More foreign investment underscored

WASHINGTON, Apr 26: increased direct foreign investment for the economic development of Bangladesh was emphasised at the Bangladesh-**US Business Council meeting** held here on Thursday, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Ambassador AliM Ataul Karim and the USAID Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Asia and Private Enterprise, Ms Henrietta Fore addressed the meeting.

The meeting also discussed the forthcoming visit of an investment mission from Bangladesh to the USA.

The mission to be led by a senior official of Bangladesh is scheduled to visit Washington DC on June 11, New Orleans, on June 13 and San Francisco on June 17.

Representatives of the US Departments of Commerce, State and Treasury, Export-Import Bank, World Bank,. UNIDO, the USAID and Bangladesh embassy attended the meeting.

Cheney for wider role of women

WASHINGTON, Apr 26: US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney on Thursday suggested he favours expanding the role of women in the US military, but he stopped short of endorsing an advisory panel's recommendation to drop a ban on women in combat roles, reports AP.

Gorbachev, Yeltsin

From Page 1 Col. 5 Meanwhile, the full force of the attacks on Gorbachev at this week's Communist Party Central Committee plenum

were revealed today in the

party daily Pravda. Mikhail Gorbachev for some reason now believes it unnecessary to consult not only with his party but also with its Central Committee,' said a bitter A Anipkin, First Party Secretary from

Volgograd. And hardline Russian Communist Party Boss Ivan Polozkov blasted Gorbachev for dismantling the system of strong executive power.

But the effect of their anger was blunted by the fact that opponents marshalled only 13 votes on Thursday for Gorbachev's resignation, closing off for now any further right-wing assaults as he tries to build a common approach with Yeltsin.

Yeltsin's cooperation in pushing through an economic programme regarded by many liberals as conservative and autheritarian can only help Gorbachev in his present difficulties.

The details of any deal between the two remain a mystery, but it seems likely the president has had to pay with at least some concessions.

Prime Minister Valentin Payloy hinted at one area of compromise - a broader-based government -- in a speech published by the Tass news agency on Thursday.

"We are ready to include in (our government) . . . structure representatives of republics and movements.

Russians' strike

Meanwhile, workers in the huge Russian Federation staged brief strikes today to protest against poor living conditions and steep price rises, adding to labour unrest that is crippling the Soviet economy

Federation of Independent Russian Trade Unions, which claims 60 million members, organised the protest, defying a government ban on strikes and calls by Boris Yeltsin, President of the Republic, to halt labour unrest.

Arapov said two million workers in the Soviet Far East either stopped work or held one-hour meeting during lunch breaks.

In the traditionally conservative Byelorussian capital, Minsk, workers returned to work after reaching an agreement with the republic's leadership to hold a parliamentary session on May 21 to discuss

their complaints Bomb kills one

AP reports : A bomb exploded Friday near a Communist Party office in the secessionist Estonian republic, damaging the building and nearby homes but causing no casualties, the state Tass news agency reported.

It was the fourth such attack this year in Estonian capital of Tallinn, Tass reported.

The explosion came a day after Soviet troops seized at least a dozen buildings in the neighbouring Baltic republic of Lithuania.

Editor : S. M. Ali

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US soldiers set up barbed wires around a UN observation post on 25 April, 2 kilometres away from the border town of Safwan in Iraq.

Diarrhoea

From Page 1 Col. 8

Nilphamari. In the southern area, the worst hit areas are Bartsal, Barguna, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Bhola, Bagerhat and Noakhali.

The Control Room in the city said the total number of affected persons was 41,019. It was 40,838 on Thursday.

In Dhaka district, 15 persons were hospitalized with diarrhoeal disease on Friday. This number excluded figures of Dhaka city. They Control Room could not say anything about the city situation. There were 26 deaths in Dhaka district on Thursday.

Sources said the situation worsened as antibiotics had become ineffective because of its indiscriminate wrong use. Doctors often prescribe antibiotics for the patients without ensuring completion of the full course. This makes the diarrhoea virus resistant to medicines.

The Control Room said 1466 medical teams were working in the affected area. About 139 temporary hospitals have also been set up. Government is supplying oral saline, intravenous saline, tetracycline capsules, ampiciline capsules, metronidazol tablets and nalidexic acid for the patients. It said supply of medicines was satisfactory.

'Iraq should be protected for peace in ME'

By DU Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar on post-war development in the Gulf said Iraq should be protected for the sake of a longterm peace in the Gulf region.

They mentioned that the common people should not be victimised for the wrong decision of their leaders.

The seminar organised by the International Relations Alumni Association (IRAA) of Dhaka University at the National Museum on Friday was addressed by Soviet Ambassador to Bangladesh Vitali S Smirnov and Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Ganti Doost with IRAA Chairman and Director of CIRDAP ATM Sharnsul Hug in the chair.

Smirnov said the Soviet Union supported the settlement of all international disputed questions through peaceful negotiation.

ATM Shamsul Huq said the war was fought to create a new international order particularly

in the context of Middle East. He stressed the need for establishing justice for a longlasting solution to the Middle East. Mohammad Ganji Doost said to bring a long-lasting peace in the Middle East the Palestinian issue should be re-

solved on priority basis. Akmal Hossain, Associate Professor of International Relations Department of Dhaka University read out the keynote paper in the seminar while Afzal H Khan conducted the programme.

Khmer Rouge accepts call for cease-fire

BANGKOK, Apr 26: The Khmer Rouge, the military muscle of the Cambodian Resistance Movement, said today it accepted a call from France, Indonesia and the UN Secretary General for a voluntary cease-fire in Cambodia, reports AFP.

a military officer said. base for patrol boats trying to

Khaleda: Culture ited it.

From Page 1 Col. 4

taking together the soil of the country, its map and the people along with our Language Movement and War of Independence."

Begum Zia said the present government called upon the people to maintain austerity soon after it assumed power because the country had become bankrupt during the last nine years. She said the national wealth were misused for the individual and group interests which left a burden of loan on the nation.

Begum Zia pointed out that if the people had wanted the imaginary development, decorated fountains and sodium lights, they would not have sacrificed their lives for the democracy. She exhorted that all must sacrifice to achieve the cherished goal of emanci-

The Prime Minister suggested the establishment of a Trust for encouraging the young writers of the country and sought recommendations from all regarding the setting of the Trust.

She also suggested setting up of a Sangstha for the welfare of the country's artistes. litterateurs and intellectuals. The destitute artiste would need not to pray for anyone's favour if this Sangstha could be turned into a profit earning organisation, she said.

Begum Zia said she was aware of the problems of Bangla Academy but she pointed out that it would not be correct to think that all the problems of the Academy would be solved as she had visShe sought cooperation

from all to solve the problems and said the solution of problems depending on a person would never bring any collective welfare, she added.

She said during the last nine years of autocratic rule individuals were given importance over the rules and procedures of organisation. The present government wanted to solve the problems as per the rules and procedures and that was why the members of the Bangla Academy had to work out their own problem. She said adding the government would always extend the needed support to them.

Begum Zia said Bangla Academy would always get due honour from her government as a national organisation.

Education Minister Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury said the folk artistes must be given the proper place and honour in the society to crate a cultural awareness in the country.

The minister also underlined the need for holding folk festivals in wider scale for making the masses aware of our own culture and heritage.

'The week-long festival will be featured by discussions, Baul and Kabi Gan, Jari, Pala and Marfati songs. The Academy also arranged sale of its own books on the occasion. The books published by the Academy till 1985 will be sold at 60 per cent commission while the books published since 1986 and onward will be sold at 40 per cent commission, the organisers said.

Lankan troops break month-long seige, kills 26

COLOMBO, Apr 26: Sri Lankan government troops, using air and sea support, have broken a month-long siege by separatist Tamil rebels of an island naval base, killing 26 guerillas in a day of fighting, military sources said today, reports Reuter.

Six government soldiers were also killed and 20 wounded on Thursday in the battle for Karainagai naval base on the island of Karaitivu off the northern coast of Sri Lanka, the sources said.

Security forces also captured a vital causeway, Poonalai, that links Karaitivu with mainland Jassna, the stronghold of the separatists who are fighting for an independent homeland.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been attacking security forces' bases constantly on the Jaffna peninsula, the sources said.

Earlier this week they said that more than 1,000 rebels and 170 government troops had been killed over the past month or so during

offensives launched by the government. Defence Ministry Secretary Cyril Ranatunga said on Thursday an indefinite curiew

had been imposed in Jaffna. "We have had a rain of mortars fired into our camps," he told reporters.

The military sources said a large number of rebel bunkers were destroyed. Several vehicles, bags full of anti-personnel mines, rifle-grenades, ammunition and uniforms were captured after the siege was bro-

Security forces mounted a simultaneous offensive in nearby Kayts Island where an army detachment had come under regular rebel fire. Details of this operations were not available.

" The curfew is still on and the operations are continuing,"

Karainagar is the main naval

prevent tigers smuggling men and arms across the Narrow Palk strait between Jaffna and south India.

One soldier was killed and two wounded when tigers tried to attack a village of the majority Sinhalese community at Welioya in the east on

Thursday, the sources said. Ranatunga said the tigers were trying to divert troops by attacking Sinhalese villages in the east.

They hacked to death 17 villagers in Ampara district on April 14, and massacred 22 last Sunday in a jungle village at Moneragala.

Three rebels were killed in separate clashes in Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts on Thursday, the sources said.

· Reports of the military operations and casualties could not be independently verified.

JP protest day tomorrow

The Jatiya Party will observe a country-wide protests day tomorrow to demand the release of all party leaders and workers including former president H M Ershad MP, reports BSS.

In the capital the Jatiya Party will hold a rally at Dainik Bangla square at 11 am. After the rally it will bring out a procession.

The Secretary General of the party, Shah Moazzem Hossain, in a statement criticised the government for what he said "depriving the Jatiya Party chairman, Ershad, who won five seats in the Sangsad elections, of attending parliament session.

He also criticised the government for shifting Ershad from Gulshan sub-jail to Dhaka Central Jail and arresting the Acting Chairman of the party, Mizanur Rahman, Chowdhury.

Sher-e-Bangla

From Page 1 Col. 5 seminar, Milad Mahfil and placing of wreaths at the Mazar of Sher-e-Bangla.

The Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, in a message on the occasion of death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla, described the late leader as a true friend of the peasants and the people and said his ideals would inspire the nation in its march to the path of democracy achieved through a mass movement.

In her message, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia called for taking up a pledge for consolidating democracy and to improve the lot of the common people to pay respect to the great leader on the occasion of his death anniversary.

Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti Sangsad, Bangladesh Manabadhikar Sangathan, Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Gabeshana Kendra and Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Foundation will jointly hold a discussion at 9 am today at the Mazar premises day-long Quran Khwani will also be held. Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti

Sangsad will give 'Sher-e-Bangla national gold medal award and crest' to eight personalities today at 4.30 pm at Mazar premises.

Bangladesh National Awami Party (Bhasani) will hold a discussion at the party office in Dhaka at 10 a m today on the occasion.

Krishak Sramik Party will hold a Milad Mahfil at 8 am and a discussion at 10 am.

DU to remain closed today

By DU Correspondent Dhaka University will re-

main closed today on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A. K. Fazlul Haque's death.

The authorities of Fazlul Haque Hall of the university will held a discussion meeting on "social reformer Fazlul Haque" today at the hall auditorium to observe the death anniversary.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Maniruzzaman Miah will attend the discussion as chief guest while Justice Maksumul Hakim, State Minister Jamiruddin Sircar and former adviser for finance Kafiluddin Mahmud as special guests.

Mohammad Asfuddowla, Secretary of the Ministry of Jute, will read out the keynote paper. A. M. Mejbahuddin, ABM Nurul Islam, AK Faizul Huq, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi and Reazuddin Ahmed will participate in the discussion.

Rajesh Khanna From Page 1 Col. 8

last to be cleared by the Congress Parliamentary Board. An official confirmation of their names including Sajjan Kumar from outer Delhi were ironically given only after the deadline for nominations had expired.

While Khanna will be pitted against the BJP leader, LK Advant in the prestigious constituency of New Delhi, Romesh Bhandari is in the fray from south Delhi. Jagdish Tytler will fight for the Delhi Sadar seat from where he had won in 1984 but had lost in the 1989 elections.

Dharamdas Shastri will be fielded in the reserved constituency of Karol Bagh which he had represented in 1980 1984 elections which was won by another party nominee Sunderwati Prabhakar. the Constitution. Sajjan Kumar had won the

elections in 1980 but was denied a ticket in the successive two elections. The party had already and confusing. nominated HKL Bhagat from

east Delhi and JP Aggarwal for Chandi Chwowk. Both of them are sitting MPs and were in the first list of party candidates announced last Sunday. ifestos.

Baghdad

From Page 1 Col. 7

"They (the Iraqis) don't want to tangle with the United States' over the refugee camp. the President said.

"We're not looking for any fights. We want to help these Kurds and we are... we don't want to intervene and get our troops hauled into some conflict that's been going on for years".

The United States, Britain and France had warned Iraq to pull its 200 - or 300 - man security force out of Zakho by Saturday or face eviction by allied troops.

"I don't expect any complication. I don't think Saddam Hussein is dumb enough to want to run into US troops again". Another report adds: Pre-

sident Bush said today there was "reason for optimism" about prospects for peace in the Middle East as a result of Secretary of State James Baker's latest round of talks in the region.

Bush told reporters he had spoken to Baker this morning and that 'the bottom line is there is some reason for optimism."

Bush did not elaborate on what Baker had accomplished during his trip. But during a visit to the Soviet Union on Thursday, he won Soviet agreement to co-host a Mid-cast peace conference.

"He (Baker) has made progress. I've just talked to him*, the President told reporters.

Baker broke off his Middle East trip at a critical stage today to fly to his home town of Houston, Texas, after his mother's death.

The Secretary was told of her death while meeting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. In Israeli spokesman said he was leaving for home immediately.

The news interrupted in tense negotiations to bridge wide differences between Israclis and Arabs on the format of a regional peace conference.

Zakho cleared

Meanwhile, AP reports: British and US Marines patrolled the streets of Zakho, northeastern Iraqi city, Friday to the joy of its inhabitants, after Saddam Hussein's government bowed to Allied demands and pulled out its po-

Eight-man columns of Royal Marines in combat gear walked slowly along the main street, happy children trailing behind them. They stopped occasionally to mingle with the mainly Kurdish population who crowded the streets. Many emerged from their homes for the first time in days after the Iraqi police left.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Friday the United Nations will take over the Zakho camp within days. Perez de Cuellar met Thursday evening with Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al-Anbari to discuss the timing

of the transfer. As he entered the United Nations Friday morning, Perez de Cuellar told reporters that the UN intends to takeover the camps "as soon as possible

it is a question of days." A US diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it would probably take weeks to complete the transfer, but that the first UN staffers would be at Zakho in days.

Relief airlift

Besides, The United States will airlift to Saudi Arabia thousands of Iraqi refugees who feared a US withdrawal from southern Iraq would leave them at Saddam Hussein's mercy, relief workers said to-

US Air Force planes will start flying refugees out on Sunday from a US-army-run camp just south of the Iraqi town of Safwan.

Saudi Arabia says it is building a camp for Iraqi refugees on its northern border and it will be ready within two weeks.

No party has mandate to change form of govt : FP

By Staff Correspondent Freedom Party in a meeting of the executive committee on Friday stressed the need for taking effective measures to combat the 'fifth columnists' who are trying to create confu-

sion raising controversy over

the form of government. The meeting which was presided over by party chairman Syed Farook Rahman opined that the people did not vote for changing the form of government nor did any party seek mandate for amending

The meeting termed the Joint Declaration of November 19 as misconceived, illogical

The meeting observed that the political parties which contested the parliamentary elections did not include the Joint Declaration in their man-

The Midnight File

Saddam lifts ban on travel

NICOSIA, Apr 26: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Friday lifted a ban on travel for fragts. In a dispatch monitored in Nicosia, the state-run Iraqi News Agency said Saddam ruled that Iraqis wishing to travel abroad would be allowed to do so as of May 15. The brief announcement, however, did not say if travellers would still need to obtain exit permits before they are allowed to leave fraq, reports AP.

Rafsanjani in Damascus

DAMASCUS, Apr 26: Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani arrives here Saturday on his first foreign trip since his 1989 election, seeking to end Tehran's isolation and raising hopes for hostage releases in Lebanon. Rafsanjant, who is pressing for Iranian participation in post-war Gulf security accords, will fly to Turkey Monday after three days of talks in Damascus, reports AP.

Gunman wanted to see Kaifu

TOKYO, Apr 26: Japanese police arrested a gunman who burst into the headquarters of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) demanding to see Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and a senior LDP figure, police said. The unidentified gunman fired a single shot during the two-hour siege, the police said, adding that they were not sure whether anyone was injured. Earlier reports said that two gunmen had burst into the building, reports AFP.

Recession in US deepens

WASHINGTON, Apr 26: The recession in the United States deepened in the first three months of this year as the US economy shrank at an annual rate of 2.8 per cent, the government said Friday. The Commerce Department said that the Gross National Product, the country's total output of goods and services, fell at an even faster pace than the 1.6 per cent rate of decline recorded from October through December, reports AP.

Conable against loan shift

WASHINGTON, Apr 26: Barber Conable, retiring President of the World Bank, said on Friday he sees little support for a US bid to shift from governments to business a big part of its annual 23 billion dollars in lending. "I don't believe there's strong support at this point for a major change in the bank's charter...." he told a news conference, reports AP.

3 killed in pre-poll Delhi blast

NEW DELHI, Apr 26: At least three people were killed and 11 wounded when a powerful bomb exploded in a crowded underground shopping complex in the Indian capital today, witnesses and hospital sources said, reports

stantly when the bomb went off at 6.50 pm (1320 GMT) in a toilet adjoining a restaurant in Palika Bazar, triggering a panic in the popular shopping plaza and nearby areas. Police reported only one

The victims died almost in-

death, but doctors at government hospital, where the victims were rushed in police jeeps, said three people were dead on arrival and 11 injured, two of them seriously. It was the fifth bomb blast

AL bill

From Page 1 Col. 8 has been titled "Constitution (Eleventh Amendment) Act 1991" and will come into force at once if passed by parliament.

The proposed bill envisages that the President of the Republic shall be elected by the members of parliament and he can be removed if majority members of parliament desire. In case, the office of the President falls vacant, Speaker of the parliament will act as president, the bill says. The President who will be elected for a five-year term will act in accordance with the

advice of the Prime Minister. The proposed bill has categorically defined the power of the Prime Minister who will be appointed by the President. The President will appoint the Prime Minister who will have the support of the majority members of parliament. The cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister, shall collectively remain responsible to parlia-

The reason for and objective of the amendment bill, as mentioned in its draft, by it is necessary to hand over power to a sovereign parliament and establish parliamentary form of government and institutionalise democracy.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col. 5 League General Secretary Abdul Momin Tulu by what she said the BNP terrorists.

Tulu was admitted to Bhola Hospital with serious injuries sustained from the attack with Chinese axe. The terrorists also attacked and injured Chhatra League worker Swapan. BNP activists Belal and Liton who allegedly led the attacks were moving freely.

Hasina further alleged that BNP goons attacked Publicity Secretary of Ramgarh Awami League and Correspondent of the Daily Khabar Faiz Ahmed Milan recently. They attacked Milon's house in connection with a news item on wheat theft. Both Milon and his wife

were injured in the attack. The Awami League President urged the minister in charge of the Home Ministry to take necessary steps in these matters.

in New Delhi since March 18 and the third in the fashionable central commercial district of Cannaught place, which

Todays' deafening merchandise were blown to pieces."It was very powerful explosion, Police Commissioner Arun Bhagat said. But at this moment we will not be able to identify which terrorist group is responsible.

Two successive bomb ex-

is frequented by thousands of

Indians and foreigners.

plosions, which killed 12 people in a crowded weekly market at a West Delhi suburb on March 23, were blamed on Sikh guerillas fighting for independence in the Indian state of Punjab. Police ringed the devas-

tated area, where shoes and torn clothes littered bloodstained stones and concrete slabs, and Bhagat said an unspecified number of suspects had been taken in for questioning.

Reuter adds: Some 1.5 million police and paramilitary troops will be deployed to prevent violence during India's five-stage general election in late May and June, Indian Home Secretary R.K. Bhargava said today.

The men will be used in more than 300 constituencies identified as sensitive among the 537 at stake in the polls, Bhargava told a news confer-

Most of India votes on May

20, 23 and 26. But elections have been deferred until June 6 and 8 in Assam and June 22 in Punjab to allow security forces to be concentrated in the two states troubled by separatist revolts.

who will be in charge of handling religious or caste violence and clashes between political parties, Bhargava said. Nearly 2,000 people have been killed since October 1989 during a militant Hindu campaign to build a temple on

a disputed site where a mos-

que now stands in the nor-

The security plan is built

around a "strike force" of

64,000 paramilitary troops

thern town of Ayodhya. Scores more were killed late last year when former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh decided to increase the number of government jobs reserved for those at the bottom of the rigid Hindu

caste hierarchy. The intense summer heat, with temperatures in the interior climbing to 45 degree Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) in late May, could also cause tempers to fray, analysts said.

The potential for religious and caste strife was a disquieting hew feature in the elections, Bhargava said, adding that there had been a 25 to 30 per cent increase in communal clashes since 1989. Most of the 300 sensitive

constituencies are in the four

states of Andhra Pradesh,

Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West

Bengal, which account for half of all members of parliament. Seven States and the union territory of Pondicherry and holding state assembly polls in addition to elections for India's

national parliament.