US fears attack on its citizens in Asia

ISLAMABAD, Nov 25: American embassies in Asia were calling and faxing US citizens today to warn them to be on the alert for 'terrorist or mob action' following President Bill Clinton's meeting with British author Salman Rushdie, reports Reuter.

The US embassy in Islamabad was calling American residents to warn them to stay away from known trouble spots, avoid going out if possible and try to be as inconspicuous as possible in Muslim Pakistan.

"While we are not aware of a concrete threat in connection with this trip, experience and the continuation of the Iranian Fatwa (decree) against Rushdie suggest that there may be terrorist or mob action directed against American or American interests overseas," the US embassy in New Zealand said in a statement.

An embassy spokesman told Reuters the statement had been released by the State Department in Washington.

The US embassy in Australia issued a similar statement, as did the American consulate in Hong Kong.

"It is a routine notification to Americans... to be cautious, said a consulate spokeswoman. In Kuala Lumpur, the US embassy distributed the State

Department advisory by fax to US citizens working in Malaysia and asked recipients to pass it along to other Americans where appropriate. The Hong Kong spokes-

woman said the worldwide statement was aimed at both private citizens and government officers but there was nothing to suggest that any attack was

"The US Department of State asks all Americans and those representing American interests overseas to be alert to the possibility of such a threat and to take the necessary precautions," the statement adds. Americans in Pakistan were

told to keep away from the weekly Friday bazaar, a favourite shopping spot in Islamabad, because Friday midday



Salman Rushdie

prayers may provide an opportunity for Muslim clerics to give sermons condemning Rushdie and could be followed by anti US demonstrations.

Several people were killed when police opened fire on an anti-Rushdie demonstration outside the United States Information Service Office in Islamabad in 1989.

Rushdie met Clinton on Wednesday. The Indian-born author described the unannounced meeting as 'the pinnacle' of his long campaign to pressure Iran into lifting its death sentence against him.

The late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued the decree in 1989 because of what he termed blasphemy against Islam in Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses.'

The author has been in hiding under guard ever since for much of the time. But he met British Prime Minister John Major in May and has had high level meetings in Canada, Portugal, Ireland, Holland and Scandinavia.

Cut system loss further, Saifur asks PDB officials

MOULVIBAZAR, Nov 25: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman today asked the Power Development Board officials to further reduce the "awful" system loss to a justifiable limit to make PDB a viable and profitearning organisation, reports

"Losses during the generation period or during transmission phase is understandable... But how can one justify system loss due to theft, meter tampering and other malpractices?" he asked the PDB men.

The Finance Minister was addressing as chief guest the foundation laying ceremony of the Sylhet 90-MW Combined Cycle Power Plant Project at Fenchuganj.

The function was also addressed, among others, by **Energy and Mineral Resources** Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Sharaf Uddin Ahmed Khasru MP, Energy Secretary M Faizur Razzak, Japanese Ambassador Seizio Takenaka and local BNP leader

Shafi Ahmed Chowhury. The Tk 404 crore power project with a foreign exchange component of Tk 290 crore is expected to be completed by October, 1995. The Overseas Economic Fund of Japan will provide the foreign exchange component for the project. When it goes in full opera-.

tion, the plant will not only meet the additional demand of the greater Sylhet district but also provide 50 MW of electricity to augment the supply in the national grid.

The phase-one of the combined cycle power plant now under construction consists of two gas turbines and one steam turbine - each of 30 MW capacity.

The steam turbine will use excess heat from the two gas turbines to boil water without using any further fuel for itself making the whole plant cost-effactive. The steam produced from boiling the water will rotate the turbine to generate

Latur rocked

AURANGABAD, Nov 25: At least 10 people were injured when tremors of mild intensity rocked parts of Latur and Osmanabad districts of Marathwarda region late last night, reports PTI.

A report reaching here said the shock waves were predominantly felt in Omerga Taluka of Osmanabad district and Killari villages of Latur district, which were ravaged by the devastating earthquake of September 30.

From Page 1 Col 4

Calling the amendment 'one of the toughest anti-proliferation measures under US law. Pressler said "The proliferation of nuclear weapons is the most critical national security issue facing our country. It must not he the sacrificial lamb of socalled foreign aid reform."

McCurry, said the United States believes that both India and Pakistan are in a position 'where they could assemble nuclear weapons in a relatively short time frame.

"The objective of our nonproliferation efforts has been to cap, reduce and then finally eliminate weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile weapons systems in South Asia in particular," McCurry said.

Tensions between Pakistan and India have been high because of a dispute over the predominantly Muslim region of Kashmir. The two countries agreed to resume talks on that

ue January 1. Meanwhile in Islamabad Pak Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Thursday that her government had restarted talks with France on building a nuclear power plant in Pakistan. "The nuclear power plant

shall be the best example of French-Pak friendship," Ms Bhutto told a group of Pakistani newspaper editors.

Ms Bhutto did not give any details on when an agreement might be reached. But she said the plant was urgently needed to increase electricity supplies in Pakistan.

Pakistan and France reached a tentative agreement on the nuclear plant in 1990, when Ms Bhutto was serving her first term in office.

The project stalled when Ms Bhutto's government collapsed later that year. She returned to power following last month's elections.

Pakistan already has one nuclear power plant in the southern port city of Karachi.

Pakistan insists its nuclear programme is entirely for peaceful purposes. However, the Asian country has acknowledged that it has the ability to built nuclear weapons, but says it has not done so.

Arch rival India also is considered capable of assembling an atomic bomb. Neither country is willing to unilaterally sign the nuclear non-proliferation

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Jyoti Basu against onion export to Bangladesh

CALCUTTA, Nov 25: The West Bengal Chief Minister. Jyoti Basu, has urged the centre to consider suspension of onion export to Bangladesh for 'a certain period,' till a new crop is harvested, and demanded that the states be consulted before according such permission for exports, reports PTI.

In a letter to the union Commerce Minister, Pranab Mukharjee, the Chief Minister said, it was important that before allowing exports of onions. there should be consultation with states in order to correctly assess the position of scarcity which may prevail for some

Requesting Mukharjee to examine the scope of suspending for a certain period' onion export till harvesting of a new crop, the Chief Minister said, this would help stabilise the market price in the state' at a reasonable level.

Stating that ordinary consumers in West Bengal were being hard hit due to 'abnormally high market price of onions,' Basu said, the state had to depend largely on Maharashtra, UP and Tamil Nadu for onions. But due to inadequate supply from these states, the market price had gone up. "As per report, from November eight to 15, 672 tonnes of onions have been exported to Bangladesh," the letter said.

25 hurt as police, mob clash in Narayanganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Nov 25: Twenty-five people were injured as mob clashed with police here following a road accident in which one person was killed on

the spot. The mob set fire to a truck and damaged several other vehicles. Police fired gunshots and lobbed teargas shells to bring the situation under control.

A fertiliser-loaded truck that crushed an unidentified man at the Second Railgate area in the town at around 7:30 am triggered the violence.

The mob also beat up the truck driver Poresh Chandra Das. 35, severely. The hourlong clash spread to Railgate. Ukilpara, Chamber Road and Diamond Hall areas:

Milon

From Page ! Col 7 occasion of the opening of a sculpture in memory of Dr Milon on Dhaka University campus yesterday morning.

Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon, Joint Secretary of BMA. was gunned down on the DU campus on November 27, 1990 by hired goons at the fag end of the anti-autocracy movement against Ershad.

The BMA and the Smriti Sangsad jointly sponsored the sculpture, built at a cost of Tk. 4.5 lakh, and erected at the south-east corner of the DU Central Library.

Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed formally opened the plaque of the memorial

sculpture. Speaking on the occasion the VC said people had established democracy after a nineyear long struggle against the autocratic regime. But democ-

racy is yet to become fully alive. This sculpture is not only to commemorate Dr Milon, it is a memorial to all democracyloving people of the country", he observed.

The function, presided over by BMA President Dr M A Majed, was also addressed by Selina Akhter, mother of late Dr Milon, BMA Vice-President Dr Mahbubur Rahman, Secretary General Gazi Abdul Huq, Joint Secretary Dr Rafiq Chowdhury. **DUCSU AGS Nazimuddin Alam** and Chhatra Moitry President Ragib Ahsan Munna.

SAARC ministers

From Page 1 Col 8 seven member countries who constitute the council will participate in the meeting and discuss the future course of actions to make the SAARC more dynamic in fulfilling its objectives for which it was formally launched in Dhaka in 1985.

The association has so far identified 13 areas of coopera-

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman who is the current chairperson of the council will preside over all working sessions of the meet-

It will be the 13th session of the SAARC Council of Ministers. which is due to fix the date of the eighth SAARC summit to be hosted by India.

The meeting of the Council of Ministers will be preceded by sessions of the Standing Committee and Programme Committee of the association.

The Standing Committee consisting of the Foreign Secretaries will meet on December 1-3.

The Programme Committee which is composed of senior officials of the government of the member countries will hold its session on November 30.



A British UN soldier allows a Sarajevo youth to look through the sights of his rifle yesterday. - AFP photo

Back-stage moves on

From Page 1 Col 5 rate two-hour discussions on both the motions.

Meanwhile, the ruling party high command, in an informal meeting Wednesday night, as signed Deputy Leader of the House Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury to open dialogue with the AL-led Opposition to avert any possible situation which could obstruct the continuity of the present Sangsad, a cabinet minister told The Daily

Chaired by the Prime Minis ter, the BNP high command resolved to propose to the Opposition that both the accused -Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina - would make separate statements in the House clarifying their respective positions on the motions, abandoning the idea of long discussions on the 'sensitive issue.

The meeting felt that general discussions were likely to fur-

JS boycott

From Page 1 Col 4 Samad Azad described Wednesday's crisis in Parliament as unfortunate and said it was no stray incident since the

constitution of this Parliament. Criticising the attitude of the Prime Minister towards Parliament, Azad said "A Parliament cannot be made effective by making speeches outside it. The Prime Minister has not made any statement on national issues so far discussed in Parliament."

"Parliament has failed to ensure rule of law, ensure separation of the judiciary, annul the Indemnity Ordinance and fulfil other commitments made in the Joint Declaration of the three alliances," he said.

Replying to a question. Jatiya Party's Munirul Huq Choudhury said, "How can we stay in the House if the biggest opposition AL quits it?"

Regarding possible resignation by the JP MPs, a smiling Choudhury quipped: "We are in

the queue behind the AL men". The JP leader also supported Hasina's threat to resign, adding that she had to do so finding no other alternative.

JCD wins most posts in DAMECSU

By DMCH Correspondent The pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) bagged 15

seats while the Awami Leaguebacked Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) picked up five posts in the Dhaka Medical College Students' Union (DAMECSU) polls held yester-In post-elections violence, some unruly students set fire

to two rooms in the Dr Fazle Rabbi Hall and chased each other in the college compound and hostel in the evening. BCL nominee Mustafijul

Azim Jami — a new fifth year student - defeated the JCD candidate and classmate Mohammad Ibrahim Chowdhury in a neck and neck fight. Jami bagged 413 votes while Ibrahim secured 409 votes.

JCD candidate M A Alim was elected the general secretary with 444 votes while his nearest rival Bashir Ahmed Badal of the BCL secured 374

Almost 90 per cent of the total 1038 voters cast their votes from 8 am to 1 pm yesterday. Eighty candidates from four panels contested the polls.

Just before the announcement of the results, two groups of students clashed and chased each other inside the college compound. Another group of unruly students stormed into two rooms of the Fazle Rabbi Hall and set fire to the rooms in the evening.

Police have been deployed in the college compound and hostel to avert fresh violence. The college authorities have asked the residential students to vacate the halls immedither aggravate an already viti-

ated atmosphere. Sources in both the camps said that Prof Chowdhury had contacted Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad Wednesday night and communicated the ruling party's views to him.

Abdus Samad Azad refused to entertain the idea, saying that Sheikh Hasina had been left with no option but to pose the threat of resignation.

Samad Azad, while talking to Prof Chowdhury over telephone. reportedly argued that the Speaker had delivered the ruling on the privilege motion against Hasina in contravention of the JS rules of procedure and he must withdraw his decision before any negotiations started. sources added.

Azad, however, suggested Prof Chowdhury contact the Leader of the Opposition.

Meanwhile, the central working committee of the Awami League, in an emergency meeting yesterday morning, endorsed Sheikh Hasina's decision to resign unless the Speaker rescinded his decision.

Another meeting of the party's parliamentary party, held yesterday afternoon, also endorsed Hasina's stance on the Both the meetings autho-

rised Sheikh Hasina to take any decision on the issue. AL parliamentary party sources said that the party MPs had been asked by the high command to be ready to resign at 'any time'. Meanwhile, the ruling party leaders are learnt to have contacted the Opposition leaders

like Samad Azad, Suranjit Sen-

gupta and Rashed Khan Menon

again yesterday. But no significant progress was made, it was However, an influential leader of the BNP told The Daily Star that they were optimistic about resolving the crisis by Monday, the scheduled date for discussion on the Opposition-sponsored privilege

motion against the Prime Minis-Top level leaders of the ruling party informed the Prime Minister about yesterday's decision by the Opposition to boycott Parliament sittings 'until the Speaker withdraws the ruling relating to the motion against Hasina.

The Prime Minister is learnt to have advised the BNP leaders to keep on trying for a reasonable settlement.

FCO chief due today

The head of the British South Asian Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Barney Smith, arrives in Dhaka today on a fourday official visit, reports BSS.

Brief session

From Page 1 Col 5

Minister Jamiruddin Sircar. The second question, which was also submitted by an AL MP, Mirza Azam, was raised by treasury bench member Fazlul

Indicating the absence of the

major opposition parties, the ruling party MP told the Deputy Speaker "you are in peace today." In reply, the Deputy Speaker said "Excessive peace is sometimes unbecoming." The Education Minister, in

reply to a question, said that

currently no educational institution in the country was closed because of violence on the cam-His answer was contradicted by a Jamaat MP who pointed out that the BL College in

last month. The Education Minister reiterated his answer.

Khulna remained closed till

date as an aftermath of violence

Deputy Leader of the House Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury and a number of senior ministers were present during the question-answer session. The AL and his allies were in a closed door meeting at the time.

Deputy Speaker Panni adjourned the House at around 5:15 pm till 4 pm Sunday.

Gunmen storm Ctg BIT hostel

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 25: Police recovered a walkie-talkie. a rifle and 100 bullets from a hostel of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) this morn-

Earlier a group of gunmen raided the K K Hostel at 6:30am at Raozan, 25 miles of the city. Police said the gunmen allegedly backed by a student faction stormed into the BIT hostel and forcibly occupied some

Police rushed to the spot but the gunmen fled leaving behind the weapons.

Tribal students stage march to Naniarchar

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 25: Several hundred supporters of the Pahari Chhatra Parishad today marched from Kutubchhari and Gilaichhari areas to Naniarchar bazar to protest the recent violence there.

The violence left 27 people killed and over 100 others in-

ured. The marchers also held a rally at Naniarchar bazar in Rangamati demanding the trial of those responsible for the November 17 violence, sources

4 killed in Ctg bus plunge

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 25: At least four people were killed and 20 others injured when a bus fell into a ditch from Patiya road this morning.

Among the injured 11 passengers were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hos-

Zubair, 22, Hasi Meah, 62 and another unidentified man. hospital sources said.

The dead are Md Ali, 55

The Chittagong-bound bus met with the accident when the driver lost control. Patiya police seized the bus

while the driver was abscond-WB embargo

From Page 1 Col 7 allover Bangladesh. From 1990 the Flood Plan Coordination Organisation (FPCO) has been sharing the BWDB's planning mandate. A separate Water Resources Planning Organisation(WARPO) is updating the National Water Plan and providing support to the BWDB since

The WB will not lend money for the BWDB unless there is substantial improvement in the Board's performance. The Bank has criticised the BWDB for weak management, unsatisfactory financial control and lack of attention to operation and maintenance of the BWDB schemes.

The BWDB, with a sanctioned staff strength of 18,000. is managed by a Chairman appointed by the government. A major cause of management weakness in the BWDB, according to the World Bank, is that historically the government had selected officials without an engineering background as Chairmen of the Board. In 1990, the BWDB had 933 engineers and 254 other professionals.

The BWDB's financial controls have been termed unsatisfactory by the WB. Executive Engineers heading more than two hundred BWDB Divisions spread over Bangladesh spend more than Taka 500 crore every year. Payments made by the Executive Engineers are only recorded by the Board's accounting arm in each BWDB Division and consolidated at the headquarters. According to a recent report, the BWDB headquarters was managing 1500 separate bank accounts at the same time!

The WB's decision to put a hold on new lending to the BWDB will seriously affect development of the irrigation and water resources sector. The BWDB, like all other public agencies, is heavily dependent on aid for its investment pro-

gramme. With the WB withdrawing it support, the BWDB's role in expansion of surface irrigation and water resources management will suffer a setback. If this is not reversed the BWDB may become another BADC, observers felt.

Tania sent to Jail

Film actress Tania, arrested in a murder case, was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday as the court rejected her bail prayer at the end of a second police remand, reports

She was produced before the CMM court after a one-day remand for the second time. Tania made a confessional

statement before Metropolitan Magistrate M A Hannan. Standing against the bail pe-

tition. Court Inspector Monwara submitted that Nayan was tortured to death by her former husband, Russel, in presence of Tania, but she did not obstruct.

Kohl's presidential nominee withdraws

BONN (Germany), Nov 25: Chancellor Helmut Kohl suffered a big embarrassment Thursday when his presidential nominee withdrew because of a public furor over the candidate's views on the Holocaust and women's rights. Kohl had staunchly defended Steffen Heitmann, the little-known justice minister from eastern Germany's Saxony state, during a two-month dispute over Heitmann's fitness for high office, reports AP.

IRA to continue war

DUBLIN, Nov 25: The Irish Republican Army today dismissed calls for it to halt its 25-year war against Britain to help an Anglo-Irish peace drive for Northern Ireland. "The reactionary school of thinking demands the defeat of the JRA or an IRA surrender. It is acknowledged that the former isn't possible. The latter is not an issue," an IRA spokesman told Republican News, reports Reuter.

Egyptian PM escapes car bomb blast

CAIRO, Nov 25: Prime Minister Atef Sedki narrowly escaped a car-bomb blast near his home in the Egyptian capital today but the attack by Islamic fundamentalists killed a 15-year-old schoolgirl, reports

The Interior Ministry said the girl, who was not named, died of her injuries after the blast outside Al-Magrizi School. Police said 12 people were wounded in the attack, which Sedki survived unscathed.

Sherpur College closed sine die

SHERPUR, Nov 25: Sherpur Government College was closed today sine die following a violent clash between two groups of students, reports UNB.

At least 20 people including a teacher were injured in the clash

Residents of the only hostel of the college were asked to vacate their dormitory by this (Thursday) noon.

Biman

From Page | Col 4 one flight from Nagova, which turned out to be another unprofitable proposition.

The national carrier began its second route to Japan from July 14, 1992 and continued till January 26, 1993 before suspending the service because of heavy losses. The source, however, could

not give any consolidated fig-

ure of the total losses but said "It is to the tune of several million taka. The source said that the Biman management had planned to suspend the operation last September but later

for another three months to monitor the market situation. Hong Kong and Amsterdam are two other major loss-mak-

decided in favour of continuing

ing routes for Biman, Israeli pullout

From Page 1 Col 6 Israel television broadcast scenes this week of the army

moving tanks out of a base near Jericho. Newspapers have published photos of buildozers clearing ground for the construction of a tall fence separatng Gaza from Israel. In Gaza City, one military encampment built in the late 1980s following numerous Arab

attacks in the area was all but

dismantled Wednesday. Only

one sentry stood guard, and the

city was bare of the jeeps that had regularly patrolled its neighbourhoods. Senior PLO military figures visited Gaza this week to lay the groundwork for a Palestinian

draws. Fares Hassoune, one of the Palestinians in charge of setting up the Gaza police force, refused to say Wednesday if there was a timetable for troop withdrawal.

police force once Israel with-

newspapers published a copy of an army order to some reserve units to report for duty December 29 to help in the withdrawal. Changes in Israeli policy have spread beyond Jericho and

But earlier this week, Israeli

Gaza, pointing to possible longterm plans for withdrawal from other areas of the West Bank.

ADB to fund

From Page 1 Col 4 structure, the sources explained. "It is likely that the units of

the inter-city services or the container services would be separated," the sources said, adding that "The accounting system of the railway would be modernised in order to make it more efficient.

dollar in the first instalment of its 80 million dollar loan to the BR, which is expected to be signed in December. The 80 million dollar loan to support the BR's recovery

Meanwhile, the ADB has

agreed to disburse 48 million

programme (RRP) was delayed by several months.

BR officials clarified that the delay was due to the ADB's dissatisfaction with the performances of some other sectors of the government which had failed to meet the Bank's conditions, and not because of the BR's failure in any respect.

Schoolgirl set on fire by jilted lover

By DMCH Correspondent A teenaged schoolgirl was doused with petrol and set on fire by her jilted lover at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday.

She received severe burn injuries allover her body. Shipon, 15, an SSC exami-

nee from the Lalmatia's Arafat High School, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition. Relatives said some local youths splashed petrol on her

body and threw a matchstick

through a window which immediately burn Shipon who was having lunch at her Mohammadpur residence. Relatives said that some local youths always teased her on way to and from school. A

week ago one of the youths proposed to marry her but she refused. Shipon is the daughter of Haji Fazaruddin, an employee of the Bangladesh secretariat.

any written complaint.

that they were yet to receive

Mohammadpur police said

30 hurt in Barisal From Page 1 Col 8 the groups tried to hold meetings at the TNO's office

The local administration had earlier clamped Section 144 from 11:30 am to 10 pm in the municipal areas as the two organisations called meetings at same venue at the same time Besides, the Awami League

premises at the same time.

meeting there, they stormed the meeting venue of the Jatiya Party along with the Jubo Dal supporters. Meanwhile, the JP held two meetings, one at the field adia-

cent to the TNO office and an-

backed Chhatra League (BCL-

MI) called a meeting at the he-

lipad, but instead of holding the

other at the helipad, defying Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury while addressing the rally said, "We did not come here to clash with anybody, we came here to publicise our seven-point demands. But the government is behaving un-

democratically with the Jatiya Party." Former vice President Moudud Ahmed said the disruption of the Jatiya Party meeting proved that the government does not believes in

democracy. The rally was addressed among others by Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Anwar Hossain Manju, Ruhul Amin Haolader, Kazi Firoz Rashid and the local

New phone lines From Page 1 Col 7 would reduce the price for cellular phones - which now

cost nearly a lakh taka - be-

cause an increased number of

companies would be offering

competitive prices to the cus-

leaders.

tomers. Already, a Malaysian firm has shown special interest in joining the cellular phone mar-To implement the new plans, the government has already

undertaken a modernisation programme of the Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) with French collaboration. Talking about private sector growth in telecommunications. Tariqui Islam said the present plan is to introduce private telephone systems only at the thana level while district and

city phones, barring the cellular

ones, will remain under the

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (T&T Board). "We will make the Board highly profitable by checking pilferage," the minister said. "Last year, T&T made a profit of Tk 350 crore. We will push the profits up by another Tk-150

The government has already identified 482 fake telephone lines in the capital and taken action against the officials concerned for this malpractice. He also claimed that this

crore this year."

government was aiming to achieve an overhaul and rehabilitation of the country's telecom system to a degree which had not been achieved in 46 years since the partition of India

The Midnight File