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NEWS BRIEFS

Hijackers stab police havildar

One police havildar was stabbed by some hijackers at Gulistan Tuesday afternoon. Havildar Abdul Mannan who received severe injuries has been admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He is a security guard at the T & T building, reports UNB.

Internee doctors' sit-in strike

Internee doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital Tuesday staged a three-hour sit-in in front of the office of the college director to press home their six-point demand. Their demands include service training, services for new doctors, trial of Dr Milton's killers and minimum pay scale of Tk 2500-4000, reports UNB.

Truck movement restricted

Traffic division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has restricted the movement of trucks in the city from 7 am to 9 am and from 2 pm to 6 pm. The restriction will be effective from today, reports UNB.

Transport strike called off

HABIGANJ, Nov 12: The local Transport Workers' Society today called off their indefinite strike following fruitful discussions with the district administration. The workers went on an indefinite strike since Sunday demanding punishment for those who attacked a fellow worker Elias on Friday, reports UNB.

Militants foil West Bengal CM's public meeting

Bangladeshis won't be allowed 24-hour use of Tinbigha : Jyoti

TINBIGHA, Nov 12: The West Bengal Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu, today said that his government would see to it that India's sovereignty over Tinbigha corridor was not undermined if it was leased out to Bangladesh in perpetuity in accordance with the Indira Mujib accord, reports PTI.

Addressing a crowd at Mekhliganj after making an on the spot study of the situation in Kuchlibari and topography of Tinbigha, Basu said that his government also wanted the Centre to consult with the state government to further ensure that the status of the people of Kuchlibari and adjoining areas of Tinbigha on the Indian side was not affected after execution of the accord.

Basu who made the sovereignty issue as the rallying point of his over 30-minute

speech, however, said that the proposed leasing was part of an international agreement.

In an obvious dig at the state BJP which is spearheading agitation against the proposed lease, Basu said no national political party even BJP could obstruct implementation of an international agreement.

He, however, said that he was unable to say when the leasing would be implemented. "There are lot of things connected with the issue which need to be discussed with the Centre. The Centre too on its part will discuss with the Bangladesh government."

Touching on the major topic as to how India and Bangladesh would operate the movement of their citizens through Tinbigha, Basu said that if a road was to be constructed for the purpose, its control must be retained by

the Indian government.

He said "we cannot allow the Bangladesh citizens the right to the road through Tinbigha for 24 hours. Separate and fixed hours should be allotted to Indian and Bangladesh citizens for using such road."

In view of strong resentment of the people of Kuchlibari and adjoining areas for the proposed leasing of Tinbigha corridor, tight security arrangements were made both at Tinbigha and Mekhliganj under Coochbhar subdivision in connection with Basu's first ever visit to the area.

Basu said, if necessary he would seek the opinion of top legal experts on the sovereignty issue in connection with the proposed leasing out.

"The state government's stand still remains unclear to

us even after Basu's speech" Kamal Guha, a former state minister and leader of the Forward Bloc, a constituent of the ruling Left Front told newsmen immediately after the Chief Minister address.

Guha who attended the meeting referred to Basu's assurance that India's sovereignty would remain even after the lease out of the corridor and said "how can sovereignty be retained after handing over Tinbigha to Bangladesh under a 999 year lease agreement?"

Our Rangpur Correspondent adds: West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu visited Tinbigha corridor Tuesday morning to finalise process of its transfer to Bangladesh amidst strict security arrangements.

The Chief Minister stayed on the corridor for only 15

Stranded Pakistanis to settle in 32 Punjab districts

ISLAMABAD, Nov 12: The Rabita Trust Board meeting presided over by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday constituted three committees to plan, oversee and facilitate repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh, reports AFP.

The Prime Minister called for adopting a practical approach to tackle this humanitarian problem.

He said that a comprehensive plan should be drawn up to cover arrangements for transportation, housing and economic rehabilitation of the repatriates.

He said Pakistan would match the funds raised through donations from overseas for repatriation.

Punjab Chief Minister Ghulam Haider Wyne informed the meeting that a plan will be prepared to settle the repatriates in 32 districts of the Punjab.

He said the measures include building housing colonies and creating self-employment opportunities.

Earlier, the meeting elected Federal Finance Minister, Sartaj Aziz, Vice-Chairman of the Rabita Trust for Pakistan. Ghulam Haider Wyne was nominated as a member of the board while Maulana Zafar Ahmed Ansari was nominated honorary adviser to the board.

The meeting adopted a resolution and offered feteha for late Gen. Muhammad Ziaul Haq who was the first chairman of the board.

Dr Abdullah Omar Naseef, Secretary General of the Rabita Al-Islami, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees called on the Prime Minister and discussed measures taken by the Rabita for repatriation of stranded Pakistanis.

Saudi ministers, Rabita Secy-Gen arrive today

Saudi Commerce Minister in King Faisal's cabinet Shaikh Ahmed Saleh Jamjoom, Saudi Information Minister in King Khaled's cabinet Dr Muhammad Abdul Yemari and Secretary-General of Rabita Dr Abdullah Omar Naseef will arrive in Dhaka this morning on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The Saudi ministers and Rabita Secretary-General will be received by Education Minister Jamruddin Sircar at the airport. They will attend the certificate awarding ceremony of Darul Ihsan University at Savar today.

The Saudi ministers and Rabita Secretary-General will call on the President and the Prime Minister during their stay in Bangladesh.

They will also attend the annual meeting of the Board of Governors, Syndicate and Darul Ihsan Trust and visit Rabita Hospital at Rangamati.

'Wangchuk was invited through envoy in Dhaka'

By Staff Correspondent

The Sri Lankan Ambassador in Bangladesh Alfred K. David disclosed yesterday that the invitation to the King of Bhutan Jigme Singye Wangchuk to attend the SAARC summit was delivered to the Bhutanese envoy in Dhaka.

Alfred said that the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister handed over the invitation to the Bhutanese Ambassador in Dhaka as per consultation with the Bhutanese Foreign Minister, when he failed to visit Bhutan due to a disruption in communications and after being assured by the Bhutanese Foreign Minister that the invitation would be accepted in any way.

Alfred David said that after receiving the invitation to attend the summit from the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister the

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Depression in Bay

By Staff Correspondent

A depression formed in the Bay of Bengal on Tuesday and was moving slowly in a north-westerly direction. Met office sources said adding that it could not be ascertained whether it would cross the Bangladesh or the Indian coasts.

In a special bulletin issued Tuesday evening the Met office said that depression over the south-east Bay, central Bay and adjoining south-west Bay moved westward and was centred about 1280 kilometres southwest of Chittagong at 6 pm.

The depression is likely to intensify further and move in a northwesterly direction at a

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Sri Lankan FM says

Rao helped SAARC summit collapse

COLOMBO, Nov 12: Sri Lanka said Tuesday that a South Asian summit scheduled here collapsed because Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao insisted that it could not be held without the Bhutanese King, who withdrew at the last minute, reports AFP.

Foreign Minister Harold Herat told parliament that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) meeting that was to have opened here last week was aborted because of Rao's insistence on King Jigme Singye Wangchuk's presence.

Herat said Colombo invited Rao to visit Sri Lanka to discuss the matter informally with other leaders of the seven-nation grouping but even that could not take place because the Indian Prime Minister was "adamant."

The Indian Prime Minister

was adamant that even such informal consultations would not yield any tangible results without the personal participation of all heads of state or government," Herat said.

In a lengthy statement, Herat detailed the events leading to the cancellation of the summit due to take place from November 7 to 9 and laid the blame squarely on Rao for its failure.

Opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike said they wanted a full debate on Herat's statement and Colombo's failure to host the summit.

SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Despite the summit cancellation, the leaders of Bangladesh, Maldives and Pakistan turned their summit visits into goodwill missions to Colombo.



Dhaka University students on way to their examination centres with strong police contingents on guard Tuesday. — Star photo

Students, teachers give cold shoulder to session jam body

By Sohel Manzur

No tangible progress has been made so far by the high-powered "Session Jam Removal Committee" in preparing its report on ways to eliminate session jams from educational institutions.

The body formed in April was reconstituted in July and was to submit its report by October 31.

The body after its reconstitution distributed over 5000 questionnaires among the students and teachers of all universities and asked them to submit answers by September 30. It also asked essays on session jams from interested students. But the response in this regard was not satisfactory.

According to a source the committee received fewer than 1000 answer sheets out of the 5000 distributed. The number of essays received was only around 25.

The source said that the committee could not yet begin its main tasks of sorting out the causes of session jams and preparing proposals to eliminate them as no answer sheets were still received from the Dhaka University. The response from the university was

not at all satisfactory, it pointed out.

The source further said that members of the body visited all universities excluding the Chittagong University and the Dhaka University and held meetings with a cross-section of teachers and students.

The meeting with the teachers and students of the Dhaka University could not be held as the committee was not getting satisfactory response from them, the source alleged.

The committee held three meetings after its reconstitution and discussed methods of preparing the report.

Shahidullah, Member Secretary of the eight-member body and also the Secretary of University Grants Commission, when asked told The Daily Star that the committee would begin the final job of preparing proposals after receiving answer sheets from the Dhaka University. But that it would not be possible to prepare the report within this month even if the committee received the answer sheets immediately as he and the Convenor of the body Prof Mosharraf Hossain, Member of the UGC would be

busy interviewing candidates for the Commonwealth scholarships upto November 19.

The other members of the committee are Prof Mozaffer Ahmad (Institute of Business Administration of the Dhaka University), Tofael Ahmed MP, ANM Hamidullah MP, Nurul Islam Moni MP, Gias Kamal Chowdhury (Journalist) and Dr Iqbal Mahmud (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology).

The previous committee headed by Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiquee was to submit a report in three weeks after its formation.

The body, after its formation, held only one meeting which prepared a budget of about Taka one lakh for its smooth functioning and submitted it to the Ministry of Education. No response was, however, received by that committee in this regard.

The Ministry later reconstituted the body in July without informing all the members of the committee.

Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, one of the members of the then committee, See Page 12 Col. 8

DU exams begin under police guard

By DU Correspondent

The examinations of various departments of Dhaka University began Tuesday peacefully under special security measures taken by the university authorities.

Police were posted near the Arts Faculty building and the Lecture Theatre building, where the examinations were held.

All gates of the two buildings were kept closed and no students other than examinees were allowed to enter without the written permission of the Proctor. Examinees entered by showing their admit cards.

No classes were held on the day as the teachers continued their strike responding to the call of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) protesting the failure of the government in protecting law and order on the campus.

DUTA decided to continue the strike that began on November 2 unless effective measures in rooting out terrorism was taken by the government.

It, however, exempted examinations from its strike programme, considering the interest of the students and being assured of security

Tk 2,700 cr to be released for development work

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Tuesday announced the country's sluggish economy would be rejuvenated soon with the release of Taka 2,700 crore from its development budget.

"The country's economy will again be vigorous in a couple of weeks as the development financial institutions have already been directed to release funds," he said.

The minister was inaugurating a two-day seminar on "Islamisation of Bangladesh's Banking System: Prospects and Problems", at the BCIC auditorium.

Rahman, who attended the function as chief guest, hoped the money in addition to Tk 2,100 crore released earlier for development work will dispel the current economic slowdown.

Responding to reports of economic recession prevailing in the country, the Finance Minister criticised the bank defaulters and said, "The country's people are hostage to the bank defaulters. Money, not recycling, is causing the stagnation."

He said use of development funds was delayed because of inclement weather since July

and hoped that the situation would improve soon.

Organised by the Islami Bank Officers' Welfare Association, the inaugural function of the seminar was also addressed by Commodore Mohammad Ataur Rahman (Retd.), Chairman of the Board of Governors of Islami Bank and Association President Mohammad Nurul Islam.

About credit programme, Saifur Rahman said priority would be given to small scale industries. Necessary steps are being taken to provide funds up to Taka 25,000 against each of sanctioned poultry, livestock

and small fisheries projects. Similar measures will also be taken to ensure financial resources for rural housing sector, he added.

He called upon the nationalised commercial banks to extend their lending programmes to give priority to small and cottage industry projects located in the rural areas.

"Saifur stressed the need for discipline in the financial sector and said dynamic economy would remain far-fetched if the rule of law is flouted."

The minister disclosed that a committee would be formed

shortly by the government to remove any incongruity in the existing banking company act.

"The government is aware of some lapses and operational loopholes in the banking company act," he said adding that the laws would be amended if necessary to bring back discipline and to strengthen regulatory framework for the overall banking sector.

Commodore Rahman said Islami Bank had already taken up some programmes aimed at socio-economic development of the country.

The bank's programmes See Page 12 Col. 7

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The auction will be held on 28-11-91 for Plot No-1 and on 3-12-91 for Plot No-1A in the Conference Room, 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10.00 A. M.

Chairman,
Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha, Dhaka.

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