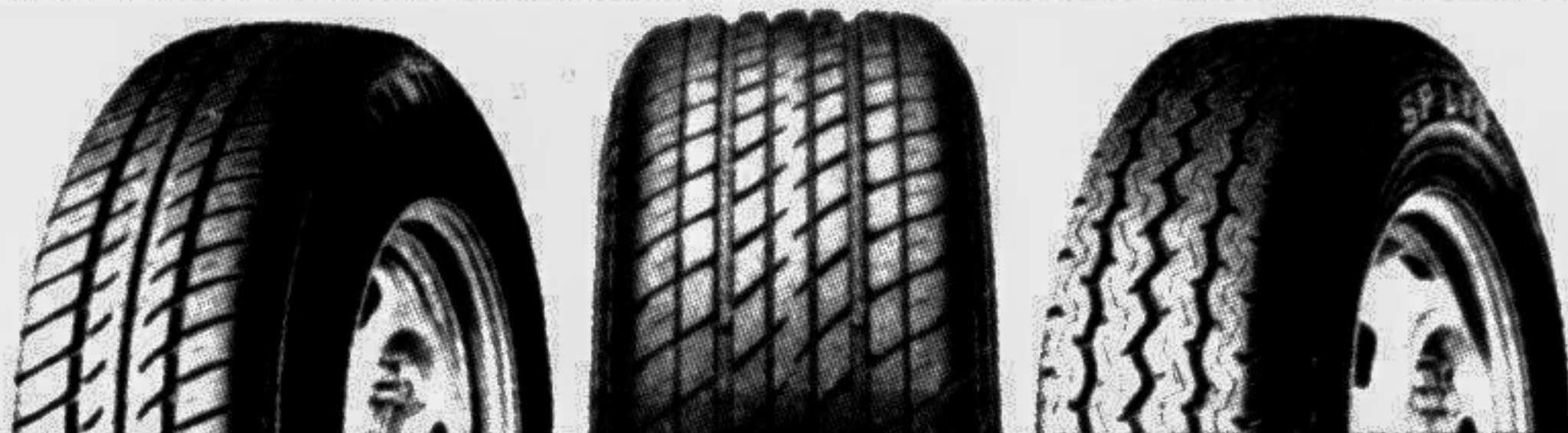




DUNLOP

Tested for the Unexpected



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Prime Minister tells DCs

Enforce Anti-Terrorism Law impartially

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday ordered the strict and impartial enforcement of the Anti-Terrorism Law to create congenial investment climate in the country, reports UNB.

"Investment will not increase without the improvement of law and order situation as peace, order and stability are the determinants of the development process," she told a Deputy Commissioners' Conference-93 here in the morning.

Inaugurating the conference at the cabinet conference room, the Prime Minister said the administration will have to be mass and welfare-oriented in consistency with the accountability of the government to play the role of development partners of the people.

"We cannot expect development in the industrial sector until the law and order situation is improved in the country," she added.

Referring to the rising trend of terrorism in some districts of the country, Begum Zia said the country's economic development are being hampered due to terrorism unleashed by mass-ans and extortionists.

"You have a very important role in the administrative system as you are well acquainted with the thoughts, hopes and aspirations of the local people," the Prime Minister told the Deputy Commissioners.

Turning to the canal digging programme, she said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had undertaken the programme for the development of country's agriculture and it had been able to invoke farmers throughout the country, but the autocratic regime stopped the development oriented programme.

She called for more effective and pragmatic steps to make the programme a success.

Referring to the country's criminal judiciary, the Prime

Minister stressed that the judicial system should be improved to ensure justice to the people.

"You must see to it that nobody is confined in jail illegally even for a day and take steps to settle the cases rapidly. Maintain neutrality and discharge your duties with courage. Negligence to protect provisions of law will not be allowed," she told the DCs.

Begum Zia said the criminal courts of almost all the thanas have been shifted to the district headquarters and "I expect your initiatives and efforts to ensure justice in this changed situation."

About the smuggling problem, the Prime Minister said it is a curse for the economy and asked the DCs to take drastic measures against this vice by stepping up the activities of district level anti-smuggling committees and task forces.

"Our economy can not be kept hostage in the hands of a handful of smugglers," she said urging the people to build up social resistance against the smugglers.

Begum Zia directed the DCs to perform their duties in the city corporation elections properly. "You have earned credibility by discharging elections duties bestowed by the Elections Commission in different stages and I hope you will be able to uphold that image in the ensuing elections."

She urged all concerned to remain vigilant against corruption. The time has come to eradicate the menace of corruption, she said seeking active cooperation from the DCs in building up a corruption-free society.

"We should not keep ourselves confined in rhetoric and observing occasions. We all have to work together. Everybody has his own responsibility to the country," Begum Zia said.



Qazi Shahana Parveen and Farzana Shoma of Bangladesh, who won the Sixth SAF Games 50m standard team event silver medal at the Gulshan Range yesterday. —Star photo

Booters lose

From Page 1 Col 2
per Iass Damiyanthi Darsha, took golds in the 200m dashes for men and women respectively.

Bahadur Prasad, the brilliant athlete whose exploits in this Games was a foregone conclusion for his obviously superior class, led the Indian charge in athletics. The sturdy runner from Delhi, in fact, set new SAF records to add to his two gold-winning efforts.

Indians swept the pool as well yesterday. They took all the three golds at stake with no other natant from the other competing countries getting a chance to have a bite.

While the athletes and the natants gave India a vice-like grip on the medals table, the Indian footballers raised hopes of a remake of the second SAF Games held in Dhaka way back in 1985. They played neat, sensible football to beat the vastly improved Shri Lankans comfortably in one of the two group matches held yesterday.

At the end of the second day of medal counting, India topped the table with a haul of 30 gongs, including 13 golds. They

STOL operation

From Page 1 Col 7
Sylhet, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon, Ishurdi, Barisal and Comilla air strips are being prepared for the STOL operations.

Informed sources said that some of the companies are ready to operate the service from January 1 but the process is being delayed because of 'bureaucratic tangle'.

Philosophy and KAM Saaduddin

of Sociology, while the White panel members are: Dr AFM Yusuf Haider of Physics and Dr Jinnatul Tahmida Begum of Botany Department.

Following the election, the convenor of the Blue Panel AK Azad Chowdhury told a gathering that the victory of the Blue panel was the victory of the prohibition forces.

The Pink supporters had nominated Dr Syed Hadiuzzaman and Dr AHM Aminur Rahman as their president and general secretary respectively.

One group of the White Panel had nominated Dr Ziaur Shams and Md Aminur Rahman Majumder while the other group nominated Prof Monirul Haq and Prof Md Nurul Amin respectively for those posts.

BSCIR project

From Page 1 Col 8
roughly 40 per cent, are in use. There are no traces of 15 plants while the rest are either damaged or unused. Under the project, only 16 per cent of the targeted number of kerosene lamps were distributed and these are now abandoned because of non availability of glass tubes in the villages.

The report says the technologies were not supplied as per the demand of the villagers. "Those who do not get two square meals a day, do not find any importance of improved stoves," it said.

Despite the failure of the project, the authorities have again requested for more funds to restart the programme, according to sources.

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No more rides on AL boat: Hasina

NILPHAMARI, Dec 22: The Awami League will not lend Boat, the party's election symbol, to any political quarters in any future polls, reports UNB.

This was declared today by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina referring to some of her party's political allies who crossed the floor after winning parliamentary seats with the help of Boat as election symbol.

Addressing a big public meeting at the local municipality ground this afternoon, the opposition leader termed those who crossed the floor as 'traitor'. The meeting was presided over by Afsar Ali Ahmed.

Hasina said the political turncoats served themselves instead of serving the people. "We'll row our own boat," she said.

Candidates of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), BKSAL, National Awami Party and Ganatantrik Party contested the 1991 parliamentary elections with the AL symbol, Boat.

Two MPs of CPB and one of NAP have joined the BNP. Among them, Mohammad Shamsuddin of the CPB was elected from Nilphamari-2 constituency and Abdul Hafiz of the NAP from Nilphamari-4. The former joined the Gano Forum and the latter BNP. BKSAL, however, later merged with the Awami League.

Hasina, also the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament termed the government corrupt and blasted it for not allowing the special parliamentary committee to function for investigation of the allegation of corruption brought by Tofael Ahmed MP against the Irrigation Minister and the ministry.

AL polls strategy

From Page 1 Col 8
especially the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The question of boycotting the elections, in the face of ruling party's 'no' to AL's demand for resignation of the sitting mayors before the polls, might come for discussion in the meeting, a presidium member told The Daily Star last night.

Rahmat Ali MP, a member of the five men election coordination body, while talking on the issue told The Daily Star that his party would consistently assert the demand for resignation of the mayors.

On the other hand, a senior party leader told this correspondent, on the condition of anonymity, that under any circumstances the AL would take part in the city corporation polls.

However, the presidium is likely to adopt a resolution, drawing the attention of the Chief Election Commissioner, on the alleged efforts of the cabinet ministers to influence voters in contravention of the election rules.

The AL leader alleged that the ministers were making fresh commitments of financial grants in different parts of Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna City Corporation constituencies keeping in view the polls ahead.

Yeltsin plans 'serious' reforms

MOSCOW, Dec 22: President Boris Yeltsin announced today he planned a sweeping reshuffle and 'serious' reform of the Russian government but ruled out a coalition and said extremists would have no place in his administration, reports AFP.

"The government will be seriously reformed," Yeltsin stated at his first news conference since legislative elections on December 12 in which ultranationalists score a stunning upset and were set to command a plurality in the new parliament.

The Russian president ruled out forming a coalition but asserted the government would be reduced in size.

Yeltsin plans 'serious' reforms

He said that long-term solution to reduce the trade deficit lies in investment cooperation with suitable buy-back arrangements. He identified the areas where there is significant scope for setting up joint venture projects between the two countries as: textiles, cement, iron and steel and machinery and spares.

Returns on such investments could be attractive in view of the fiscal and other incentives already in place in Bangladesh, he said. "But such investments will materialise only when the government of India provides special tariff concessions to an agreed period of time."

He hoped the committee would prove to be a good forum for providing practical proposals in this regard.

India exploring new markets for military hardware

NEW DELHI, Dec 22: The supply of spare parts from Russia for India's Soviet made arsenal has improved but New Delhi is still exploring other markets for military hardware, the country's air force chief said today, reports AFP.

Air chief Marshal SN Kaul told an air force commanders' conference here that delivery of crucial military spares, which virtually halted with the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union, had considerably improved recently.

The Indian government is also exploring international markets to further boost supplies of spare parts for its armed forces, said the chief of the Indian Air Force, the world's fourth largest.

He said India will have to speed up indigenisation of military spares to slash dependency on its former east bloc allies.

Delhi should cut its tariffs for fair trade: Saifur

From Page 1 Col 4
The Indian tariff structure is far higher compared to ours; it is not fair. It should be progressively reduced so that we can have a fair chance to export to India."

He went on to note that there is a perception here that the Indian businessmen are not fair. As an example, he pointed out that Indian car dealers here failed to reduce the price after the tariff value was lowered last year and similarly coal imported from West Bengal is also being sold at a higher price.

"You must give us a fair deal and not a raw deal. All we want is fairness and I am confident that our businessmen can take advantage of the situation."

The Finance Minister further added: "We must fight, we don't want charity. We want an equitable business climate based on reciprocity."

Morshed Khan called for greater access to Bangladeshi products in the Indian market. "Only by exporting a few Jamdani sarrees and some hilsa fish is not going to do."

He also urged for setting up joint venture projects by investors from both countries. "We should have a vested economic interest in each other's countries."

Earlier, in his welcoming address, the MCCCI president described the formation of the joint economic committee in January 1990 as a landmark reflecting the efforts of the private sectors of the two countries to find areas of cooperation on trade-related opportunities.

"For regional economic cooperation, while commitment at political levels is no doubt the most important factor, it is essential in our view, for the representative trade bodies to have understanding and far-sightedness on development issues," Latifur Rahman said.

Referring to Bangladesh's exports to India of 9.8 million US dollars in 1992-93 as against an import of 342 million dollars, he said. "Such adverse balance of trade quite naturally indicates the need for special efforts at all levels."

He added that long-term solution to reduce the trade deficit lies in investment cooperation with suitable buy-back arrangements. He identified the areas where there is significant scope for setting up joint venture projects between the two countries as: textiles, cement, iron and steel and machinery and spares.

Returns on such investments could be attractive in view of the fiscal and other incentives already in place in Bangladesh, he said. "But such investments will materialise only when the government of India provides special tariff concessions to an agreed period of time."

He hoped the committee would prove to be a good forum for providing practical proposals in this regard.

The Midnight File

Bosnian warring factions agree to truce

BRUSSELS, Dec 22: Serbs, Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina agreed here today to a truce over the Christmas season, Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes said. He was speaking after a meeting between foreign ministers of the European Community and the leaders of the warring parties in Bosnia, reports AFP.

Peres tries to break deadlock

PARIS, Dec 22: A confidant of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has met PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis to try to help break a deadlock in Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, a source close to the talks said today. Nissim Zvili, secretary-general of Israel's ruling Labour Party, arrived in the Tunisian capital late on Tuesday as Peres and a PLO delegation resumed efforts to overcome obstacles at talks in Versailles, the source told Reuters.

New Companies Act

From Page 1 Col 7
companies," said the ministry source, adding: "The law and the rules will be there and the companies will have to follow them."

The new law would be designed to protect the interests of the minority share-holders; the relationship between the Board of Directors and share-holders of the company would also be clearly defined.

The proposed Act would ensure company Directors were appointed by the shareholders while the tenure for holding the position of Directors may also be specified.

Distribution of dividends among the share-holders would have to be done within a period specified in the drafted law.

Since its introduction in 1913, the Companies Act was amended at least ten times. To make the law more effective and updated, the then government had constituted a Law Reform Committee in 1977. The report of that committee was sent for scrutiny to a study team headed by the Commerce Secretary in 1982.

According to the recommendations of the reform committee and the study team, the government drafted a new Companies Act in 1984 which was vetoed by the Law Ministry in 1986. Since the draft was in English, the authorities were asked to translate it into Bangla which required another vetting by the Law Ministry in 1987.

Afterwards, efforts in this regard were slowed down while the changes and amendments in the Act were kept in abeyance for quite some years. However, the idea was re-

Khatme Nabuyat confce postponed

The much-publicised Tahafuz-e-Khatme Nabuyat conference scheduled for tomorrow at the Manikmia Avenue in the city has been postponed, reports UNB.

A PID handout said last night the decision was taken in view of the ongoing SAF Games following a meeting of the Tahafuz leaders with Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury yesterday afternoon.

They will, however, hold the grand rally on January 21 next.

33 mayors

From Page 1 Col 7
Ward Commissioners for the election to the Khulna City Corporation were cancelled yesterday.

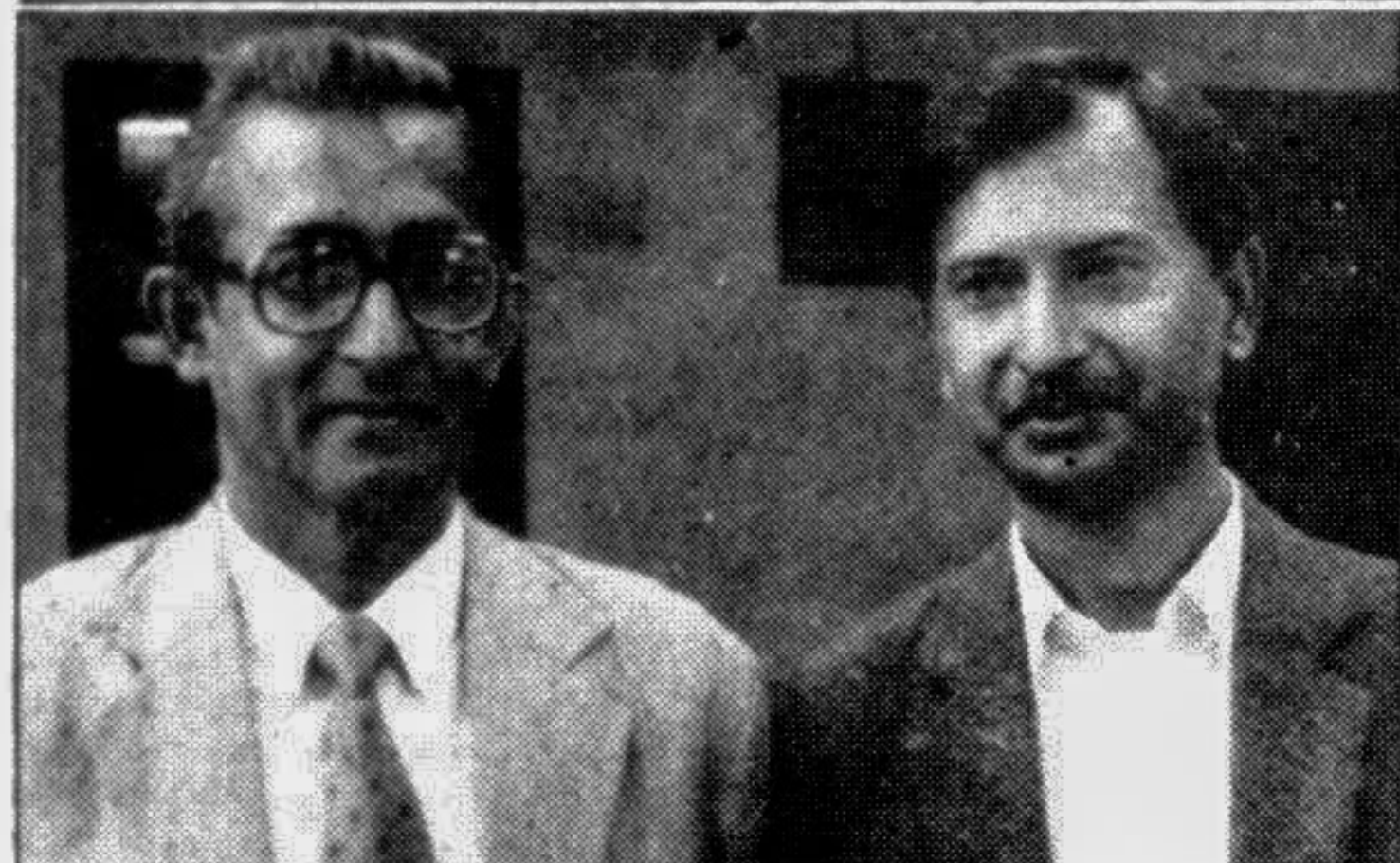
The nomination paper of Mayor candidate M Sirajul (independent), a former Mayor, was rejected on the grounds that he was a defaulter of the Shilpa Bank from where he had taken a loan of Tk 85 lakhs and he was also defaulter to holding tax.

The nomination paper of another Mayor candidate, Mustafa Rishidi Suja MP of AL, was rejected on the grounds that he was also a defaulter to the Shilpa Bank.

Ten candidates, including one from BNP and two from AL, are now in the race to contest the post of Mayor and 251 candidates for 31 Ward Commissioner posts.

Our Correspondent from Rajshahi adds: The Election Commission after scrutiny yesterday found all the seven nomination papers for the post of the Rajshahi City Corporation mayor valid but disqualified 22 out of 287 papers filed for the posts of 30 Ward Commissioners.

The last date of withdrawal of candidature for the post of Mayor and Ward Commissioners in Rajshahi, Chittagong and Khulna is December 30. The election will be held on January 30.



Dr Md Shahadat Ali Professor of the Department of Zoology (left) and Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique Associate Professor of Journalism of the Dhaka University were elected President and General Secretary of the DUTA Executive Committee yesterday. —Star photo

Blue sweeps DUTA polls

From Page 1 Col 5
specially.

The other elected office bearers from the Blue Panel are: Professor Dr Khandker Nizamuddin of Geography as vice president, Professor Dr Abul Hasem of Accounting as treasurer, Professor Dr Md Abdul Aziz of Chemistry as joint secretary.

Members elected from the Blue panel are: Dr ATM Zahurul Huq of Economics, Dr ABM Mahmud of History Department, Dr M Mostafa Chowdhury of Political Science, Dr SM Inamul Haq of Soil Science and Dr Mesbah Uddin Ahmed of Physics Department.

Members elected from the Pink Panel are: Dr Abdul Momin Chowdhury of History Department, Dr Aminul Islam of

BSF kidnaps three, frees after 15 hrs

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 22: Three Bangladeshi nationals kidnapped by the BSF were handed over to the BDR after 15 hours today.

An official source informed that Nurul Islam, Abul Hossain and Faruque Miah of village Guabari Bhitorgul in Jaintapur thana were kidnapped from a paddy field in the border area by the BSF.

BDR from Jaintapur border outpost went to the spot and protested the incident and asked the BSF to hand over the kidnapped Bangladeshis. BSF handed them over to the BDR at 2pm today.