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to Pakistan

the hope that the president will be able to visit Pakistan. . I, too, deeply hope that, Hillary, who is running for the Senate from New York, was quoted as saying by the international edition of

Addressing a fund-raiser by the Pakistan Political Action Committee (Pak-PAC) in New York, she said progress in South Asia could be made only with the resolution of the difficult issue of Kashmir through dialogue and negotiations between India and Pakistan.

I want to be a strong voice in the Senate for America's leadership and involvement (in Kashmir). I will continue to work to create better relations in that region over Kashmir be-

stereotyping' that goes about Muslims in general, she said within the last many years in the White House I have done everything I could to open more broadly the minds of Ameriand about the role of Islam around the world.

recognition of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

Govt may bow to pressure, Two more cases filed against Rahman Group

By Staff Correspondent The Sonali Bank (SB) yesterday filed two more cases against two enterprises of Rahman Group with the Artha Rin Adalat for realising more than Tk seven crore loans.

against Messrs Rahman Hosiery Garments (pvt) Ltd. its Chairman Md. Fazlur Rahman Managing Director Md. Bazlur Rahman, Minu Rahman and Roksana Rahman for realising

filed against Messrs Rahman Quality Carments and its proprieto Md. Bazhir Rahman for

realising Tk. 50,20,886.46 loan Barrister Abdullah-Al-Mamoon and Advocate Golam Sarwar Moni moved the cases on behalf of the plaintiff.

See Page 12 Col 5

Our new numbers

19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215 Phones: 812 4944, 812 4955 & 812 4966 Fax: 812 5155

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China's WTO entry delay threatens reforms

DSE, CSE price quotations Pages 6, 7 & 8

Prayer Timings

February 28		
	Azan	Jama
Fajr	5-00	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-20
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-00	6.05
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Is	lamic For	undation

DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2000

Illegally extracted logs are on sale at Nesarabad river port in Swarupkathi, Pirojpur. Every day the loggers arrive in boats

loaded with logs from the Sundarbans, the world's biggest mangrove forest. But the forest department and the police

prefer to look the other way as the rampant destruction of the Sundarbans' prime wealth goes on, threatening the vital

eco-system and endangering the wildlife including 362 Royal Bengal Tigers.

PSCs with foreign oil companies soon

relax some clauses

By Sharier Khan

companies, which began on

ing in the Energy Ministry and

the Petrobangla. Energy Secre-

tary Dr Towfig-e-Elahi-Chowd-

hury is leading the official team

in the negotiations to ensure

signing of at least one PSC, the

negotiate with Pangaea over

gaea has proposed drilling of

ducting seismic survey in 800

over the Second Round Bidding.

are "more or less unwilling to

sign PSCs having clear-cut

Block 7. refused to go by the

Model PSC. It wants to sign a

Unocal, which was offered

Other oil companies, which

one exploration well and con-

Today, the government will

sources said.

km area.

commitments"

viating from the Model PSC. We remained up stuck with the gov-

will ultimately surrender to the ernment for the last three years

February 14, are still continu-

Fresh negotiations with oil

3rd Millennium

Hillary favours Clinton's visit

WASHINGTON, Feb 27: US first lady Hillary Clinton has said that she deeply hoped President Bill Clinton will visit Pakistan during his upcoming tour of South Asia and stressed the need for more American involvement in resolving the Kashmir conflict, reports PTI.

Many of you have expressed the Pakistani daily 'The News'.

tween India and Pakistan.

Referring to the 'unfortunate cans about Muslims of America

She, however, ruled out US

Production Sharing Contract (PSC) and sign contracts soon

The court issued summons and asked the defendants to reply within seven days why the bank would not take legal action for realising the loan amount.

come 'too eager' to sign a couple The first case has been filed of PSCs with US oil companies before or during President Bill Clinton's visit next month, oil Block 8, a low profile explocompanies are trying to "change ration area. Sources said Panthe model PSC as much as possible in their favour", sources concerned said. Tk. 6.38.20.078.75 loan.

The second case has been

Last week, SB filed four cases against four enterprises of

Pak attack: 6 soldiers killed in Indian-held Kashmir

SRINAGAR (India), Feb 27: At least six Indian army soldiers were killed by Pakistani soldiers who raided a military post across the border in the Indian zone of disputed Kashmir today, a military commander

The government is likely to

relax some clauses of the Model

for oil and gas exploration un-

der the Second Round Block

Bidding, yielding to pressure

As the government has be-

"After three-years of delay,

it now appears that we are de-

pressure of oil companies," ob-

served a source. "It will not be

surprising if national interest

becomes affected by such nego-

tiations, which are mainly

aimed at the US president's

visit", he said.

from foreign companies.

said, reports AFP. Major General PPS Bindra, army commander of a strike formation here, said six soldiers were killed and two more missing after the 4:30 am raid across the Line-of-Control (LoC) in southern Kashmir's Naw-

"Pakistani gunners began firing at our listening post and under the cover of the shelling Pakistani soldiers raided the post and killed six soldiers." Gen Bindra told the news

The commander said the cross-border attack occurred at a frontier zone called Lum on

the outskirts of mountainous

Nawshera town, 480 kilometres south from Srinagar.

"It is our only post there and it is surrounded by Pakistani soldiers from three directions." he said and added the complex — just across the LoC — was lightly armed since it was only

a surveillance unit. "The post was manned by just six or eight men," he said adding that bodies of the six killed troops have been recovered by army reinforcements that has now moved into Naw-

"It seems the two missing soldiers have also been killed and their bodies dragged away across the LoC in the dark," he

Gen Bindra also said the Pakistani raiders did not attempt to occupy the overrun In-

dian post The Press Trust of India quoting defence ministry

sources in New Delhi, however placed the toll from the pre-

PSC to conduct seismic survey

and not to drill any exploratory

well. It is also insisting on ex-

tension of the three-year initial

exploration period (IOP) to five

commitment. It said it will sign

PSCs for blocks 5 and 10 with-

out any commitment for seis-

mic survey or drilling any ex-

five-year IOP like Unocal.

ploratory well. It also wants a

anything about the IOP. But it

has already told the govern-

ment to ensure a "level playing

there would not be any "level

playing field" under the Second

Round Bidding. "We are dealing

on different blocks in different

manners. That is why we are

considering different types of

proposals from different oil

See page 11 col 7

companies", said a source.

However, it appears that

field" for all oil companies.

Pangaea has not yet said

Shell's new proposals lack

dawn fighting at eight. The Indian charges came two days after Islamabad asserted that Indian commandos on February 25 sneaked into a border village in Pakistancontrolled Kashmir and massacred 12 defenceless civilians.

India has vehemently denied the charge. In another attack, meanwhile, two paramilitary border guards were killed instantly when their patrol car hit a landmine in the town of Patan. some 30 kilometres north from Srinagar late Saturday night. Three other border guards were critically injured in the landmine ambush staged by Muslim

separatist guerillas, the police The attack was the second

such ambush around Patan town in two days.

90pc tannery workers die before they reach 50

Almost 90 per cent of tannery workers die before they reach the age of 50 due to their unhygienic work environment, says a survey, reports UNB.

About 58.10 per cent of workers suffer from ulcers. 31.28 per cent have skin diseases. 11.73 per cent have high blood pressure and 10.61 per cent suffer with rheumatic

The Society for Environment and Human Development, a non-governmental organisation, revealed the figures in its survey report released on the opening day of a three-day workshop on "Reporting Industrial Pollution" yesterday. The society conducted the survey on the health of 179 tannery workers from six tan-

neries - United Tanneries,

Dhaka Nagar Tanneries, Noor

Bhai Tanneries. Chandpur

Survey report

Tanneries. Comilla Tanneries and Gulzar Tanneries — located in the city's Hazaribagh area between November 13 and 17

Most of the respondents claimed they caught the diseases after they started working in the tanneries.

The report suggested 34.63 per cent of those surveyed occasionally suffer from fever, 22.90 per cent from cough and 18.99 from jaundice. According to the survey,

some 87.5 per cent of ulcer sufferers claimed to have developed the disease after joining a tannery, while the rest had ulcers before they started to work in the industry. About 92.9 per cent claimed they developed skin diseases after joining the

In addition, workers complained of suffering from dizziness, headache, weakness and eye problem. They also alleged they experiences abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhea, allergy, burning sensation in the chest and throat, palm and toes, urinary problems, pain in body, waist, leg, back, throat, neck and shoulder ankle. Rheumatic pain, stroke, swelling of leg and mouth ulcer and other are also in high rate in the tannery ar-

Assistant Director of Health Dr Mohammad Hassan Ali said industrial pollutants, liquid waste and leather dust are the main cause of diseases among the workers who work without proper footwear, gloves or

The chemicals used in tan-See Page 12 Col 2

Opposition calls hartal today

- Star photo by AKM Mohsin

By Staff Correspondent The BNP-led opposition alliance has called a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal today demanding resignation of the government and cancellation of the Public Safety Act. The alliance is expected to

announce 'mass contact type' programmes, including public rally, procession and demonstration today. In support of today's shut

Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote staged separate demonstrations and held rallies in cities, districts and thana headquarters. As part of the countrywide

programme, the four-party al liance and some other smaller parties like Jagpa, DL, PNP and NDA yesterday organised separate public rallies and processions in different parts of the capital city. Main opposition BNP

brought out torch processions from 11 places of the city in support of today's hartal. The party held a rally in front of its central office at

Naya Paltan in the evening. See Page 12 Col 2

No hartal in March

By Staff Correspondent The Central Liaison Committee of opposition alliance at a meeting yesterday decided to avoid hartal next month considering SSC examinations, Eid-ul-Azha and the visit of US President Bill Clinton.

It however decided to announce some light programmes, like public meeting, procession and mass contact by the central leaders in divisional headquarters during the first three weeks of March.

Representatives of BNP Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote agreed not to disrupt the public examinations through announcing

any tougher action programme. But the meeting decided they will 'not hesitate' to announce tougher action programme it the government takes any major decision against opposi tion's demands, such as. Upazila and Zila Parishad polls schedule and transit agreement

with India. The decisions were taken at meeting held at the residence of Jatiya Party leader A B M Go-I lam Mostafa with JP secretary general Naziur Rahman Manjur in the chair.

See Page 12 Col 5

Proposed drug import policy rejected

By Staff Correspondent The Drug Control Committee at a meeting yesterday did not accept the proposed policy for drug import

tration of a drug in a country.

from the country of origin.

Earlier, the Drug Control Committee's technical committee recommended on February 22 that drugs included in the pharmacopoeia monograph could be imported by showing Free Sales Certificate from the country of origin of the drugs and test report of the government analyst of Bangladesh. The certificate is the registional airlines.

It proposes a relaxation of the present requirement of havman sources said. ing Free Sales Certificate for the drugs from two developed countries, one of which should preferably be USA or UK and

Reaffirming the governmenapply the Public Safety Act t's commitment to ensure the (PSA) with caution and imparwelfare of police, she said actiality in the interest of the tion would be taken, as in the past, against those police offi-She warned that no lapses by cers found indulging in corrup-

would depend on the success of

Apply PSA with caution

tion taking advantage of being in the police service. "Perform your duty with honesty and neutrality in the interest of all the people, not for the interest of any particular

group," the prime minister said. You have proved neutrality of the government by taking legal action without any hesitation against a number of criminals who claimed themselves as members of the ruling party,"

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim and Inspector General of Police A Y B I Siddiqui stood beside the prime minister on the podium as she gave her advice and instruction to the po-

Earlier, the prime minister inspected an impressive parade and took salute from the smartly turned out members of

and impartiality: PM No lapses will be tolerated, police warned

lice Padak among police officers and jawans for their outstanding performances in different areas last year.

She distributed Bangladesh

Hasina also inaugurated the

Police Padak and President Po-

newly constructed Rajarbagh Police Parade Complex. Cabinet members, MPs. diplomats and senior police officers were present at the func-

Responding to housing problem facing police constables, the prime minister said two more six-storied buildings in Razarbagh were nearing completion while construction on another barrack adjacent to the Police Lines is underway. Besides, two other six-storied barracks would be constructed

at Uttara and Mirpur. Work on new barracks for the constables is also going on in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Faridpur while extension works of existing barracks are underway in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Dinajpur, Bogra and Mymensingh.

The government has also See page 11 col 8

murder cases

dicted in three more murder

The trial of these cases will

According to judicial state-

'Jamai' Farooq and Liakat

Lashkar took Jahangir to the

Ice Factory on March 18 night

in 1998 from 'Swarnakamol'

and confined him to a room.

Lashkar hit Jahangir's head

with a big stone. Jahangir fell

down unconscious Shikdar

then broke Jahangir's ribs with

the stone resulting in his death.

the Bhairab River.

His body was later dumped into

Jahangir was killed for dis-

closing one of the bank ac-

counts of Shikdar, Noor-e-

Alam said. Shikdar, Liakat,

Faroog, Sultan Mahmud and

Noor-e-Alam are accused in

See Page 12 Col 7

'Jamai' Farooq and Liakat

ment of Noor-e-Alam Jahangir

begin in the Special Court next

was a house tutor of Shikdar.

Skid Ghat.

Press evoking fresh Shikdar indicted in three more debate over a settled From Staff Correspondent issue: Khasru KHULNA, Feb 27: Ershad

By Nazmul Ashraf

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru has accused the press of evoking a fresh debate over the "already settled" issue of Public Safety Bill (PSB).

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina has asked the police to

police in discharging their du-

cautiously so that none falls

victim to injustice," she said

inaugurating the Bangladesh

Police Week at Rajarbagh Police

provision of the PSA, Hasina

said the complainant and the

investigative officer will both

be punished in case of filing

false case or false in estigation.

The prime minister's in-

"Stern action will have to be

structions to the police were the

first since the controversial leg-

islation was enacted on Febru-

taken against oppressors. Any

kind of corruption and personal

greed should not stand in the

way of performing duties," she

that public peace and safety

Hasina told the function

Reminding the police of a

"I order you to apply the PSA

people, reports UNB.

ties would be tolerated.

Lines yesterday morning.

"It's already been resolved; it's a dead issue. The bill has meantime become a law after it was passed by the Parliament and assented to by the President, said Khasru while talking to The Daily Star over telephone last night.

Khasru said there is no scope for any debate at this stage and such unnecessary debate would only create confusion. "Now it does not matter at all if it was a money bill or not, especially after the President has assented to the bill."

The law minister's comment came only a day after Bangabhaban released a statement refuting that the President had recommended that the PSB be placed before the Parliament as a 'money bill'. The Bangabhaban release also followed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's statement on Friday that the President called the PSB a

Shikdar, already condemned to death in a murder case, was in-

cases here today. "money bill" Charges were framed against Khasru however declined to him for murdering Jahangir, comment on the Bangabhaban Akimul and Siraj in the killing release. centre of the Ice Factory at the Talking to the BBC radio

ister said the government did not claim the PSB a "money bill" while sending its summary to the President. The summary mentioned that the bill involved public expenditure, and so it needed the

earlier on the day, the law min-

ing placed in the Parliament, he "I think that the note the President gave on the sum marised bill while signing it might have caused some sort of confusion," the minister said. He said the note is a directive to

President's approval before be-

be followed in future. In his note, the President suggested that "a money bill must be put up through the finance ministry"

Speaking further on the presidential note, the law minister said the President might have considered the PSB a See Page 12 Col 4

Piracy threatening Ctg port's image abroad

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Feb 27: Piracy is threatening Chittagong Port's image abroad, but little has been done to combat

Sources said pirates slash the expensive ropes used to an chor ships at port's jetties and outer anchorage They (pirates) frequently try to swoop on the cargo vessels

for looting goods and other

valuable equipment, sources added. Earlier this month, the Coast Guards failed an attempt of piracy at a BSC ship Banglar Moni, and arrested 19 pirates after a fierce gunbattle with

Port security personnel exchanged fire with pirates who tried to attack a ship anchored at the port jetty just last week. They forced the pirates to re-

"Captains complain a lot about rope slashing and theft." said senior port official who requested anonymity. "It really hampers the image of Chittagong Port outside the country but we don't have enough equipment to patrol the mouth of the Karnaphuli River, much

less the outer anchorage.' "We have two patrol boats -Towhid and Rupashi Bangla to cover the port's outer anchorage and the adjoining territorial waters." said the coast guard's zone commander.

Rupashi Bangla, procured from Malaysia, was commissioned on January this year, he said, adding 'we need more patrol ships to combat the piracy menace.' the Commander added.

The port only has one patrol boat that is used to curb piracy See Page 12 Col 7

Agreement signed

Biman hires Citibank as privatisation consultant

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman signed an agreement with Citibank of New York yesterday, hiring the bank as its privatisation consultant.

The bank would design a blueprint for privatisation programme under which 49 per cent shares of the national carrier will be offloaded. Forty per cent will go to the airline's 'strategic partner' and nine per cent to Biman employees. The government will continue to enjoy a 51 per cent stake in the na-

The bank would also help Biman find a 'strategic partner and the necessary funding, Bi-

The World Bank-aided two million dollars privatisation project is to be completed in 10

lam, Biman's managing director, and David E Rees, Citibank's executive head for Bangladesh, signed the deal at Biman headquarters. Civil Aviation secretary C.M. Mohsin and senior officials of Biman were present during the signing ceremony. Citibank was picked out

Air commodore Rafiqul Is-

among 44 bidders last year. The work for the privatisation programme would start two weeks later. The signing was delayed due

to bureaucratic tangles in the ministries of Law, Civil Aviation and Finance. Biman has about 5500 employees and 13 aircraft and flies

. See Page 12 Col 6

police said they were not aware of the incident. to 24 destinations across the

police station till filing of this report last night.

Jalal Murder Case HC orders DB inspector Ziaul to surrender before trial court

The High Court yesterday cancelled the ad-interim bail of Ziaul Ahsan, an Inspector of Detective Branch, granted earlier on September 12 last year in the Jalal Murder Case, reports BSS. The bench comprising Justice Abu Sayeed Ahmad and

Justice Mohammad Ali Azgar

Khan further directed Ziaul Ah-

san to surrender before the trial court within 15 days. On August 9 last year the bail prayer of Ziaul Ahsan, one of the four accused in the DB source Jalal Murder Case, was rejected by the Fifth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge. Dhaka. The accused preferred a bail application before the High Court against the rejection order. The High Court issued a show cause notice upon the government and granted ad-interim bail to Ziaul Ahsan. After

the prosecution, the High Court vesterday discharged the rule and ordered the accused to surrender before the trial court.

hearing both the accused and

See page 12 col 1

Muggers gouge out eye of young trader in city

By Staff Correspondent A gang of muggers gouged out one eye of a young trader and took away Tk 50 thousand from him at East Jurain in the city vesterday, said hospital sources quoting the victim's relatives.

lim, 20, son of a Gani, resident of East Jurain, came under attack by the gang near Jurain Commissioner Road at around 10:00 am. Selim was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

The victim, identified as Se-

tal. He identified two attackers - Rana and Amir, hospital sources said. When contacted. Sutrapur

No case was filed with the