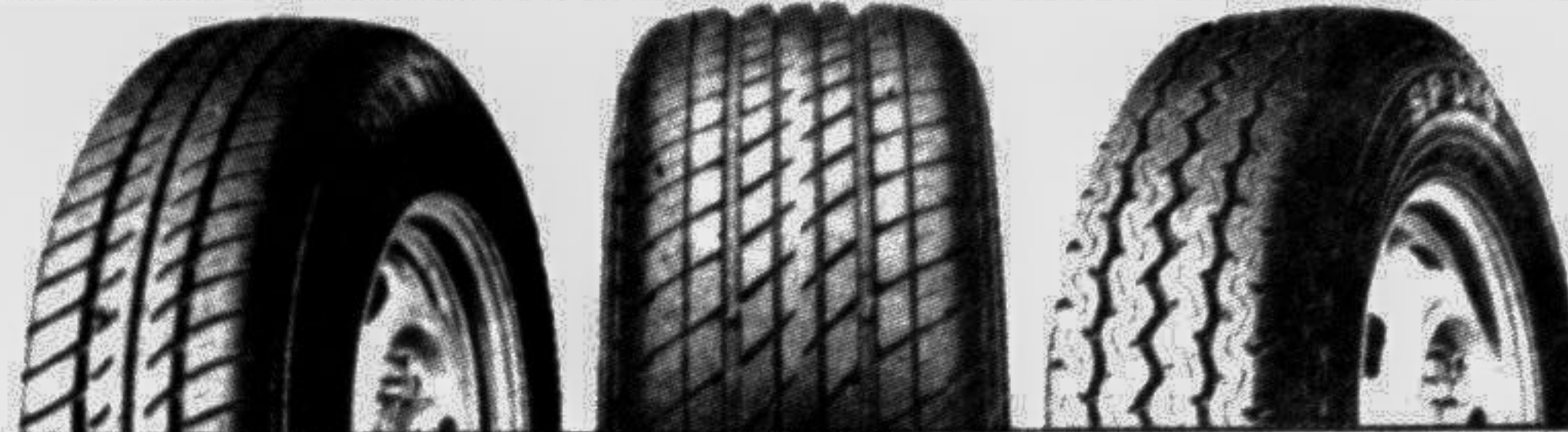




DUNLOP
Tested for the Unexpected



Distributor: **RAHIMAFROOZ**
Dhaka: 865270-74, 882351, 882391
Chittagong: 504792 Fax: 504017

Bangarappa expelled from Congress

NEW DELHI, Dec 20: A powerful politician was expelled from the governing Congress Party on Monday after he asked Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao to apologise for the demolition of an ancient mosque and accused him of nepotism in recent state polls, reports AP.

The expulsion of Sarekoppa Bangarappa could jeopardise the chances of the Congress in future polls in the southern state of Karnataka. Bangarappa was chief minister of the state until last year when Rao threw him out on charges of large-scale corruption.

Bangarappa, who belongs to one of India's numerous poor castes, said he will float a regional party that is sympathetic to farmers, who resent Rao's economic liberalisation policies.

The maverick politician

launched a scathing attack on Rao after the Congress lost elections to legislatures in two northern states this month.

But observers say Bangarappa had been sidelined in the Congress and was itching to get out. He could now try to forge an alliance with a political party representing poor castes that has come to power in the politically important state of Uttar Pradesh.

The destruction of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya on Dec 6, 1992 by Hindu zealots angered the minority Muslim voters. Many of them turned away from the Congress, blaming it for failing to protect the mosque.

Earlier this month, Rao also fired a junior minister in his cabinet after he blamed the Prime Minister for leading a lacklustre election campaign.



President Abdul Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia stand in attention while the national anthem is played during the inaugural ceremony of the VI SAF Games at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Also seen are Games Organising Committee chief Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain and president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association Gias Kamal Chowdhury.

SAF Games

From Page 1 Col 7

simply a test of the participants' sports capabilities. These are instruments to encourage mass participation," she said.

"In our region, we are proud of our shared heritage and tradition. This permeates our daily life. The SAF Games will be more than a mere sporting event. It will provide us an opportunity to understand and appreciate our common ways of life," said Begum Zia, also chairperson of the seven-nation South Asian grouping, SAARC.

She said, "We are at a critical juncture in the evolution of civilisation. Our societies face many challenges. Some threaten to confuse our youth."

The Prime Minister stressed the need for protecting the youths from the negative impulses and observed that sports could unleash their positive energies. "Sports can indeed encourage our youth to achieve glory for themselves and society at large."

She hoped that all participants of the South Asian Federation Games would have a happy stay in Dhaka and go back with pleasant memories.

A colourful start

From Page 1 Col 7

amid the cheers of 25,000 spectators.

The smallest contingent of the meet, a 14-member Bhutanese team led by paddler Prem Rai then entered the arena.

The 248-member Sri Lanka team then walked out with colonel Raja Dayasinghe bearing the rather bellcose flag with a lion brandishing a sword.

Shooting gold winner in the Commonwealth Games in '90 and a prospective medal winner in this meet, Ateequr Rahman, then brought out the biggest contingent of the meet — a 263-member team of the hosts Bangladesh.

The display gallery on the north-western portion of the stadium which housed unseemly boys and girls, became a myriocopic conjuring images ranging from that of the PM to the seven Bir Shreshthos of the war of independence.

There was little dearth of the fun and humour when a giant replica of the second SAF Games mascot — a meek deer — coaxed and cajoled the current mascot Adamya — a tiger cub — in, with the crowd listening the contrived exchanges of the two dummy denizens of the Sundarbans — the largest mangrove forest of the world, in rapt attention.

As the violet hour approached, lights in the towers

BHRCC office attacked in city

By Staff Correspondent

Three youngmen walked into the office of the Bangladesh Human Rights Coordination Council (BHRCC) at Lalmitia in the city at 10:15 am yesterday, threatened to close the office, exploded three bombs and fled the spot.

The explosions, which caused panic, however, did not injure anybody.

In a press release the BHRCC expressed its suspicion that the incident was related to the key role played by the BHRCC in organising the festival of the country's indigenous people in the city last Saturday.

"On that day, the Freedom Party organised a rally in front of the Press Club where its leader Maj (Retd) Bazul Huda made derogatory and shameful comments against renowned human rights activist Father Timm. We have protested his comments through the newspapers. This might have provoked the attack, we suspect," the BHRCC press release said.

It demanded investigation and punishment of the culprits.

The Midnight File

Nagas kill colonel, 14 soldiers

NEW DELHI, Dec 20: An Indian colonel and 14 soldiers were killed today in an ambush by tribal militants in the north-eastern state of Nagaland, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. Five other soldiers were wounded in the attack by the outlawed National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) nearly 20 kilometers (12.5 miles) from the town of Mokokchung, the news agency said, reports AFP.

Blast in Phalange Party office in Beirut

BEIRUT, Dec 20: A powerful bomb ripped through the Christian Phalange Party headquarters in the Lebanese capital today, killing one person and wounding 35 party members, security sources said. All of the 30 to 35 members attending a high-level meeting of the right-wing party were "more or less seriously hurt," a police spokesman said. Other security sources said at least one person was killed, reports AFP.

'Black diamond' available

From Page 1 Col 4

should strive for it to save crores of foreign exchange.

Prof Kurny said ilmenite constitutes the largest quantity of heavy minerals of about 25 per cent found in the beach sands and it has to be processed further to remove the chemically combined useless minerals before selling in market.

The research was carried out by Prof Kurny, Dr ASMA Hasib, Md Zahidul Huq and Nasima Akhter of the Metallurgical Engineering Department of BUET with financial assistance from the UGC.

Heavy minerals were first discovered in the beach sands of Cox's Bazar during a geological survey for radioactive minerals in the early sixties. Systematic exploration of beach sand minerals started in 1968 under the supervision of two Australian experts and till 1985 heavy mineral deposits numbering 17 were identified along the coastal belt.

India and Sri Lanka have all ready started commercial extraction of this mineral.

In Bangladesh, more than 5 tons of ilmenite could be separated everyday through construction and operation of a pilot plant at a cost of Tk 35 lakh only, Kurny said adding that 40 type of minerals were found of which eight type minerals extraction would be commercially viable.

He sought policy support and funds from the government to launch the pilot project.

"We have enough indigenous technology to process the heavy mineral. Foreign experts had worked last 25 years in it, but they could not help in making it a marketable product. Now we

Proposal to drop mention of God from German constitution

From Page 1 Col 8

ponent that the muggers took away her bangles and a chain.

The lady hurriedly left the area in panic while the pedestrians started chasing the muggers escaping in a baby taxi. Two young men on a motor cycle chased them upto the Science Laboratory Crossing where they lost trace of the baby taxi.

"There were four of them," the witnesses — among them the guards of the Deputy Minister's house — said. "When we tried to block their way, they hurled the cocktails and made their escape."

BOONN, Dec 20: A proposal to drop mention of God from Germany's constitution was sharply criticised today by chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), reports Reuters.

Guenter Verheugen, Manager of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), has suggested that a reference to God be deleted from the preamble to the constitution. The line says Germans adopted their constitution "conscious of their responsibility before God and men."

'ANC agrees to grant whites a homeland'

CAPE TOWN, Dec 20: Right-wing leaders said Monday that the African National Congress has agreed in principle to grant whites a homeland, but the ANC said only that the idea will be discussed, reports AP.

Separately, the ANC and the government were holding an eleventh-hour summit with apartheid whites and anti-ANC blacks united in the Freedom Alliance. The alliance is under pressure to compromise on a proposed constitution by Tuesday or risk having the ANC and government pass the new charter and hold elections April 27 without them.

The ANC, which is committed to a non-racial democracy, has long rejected the idea of setting aside a portion of South Africa in which whites would have any special privileges.

BRTC profits

The Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) started earning operational profit from mid-November that stood at Tk 33.28 lakh in one month till December 15, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at the 23rd meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Communications, held at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with Communications Minister Oli Ahmed in the chair.

The BRTC has earned a profit of Tk 19.28 lakh in the second fortnight of November and Tk 14 lakh in the first fortnight of this month.

The meeting also discussed an enquiry report on the Bangladesh Railway.

Preparation for DCC polls

From Page 1 Col 7

Islam of the Jamaat-Islami had collected nomination forms till last night.

Ten other candidates, mostly independents, had also collected nomination forms till yesterday. A total of 518 forms for the posts of commissioners have so far been distributed.

Mirza Abbas, talking to The Daily Star last night, said: "I'll continue doing what I've been doing since my appointment as the mayor of Dhaka. I shan't resort to any stunts or gimmicks to influence voters."

Reacting to the opposition demand for resignation by the incumbent mayors before the elections, he said: "The elections will certainly be free and fair under the rule of the BNP, which has already proved its impartiality."

"Besides, there is no provision in the Constitution or in the DCC rules for such resignation."

"They (the opposition) are making it an issue apprehending their certain defeat in the polls," the mayor said, adding: "To us it is all the same, whether the polls are held with or without the mayors in their offices. BNP candidates will win the elections under any circumstances."

The AL city unit chief Mohammad Hanif, while talking to this correspondent, repeated his demand for the resignation of the mayor, alleging that the sitting mayor was "taking steps to influence the voters."

"The resignation is a must

for ensuring neutral and impartial polling."

Replying to a question, Hanif said, the mayor must step down since the mayors, for the first time, were being elected through popular ballot.

AL sources said, a meeting of the party's presidium will be held on December 24 to finalise the decision about its mayor candidate, while the city AL executives will hold a meeting tomorrow to pick the candidates for the posts of commissioners.

In-fighting in the Jatiya Party is delaying the party's decision about its mayoral candidate, insiders said, adding that the party high command will soon nominate the candidate. Former mayors Col.(ret'd) Abdul Malek or Barrister Abul Hasnat are the most discussed names in the party.

The alliance of 10-Left parties has, in the meantime, requested labour leader Manzurul Ahsan Khan to be the alliance's mayoral candidate, sources said. Khan has reportedly expressed his unwillingness to contest.

The central standing committee of the Gano Forum, at a meeting yesterday, discussed the election issue but did not decide anything about its candidate for the mayorship. Meeting sources said, proposals were made naming Mostafa Mohsin Montu as the mayoral candidate. The city unit of the party is likely to finalise its candidate its candidature at a meeting on December 24.

Woman robbed

From Page 1 Col 8

ponent that the muggers took away her bangles and a chain.

The lady hurriedly left the area in panic while the pedestrians started chasing the muggers escaping in a baby taxi. Two young men on a motor cycle chased them upto the Science Laboratory Crossing where they lost trace of the baby taxi.

"There were four of them," the witnesses — among them the guards of the Deputy Minister's house — said. "When we tried to block their way, they hurled the cocktails and made their escape."

Islamic common market

From Page 1 Col 4

tries, he said this has been hindering them from even sitting with the developed nations for dialogue on various economic issues. But if they can set up institutions like the proposed Islamic Insurance Company or Islamic Shipping Company with combined efforts, they would attain a position to bargain, the Industries Minister observed.

He, however, called upon the leaders of the Muslim world to take pragmatic measures for enabling their countries to keep pace with the developments being made in the world.

Presided over by Prof M Shamsher Ali, Vice Chancellor of the Bangladesh Open University, the concluding session of the seminar was addressed by Prof Azhar Uddin, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University, Prof M Badrul Alam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, Dr Mahfuzul Huq of Chittagong University, Dr Manzar Ahsan, Director General of the Islamic Foundation of the United Kingdom, Prof Volker Nienhaus of the University of Bochum of Germany and Ataur Rahman, Chairman of the Islamic Bank, Bangladesh Limited.

A 15-point set of recommendations was also made in the function, which included the formation of an Islamic Common Market Cell in the private sector of Bangladesh to promote and mobilise public opinion for materialising the concept, setting up of some regional branches of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Dhaka and some other Muslim countries, and undertaking studies by the OIC Secretariat and its appropriate trade-related organs to update information on

various tariff and non-tariff barriers that obstruct intra-Islamic country trade.

UNB adds: Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday stressed the need for firm commitment towards cooperation among the Muslim countries to form an Islamic Common Market.

Addressing the working session-IV of the international seminar on an Islamic Common Market, the minister said the political commitment to ensure a better environment for intra-Muslim unity depends on the willingness of the private sectors.

Presided over by FBCCI president Mahbubur Rahman, the session was addressed by Malaysian High Commissioner Ahmed Fuji Haji Abdur Razak, IDB Representative Dr Serujogi and several economists from the member countries.

Shamsul Islam said the seminar could play a positive role in accelerating economic development and removing obstacles to free trade in the Muslim countries.

Referring to the declining trend in world trade share of the Muslim countries, the minister said a coordinated effort is a demand of time to gear up trade within the OIC member countries.

The Commerce Minister called upon the Muslim countries to translate the common market concept into reality to increase the mutual cooperation in the field of technology, trade and investment.

Rajshahi University teacher Solaiman Mondal presented the key-note paper on "South East Asian Cooperation Under OIC Framework" in the working session of the seminar.

ক্রীড়া উন্নয়ন তহবিল

১ম লটারীর টিকিট টাকার প্রথম পুরস্কার বিজয়ী সুনামগঞ্জের আব্দুল মোমিন

জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ আয়োজিত ক্রীড়া উন্নয়ন তহবিল গঠনের লক্ষ্যে ১ম লটারীর প্রথম পুরস্কার বিজয়ী সুনামগঞ্জের আব্দুল মোমিন (টিকিট নং ০০৩০০২৪) কে গত ১৩.১২.৯৩ইং তারিখে বিকাল ৪টায় জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ মিলনায়তনে পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হয়। পুরস্কার প্রদান করেন বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী এম. সাইফুর রহমান। আরো উপস্থিত ছিলেন মাননীয় তথ্যমন্ত্রী নাজমুল হুদা ও মাননীয় যুব ও ক্রীড়া প্রতিমন্ত্রী সাদেক হোসেন।

পুরস্কার প্রাপ্তির পর আব্দুল মোমিন বলেন.....

"আমি পেশায় একজন ইলেকট্রিক মিস্ত্রী। এক বাসায় কাজ করতে গিয়ে ভাঙতি টাকা না থাকায় পারিশ্রমিক হিসাবে আমাকে একটা টিকিট দেয়। পরে পরিকার মিলিয়ে দেখি আমার সেই টিকিটই প্রথম পুরস্কার পেয়েছে। আমি এতে জীবন আনন্দিত হই। প্রথমেই আমার সেই বাড়ীওয়ালার কথা মনে হয়। যিনি আমাকে পারিশ্রমিক হিসাবে টিকিটটি দিয়েছিলেন। এখন ভাবছি ইলেকট্রিক ব্যবসায় টাকা খাটাবো। আমি পুরস্কারের পুরো দশ লক্ষ টাকাই পেয়েছি। আমাকে কোন ধরনের ট্যাক্স পরিশোধ করতে হবে না। আসুন আমরা সবাই মিলে আগামী লটারীগুলোতে অংশ নিয়ে ক্রীড়া উন্নয়নে অবদান রাখি। **আবার যদি লাইগ্যা যায়!**"

সরকার অনুমোদিত

২য় লটারীর টিকিট এখন সকল বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক ও বিক্রয় কেন্দ্রে পাওয়া যাচ্ছে।

জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ
৬২/৩ পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০