celebrate golden jubilee of our independence as a developed nation in 2021," she hoped.

Commandant of the Staff College Major General Mansur Ahmed also spoke on the occasion while Science and Technology Minister Noor Uddin Khan, Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral A Taher and high civil and military officials at-



Scandal: Kohl cancels 70th birthday party

BERLIN. Feb 23: Former Chancellor Helmut Kohl has cancelled a 70th birthday party in his native city because of the campaign of finance scandal surrounding him, the Christian Democratic party said today,

reception in the Rhine River day is April 3.

In a statement before being

been tightened in Khulna Jail and all the five police stations of the city following the arrest of 'Jamai' Farooq and Nasir Khan. They reportedly used to make contacts regularly with their associates in Khulna over

morrow. ASI Hanif of Ramna thana who made the inquest report of Panna's body appeared in the special court today. Mizanur Rahman Panna was totally injured in an armed attack by Shikdar and his ac-

Panna succumbed to his inin 1997. Dr Tejendra Chandra Das and Khalilur Rahman of DMCH did not appear in the special court today. They are

shifted from KMOH to DMCH Panus named E. Lod Shikdar, Jamai Farooq, Mokter, Idris 'Jamai', Jalil Molla, Fancy Alam and Moti as the

phone from Dhaka, a KMP

Swaranakamol is also being watched by intelligence men apprehending arrival of Khodeja, first wife of Shikdar. She is also wanted in two murder cases. Shikdar killed Akimul and house tutor Jahangir for his illicit relations control of his wealth, police

Tejgaon clash: 20 hurt

track near the station. told them that they were going

gent started the demolition rail crossing at about 2:30 p.m., as the slum dwellers did not keep their word.

did so to create panic among the

slum inhabitants. The dwellers attacked police pelting stone at them. They also set fire to rail track in several

deputy commissioner of Railway, Lands and Building, conducted the drive. Asked how they could demolish the slum despite a High Court ban, they

said there was no court order that says action cannot be taken against people creating impediments to movement of

They said although the slum was demolished earlier, the dwellers again erected shanties slum in the area. It has become very difficult to run the train through the area. Several people were run over by train in that area in last few days, they

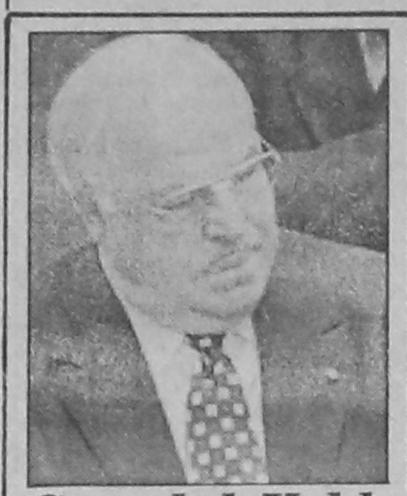
Meanwhile, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust has asked the government to stop demolishing slums in Dhaka city and evicting the dwellers from slums particularly in the Karwanbazaar area as the actions violate people's fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

It warned of legal actions, including filling of writ petitions in the high Court, if the government failed to take necessary actions.

Bangladesh Photojournalists Association condemned yesterday the unprovoked police assault on the on-duty press photographers during the clash between police and slum dwellers. It demanded the culprits be brought to book.

Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motifheel C.A., Dhaka-1009. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Telephone Numbers: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, GPO Box No. 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA, Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: } dstar@bangla.net

final stage, she said mentioning that the Khulna Shipyard has already been handed ove to Navy. A large number of war equipment including the most modern Mig-29 and C-130 transport plane are being procured for the Air Force, she



reports AP.

Kohl asked local party officials to drop plans for the city of Ludwigshafen because 'this event should not take place in the current situation. the Rhineland-Palatinate state party branch said. Kohl's birth-

Kohl has angered the party he led for 25 years with his refusal to help clear up the scandal leaving Ce. anva elder state sman is the country bus

fall from grace. his popularity among Germans also has plunged, sinking in one survey last week to the lowest level ever recorded for a prominent politician.

The Christian Democrats have not officially scrapped plans for a birthday gala in Berlin that was to include other former world leaders, but it was unlikely to go ahead amid the scandal

The furor erupted after Kohl admitted in a December television interview that he had accepted up to 2 million marks (one million dollar) in unrecorded donations. He has refused to name the done's, causing speculation that he may have accepted money for favours during his 16 years as chancellor.

Since then, the scandal has grown to include secret accounts both at federal and state levels, other off-the-books donations and millions in fines for the party for false financial

Kohl himself is under investigation by Bonn prosecutors for possible charges of breach

Tax evasion Youngone rejects allegations by Customs

Star Report Youngone Hitech Sportswear Industries Ltd. has categorically rejected the Customs authorities' findings that it had evaded taxes.

It said the allegations of the

Karwanbazar in the city yesterday.

Customs authorities were based on wrong assumptions. The customs authorities in a press release on Tuesday said that it had fined the Korean

company Tk 20 crore for evading Tk 35 crore in taxes. The facts of the case are that customs authorities undertook an audit of the company sometime in 1998 for the period from 1993 to 1997 whereas this audit should have been done every

The customs authorities on the basis of wrong assumption alleged that this company could not adequately account for the balance quantity of the fabric imported by them. They ignored the prescribed rate of consumption of fabric for each piece of to wrong findings. Besides, they did not take into account finished goods inventory for export and fabric in work-in-pro-

Youngone Hi-tech Sportswear Industries Ltd. also strongly denies that there was ever any joint verification See page 11 col 7

JS body to report on implementation of Wage Board

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Ministry yesterday formed a four-member subcommittee to prepare report on the progress of implementation of the wage board award in newspapers and

news agencies, reports UNB. The sub-committee was formed at a meeting of the standing committee at Sangsad Bhaban with its chairman Abul Kalam Azad in the chair. Sultan Mohammad Munsur Ahmed has been made convenor of the subcommittee.

Other members of the committee are: Shahin Monwara Hug. N K Alam and Afzal H

Earlier, the meeting discussed matters relating to circulation of different newspapers, their sold and unsold copies and progress of implementation of Wage Board. It also discussed various aspects of government's advertisement policy, according to a handout.

Clinton still undecided over Pakistan visit WASHINGTON, Feb 23: Dis- ment," Senator Tim Johnson

A young woman and a man pick their way past potholes on a dilapidated road in front of The Daily Star office at

counting claims that US President Bill Clinton would visit Pakistan after his five-day tour of India, White House said the President has not yet decided about including Islamabad in the South Asian itinerary, re-

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said "no" when asked at his press briefing here yesterday whether Clinton has made up his mind about (visiting) Pakistan.

Clinton is visiting India and Bangladesh from March 20. Meanwhile. American ex-

perts in the non-governmental community and Congress members are sharply divided over Islamabad's inclusion in the President's itinerary.

A pro-Pakistan senator has circulated a letter among his Senate colleagues urging them to sign an appeal to President Clinton to add Pakistan in his forthcoming visit to South Asia, media reports said.

"It is essential for America's garment. This led them to come | leadership for peace, security and democracy in South Asia that you (Clinton) visit Pakistan and engage in a direct dialogue with the current govern-

said in the appeal to Clinton, the Washington Times reported.

in Pakistan's military regime and US ambassador to Islamabad have discussed the possibility of a visit to the country by Clinton at a meeting which covered wide-ranging issues and focussed on a still larger tramework Javed Jabbar, Advi-

Daily 'The News' that the issue of Clinton's visit to the country was discussed when William B Milam called on him Monday.

Jabbar refused to comment when asked to comment on the response of the US Envoy, and said, visit by a US President is always important, but relationtranscends time and personali-

the United States embassy today not Hurr vat leaders in the backdi mof the latter's request to have an audience with President Clatton during his visit to

Theft at CMCH: No move yet for fresh probe

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 23; Reinvestigation into the theft of medicines and other things from the medical store of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) has not started despite an order by the Director General of Health few months ago. sources said. A three-member committee

headed by the Director (Health) of Chittagong Division was formed as per the order of DG (Health), sources added. The report on the earlier investigation was suppressed. But

the process for initiating fresh investigation to identify the persons involved in the theft has been moving at a snail's When contacted, Acting Di-

rector (Health), Chittagong Division, Nurul Alam said the fresh investigation would be started after joining of a new director. "I am here for the time being

as acting director though know the reinvestigation is under way," Alam said. A source in the hospital ad-

He further said that some measures were taken after the first investigation of check pilferage of medicines and other things from the medical store. According to sources a sec-

the theft. CMCH. Even blankets were re-

beds at the hospital, sources further said.

medicines and other things. He, however, held a section

of Class Four employees responsible for the theft at the time of transfer from store to patients' wards.

aircraft was ordered to divert to

a country in the Middle East.

ers of Barisal division demanding immediate functioning of the Barisal Education Board observed a token hunger strike from 9 am to 4 pm today at the Aswini Kumar Hall here.

> The Barisal Shikkha Board Bastabayan Parishad called the token hunger strike. The teachers also refrained

from attending classes to realise their demand. Later, they held a meeting.

HC admits appeal of Prof Ferdous

admitted the appeal of Mohammad Ferdous Hossain, Associate Professor of Political Science, Dhaka University, in Khalid Mahmud, reports BSS.

comprising Justice Mohammad Nurul Islam and Justice Mohammad Momtazuddin Ahmed set the date for hearing of the appeal on February 29.

Ferdous appealed against the order rejecting bail prayer by Tapan Kumar Rudra, Judge, Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Bishesh Adalat, Dhaka. on February 3.

workers' strike March 5

The workers said in a press release the strike would be enforced in all public sector mills

Amar Ekushey BTV staff deny allegation of negligence

By Staff Correspondent The BTV staff who were served with show cause notices for their alleged negligence in broadcasting the 'Amar Ekushey' programme have claimed that they put in their best possible efforts in making the programme perfect.

One of the nine served with notices told The Daily Star that there was no negligence as far as visual projection of the programme was concerned. But there were some sound collision for a while when sounds from loudspeakers set by Dhaka University authorities at the Central Shaheed Minar collided with the BTV audio ef-

But there was no question of over-projection of Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Be-

Notices were served on three producers and six cameramen. They were supposed to reply to their notices by yesterday.

Neither the GM, who had served the notices, nor any other top BTV official could be

officials were passing very busy days for preparation of a live programme featuring the Prime Minister, to be aired on February 25. Meanwhile. Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human

projecting the Opposition eader and BNP Chairperson. "A democratic government lould not be so vindictive"

Order terminating DESCO MD stayed

The High Court has issued a rule nisi upon the Secretary (Power Division), Ministry of Energy and the Chairman. Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd, to explain why the order of termination of the Managing Director of DESCO should not be declared to have been

made without lawful authority. The rule was issued on February 20 by a Division Bench comprising Justice Md Mozammel Hug and Justice Md

Pending hearing of the rule. the court also stayed the operation of the termination order for two months

arrested at Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Feb 23: Khulna thana police today arrested two outlaws.

Sarder. Mostafa was arrested from Municipal Tank Road while Ga-

fur from Totpara area. Police said Gafur, ring leader of Jessore-based unit to Purbo Banglar Communist Party was wanted in several

syrup seized: 3 arrested

CHITTAGONG, Feb 23: Three miscreants were arrested with huge ammunition and phensidyl from Terri Bazar in the city yesterday evening.

Kotoali police and Narcotics Control Department in a joint raid on a residential hotel of the area recovered 46 bullets of 303 riffle and 137 bottles of phensidyl syrup in the evening. Three people were arrested for their alleged involvement in

The arrested were identified as Santosh Chowdhury, alias Tutul. 25, Shimul Dharr, 25, and Tapon Kumar Roy. 22. A case was filed in this con-

JS body: Power

The recommendations included steps to reduce systems loss, stop trade unionism, introduce electronic metres to stop tampering and increase collection of arrears.

'We were satisfied with the progress PDB achieved so far in implementing our recommendations," said a member of the Committee.

recovery position of huge ar-rears of DESA to PDB and PDB to Titas. It noted that although the situation improved in the last six months, it needs further improvement.

Giving an account of their success, the PDB chairman claimed that systems loss has been reduced by 10 per cent in one year. Bill collection also marked a progress as PDB collected Tk 88 crore in January this year against Tk 58 crore in

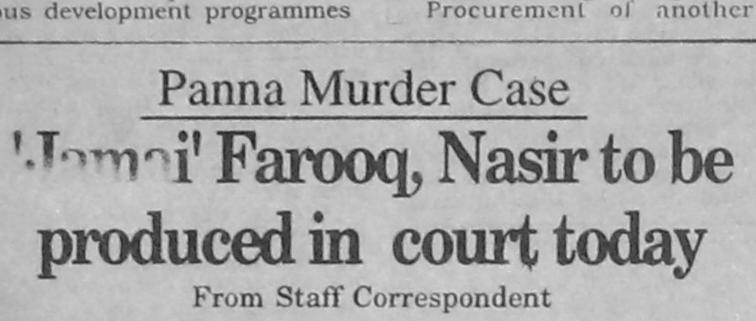
for army including establish-

Prime Minister Sheikh ment, reports UNB.

The gap between members of the armed forces and the people has been removed; they have earned faith and confidence of the people, which is very important for an independent and sovereign nation," she said, addressing the graduation ceremony of Defence Services and Command Staff College at Mirpur yesterday morning. She also distributed degree

This year 125 student offi-

The prime minister said the government is taking steps for building a modern and skilled armed forces. She said the government has taken initiative to increase the



complices including Jamai Faroog on October 16 in 1997. He was shifted to DMCH from KMCH as his condition deteriojuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital on October 17

among the prosecution witnesses of this murder case.

attackers. Panna was a night guard in Jorhagate area. Meanwhile, security has

source said. Ershad Shikdar's house with Khodeja who is still in

From Page 1 More than 200 policemen took position at the Tejgaon rail crossing early yesterday morning, witnesses said. They started moving towards the slum at about 9:30 a.m. but stopped after the slum dwellers

to leave with their belongings. witnesses added. However, the police continfrom the east end of the Tejgaon

Local people said police started ransacking their shanties and damaging their belongings. They also alleged that police also torched their shanties. However, police defended the action saying they

places. Railway authorities said the

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25 hurt as BNP factions clash in C'nawabganj

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 23: At least 25 people were injured when two factions of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) clashed at Nachol thana headquarters in Chapainawabgani last night.

aged during the clash police said. Police resorted to lathicharge and fired rubber bullets and tear gas shells to disperse the clashing BNP workers. A faction of Chapainawabganj district BNP led by Syed Manzoor Hossain MP expelled

three leaders of another faction

led by Haroon-ur Rashid MP on

Several vehicles were dam-

January 28. In retaliation, Haroon-group organised a conference at Nachol Degree College playground yesterday. Manzoor group also called a separate conference at the same venue the same day.

The district administration

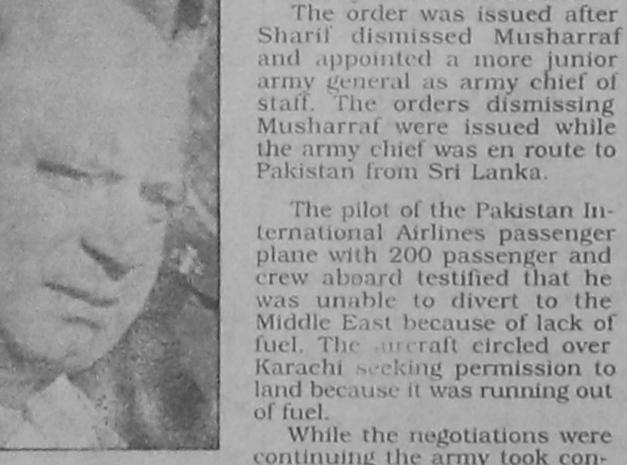
imposed Section 144 on rallies

and processions to avert unto-

ward incident. Later. Haroon-faction shifted the conference venue to Hatkhola. Rivals attacked them there too and both the groups locked in sporadic clashes.



the passenger plane returning Gen. Pervez Musharraf to Pakistan was denied permission to land in southern Karachi. At the time the army accused Sharif of trying to kill the army



According to the testimony of prosecution witnesses, that included the pilot of the aircraft, air traffic control officials and aides of Sharif, the

ternational Airlines passenger plane with 200 passenger and crew aboard testified that he was unable to divert to the Middle East because of lack of fuel. The averaft circled over Karachi seeking permission to land because it was running out While the negotiations were continuing the army took control in Pakistan, arrested

Sharif and several key mem-

bers of his government, and ors

When the aircraft landed it

apparently had only seven minutes of fuel remaining. Sharif and his co-accused have pleaded not guilty.

dered the aircraft to land.

Sultan said that the defense "will argue that it was the army that illegally staged a coup and that the army took power unconstitutionally

In Islamabad, a top official

the paper reported yesterday.

See page 11 col 8

culprits.

portedly stolen from patients'

Testimony of PW's in Sharif trial ends

Ample evidence, says AG KARACHI, Feb 23: After calling 27 witnesses, the prosecution today concluded its case in the hijacking trial of deposed

General Raja Quereshi. Sharif and his six co-accused also are on trial charged with terrorism, kidnapping and attempted murder. All four charges carry either the death penalty or life in prison. As well Quereshi asked the anti-terrorist court to have the accused give their testimony in

camera saying the prosecution

fears the men will betray state

prime minister Nawaz Sharif,

"We are satisfied that we

have presented ample evidence

to prove our case," said Attorney

reports AP.

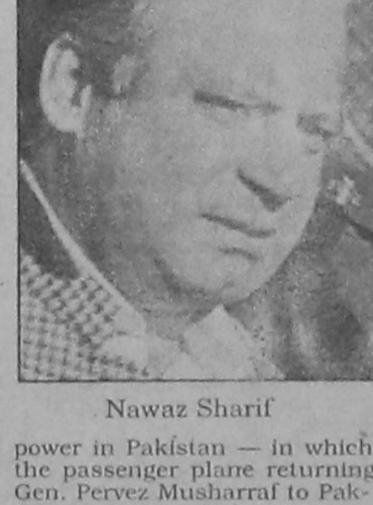
secrets "and harm the security and integrity of the country." The judge is to announce his decision tomorrow before the defense launches into its case. Lawyers for Sharif and his co-accused strongly opposed an

in camera session. One of Shar-

if's lawyers, Khawaja Sultan

said "it is against the funda-

mental rights of the accused and is tantamount to suppressing their defense. The charges against Sharif stem from an incident on Oct. 12 — the day the army took



Pr istan's Military Ruler Gen P. vez Musharraf, told English

ship between the two countries In Delhi, a senior official of

ministration said reminders were issued to complete the investigation in order to catch the "But there is a sort of dillydally in the process of starting investigation," the source said,

tion of employees in collusion with some doctors of the hospital were reportedly involved in They sold them in the pharmacies located in front of

A senior doctor of the hospital ruled out the involvement of doctors in the pilferage of

The High Court yesterday

Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan case lodged by his wife's brother A High Court Division Bench

Jute, textile

By Staff Correspondent Jute, yarn and textile sector employees have announced a 24-hour token strike in all state-run mills on March 5.

at 6 a.m. on March 5. The strike was called to demand the immediate declaration and implementation of the wage commission and other fringe benefits.

gum Khaleda Zia, he claimed.

contacted yesterday for com-Sources said, all BTV high

- Star photo

Truck strike

at Ctg Port

withdrawn

From Our Correspondent

Truck Owners Association

withdrew its 36-hour strike

around 9 pm after Chittagong

City Mayor Mohiuddin Chowd-

hury assured the truck owners

mee ing of "ruck Own rs Asso-

clation, owners of the con-

cerned cement clinker factory

the strike at 8 pm yesterday

protesting carrying of clinker

by the own vehicles of a private

cement company and demand-

ing use of the Association's

from Chittagong Port remained

suspended due to the strike till 9

Hartal observed

in south Ctg

region

CHITTAGONG, Feb 23: A

Chittagong south district

From Our Correspondent

dawn-to-dusk hartal was ob-

served peacefully in south Chit-

unit of Jamaat enforced the

hartal protesting arrest of the

leader and activists during yes-

terday's clash with the police at

Normal life was paralysed

Local unit of Jamaat held a

rally and brought out proces-

sions demanding release of its

Hunger strike

demanding

Barisal Edn Board

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 23: The teach-

leader and activists.

tagong region today.

Satkania.

the hartal.

Delivery of goods to and

The Association enforced

of resolving their problems.

and port officials.

trucks as usual.

pm today.

tonight.

CHITTAGONG, Feb 23: Port

The strike was withdrawn at

The assurance of me at a

of the authorities concerned withdrawal of the show cause notices. BSEHR Secretary General Sigma Huda in a statement expressed deep concern at issuance of show cause notices for

Rights (BSEHR) has demanded

she added.

By Court Correspondent

Abdur Rashid.

Two outlaws

and the entire region remained cut off from Chittagong city and other parts of the country due to

> They were identified as Golam Mostafa, 28, and Gafur

murder and dacoity cases. Bullets, phensidyl

From Our Correspondent

the matter.

From Page 1

The meeting discussed the

January 1999.

opportunities of higher education of the members of the armed forces. Army War College will start functioning in 2001, she said adding we want to develop Mirpur as 'Educational "We have implemented various development programmes