

Leading economists tell seminar

WB, IMF prescribed reforms protect only donors' interests

Some leading economists from home and abroad yesterday criticised the economic reforms imposed by the World Bank and the IMF, saying that these did not contribute positively to emancipate the toiling masses in the poor countries, reports UNB.

The economists were participating in a day-long seminar organised by the Workers' Party of Bangladesh at a local hotel.

They were Former Finance Minister of West Bengal Dr Ashok Mitra, Vice Chancellor of the Calcutta University Dr Rathindra Narayan Basu, Dr Delhi Raj Khanal of Nepal, and Prof Rehman Sobhan, Prof Anisur Rahman, Prof Muzaffar Ahmad, Prof Mosharrif Hossain, Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud, Prof Mainul Islam, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Anu Muhammed and Dr Qazi Khiliquzzaman Ahmed of Bangladesh.

A West Bengal journalist, Mridul Dey, also took part in the discussions.

The seminar on economic reforms was split into three sessions: The South Asian Experience With Economic Reforms, Implication of GATT for South Asian Economies, and Bangladesh's Experience With Economic Reforms.

The sessions were presided over by Prof Rehman Sobhan, Workers' Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon, MP and President of the Party Amal Sen respectively.

Narrating the Indian experience of reforms Dr Ashok Mitra said the rate of national savings declined to 20 per cent from 24 per cent, investment fell by four per cent and employment stagnated during last 3/4 years of reform programmes carried out by the Indian government.

Political situation

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administration is sworn in.

Meanwhile, UNB reported last night that the AL president had demanded the immediate resignation of the BNP government and polls under a non-partisan administration.

In another development, the team of negotiators assigned by the BNP chairperson to explore avenues for a dialogue with the Opposition for bringing them back to the Jatiya Sangsad is reported to have told Begum Zia that they had so far received no positive response from the other camp.

Meanwhile, the Jammat-e-Islami, Bangladesh, in a resolu-

Japanese investors
keen to set up
towel industry

A four-member Japanese investors team led by Yotaka Kazema called on Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan at his office in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

During the meeting the Industries Minister said that few of suitable Japanese industries were looking for relocation to set up their industrial establishment in Bangladesh with comparative advantages and opportunities.

Leader of the delegation informed Zahiruddin Khan that they were interested to set up a towel industry in Bangladesh and hoped that this industry would be able to export towel worth Tk 34 crore per annum.

Members of the Japanese team also expressed their hope that more Japanese investors would come forward to invest in Bangladesh for their comparative advantages.

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Next NAM summit in Colombia

CAIRO, June 2: Next year's Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit meeting will be held in Colombia, a spokesman said Thursday, reports AP.

Nabil Fahmy, spokesman for the 33-year-old movement's 11th ministerial conference under way in Cairo, said the summit meeting site will be announced officially Friday with the session's other decisions.

Fahmy, political adviser to Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, did not disclose where in Colombia the conference will be held.

The 109-member Non-Aligned Movement's last summit meeting was in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 1992.

Gunshots on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

Some unidentified gunmen fired at least nine rounds of gunshots on the Dhaka University campus yesterday afternoon.

The cause of gunfiring could not be known.

Besides, the pro-Awami League Chittagong League brought out a procession and held a rally at the Aparajeo Bangla demanding immediate release of its leader Shahabuddin Ahmed.

The speakers at the rally alleged that the government was harassing the leaders and activists of the BCL and arresting them without any cause.

The rally was addressed by Iqbal Rahim and Ataur Rahman.

The Jatiyatabadi Chittagong Chandra Pal, constable Habibur Rahman and a rickshawpuller Abu were wounded by the muggers. Two of the muggers were held by a mob and severely beaten up.

A group of muggers followed Gaurango from Gulistan to Aga Sadeq Road where they hit him with a revolver and repeatedly stabbed him while trying to snatch his hand bag containing Tk 47,000, around 2 pm.

Following Gaurango's cry for help, local people came and chased the muggers. While fleeing the muggers fired gunshots one of which hit constable on duty Habibur Rahman.

The muggers also blasted a number of crackers injuring the rickshawpuller.

However, the mob apprehended two of the fleeing muggers identified as Zita and Zakir Uddin and severely beat them up. Later the muggers were handed over to police.

Gaurango has been admitted to the Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. He was operated upon yesterday evening, according to our SSMCH Correspondent.

The constable was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) from where he was shifted to the Chest Diseases Hospital at Mohakhali in the afternoon.

The three others — the rickshawpuller and the two nabbed muggers were admitted to the DMCH.

Police team leaves

for Mozambique

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, June 2: All

shops and business houses

here remained closed for six

hours from six in the morning

today protesting the attack on

two shops in the town Wednesday.

The businessmen also

brought out a big procession,

submitted a memorandum to

the DC and held a rally in front

of the Gulshan Cinema Hall

demanding immediate arrest

and trial of the terrorists re-

sponsible for ransacking the

two shops.

The speakers at the rally

chaired by Khwaja Raham-

matullah gave the authorities a

72-hour ultimatum to arrest

the terrorists.

Meanwhile, a case has been

filed accusing five persons in

this connection.

On Wednesday, a shop-

owner was seriously injured

when a group of armed mis-

creants attacked and ransacked

two electronics shops in the Narayanganj DIT market.

The dominant themes for

the current conference in-

clude reflections on the report

of the NAM chairman on the

movement's activities since

the Jakarta summit of 1992,

restructuring of the UN disar-

ament issues, international

economic cooperation, human

rights and preparations for the

World Social Summit.

The Midnight File

US to press for sanctions against DPRK

ROME, June 2: The International Atomic Energy Agency has notified the United Nations that it can no longer assure North Korea is abiding by nuclear safeguards and the United States will press for international sanctions against Pyongyang, a senior US official said today, reports Reuter.

Arafat seriously ill

TUNIS, June 2: PLO leader Yasser Arafat was reported to be seriously ill, and his doctors planned to move him to a hospital in Amman, Jordan, PLO officials and diplomats said Thursday. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Arafat, 64, was ordered by Palestinian and Tunisian doctors to rest in bed after he became ill following a meeting Wednesday with three US senators, reports AP.

Businessman shot dead in city

By DMCH Correspondent

Street-gangs killed a businessman at Rankin Street, Wari, in the city yesterday afternoon.

Ratan Mia, 40, was going to Tipu Sultan Road from Motijheel by a rickshaw at around 2:30 pm.

A group of armed men rid-

Five injured in mugging incident

By Staff Correspondent

At least five people, including a constable, were injured during an attempted street mugging at Aga Sadeq Road in the city yesterday.

A businessman Gaurango Chandra Pal, constable Habibur Rahman and a rickshawpuller Abu were wounded by the muggers. Two of the muggers were held by a mob and severely beaten up.

A group of muggers followed Gaurango from Gulistan to Aga Sadeq Road where they hit him with a revolver and repeatedly stabbed him while trying to snatch his hand bag containing Tk 47,000, around 2 pm.

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Mostafiz

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"very positive and fruitful" talks in the course of these meetings, especially in the context of Bangladesh's abiding interest in resolving all current bilateral problems with some of these countries through negotiation and peaceful dialogue, and strengthening existing relations with others.

Earlier in the day, Mostafiz made an important intervention in the plenary session of the ministerial conference to state clearly before the international forum the position of Bangladesh on topical issues like the critical situation in Bosnia, other regional conflicts, non-military threats to security and NAM's role in contributing to their solution.

The format of the ministerial conference has been changed and there is no general debate this time. But ministers are free to make interventions on specific themes.

The dominant themes for the current conference include reflections on the report of the NAM chairman on the movement's activities since

the Jakarta summit of 1992, restructuring of the UN disar-

ament issues, international economic cooperation, human rights and preparations for the World Social Summit.

বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে গ্যাস লাইন

বিশ্বিকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান

বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে তিতাস গ্যাস আওতাভুক্ত সকল এলাকায় সরকারী ও ব্যবস্থাপনিক প্রতিষ্ঠানসহ সকল খেলাশী গ্রাহকের গ্যাস লাইন বিশ্বিকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান ৬ই জুন ১৯৯৪ থেকে পুনরায় শুরু হচ্ছে। পুরিয়ে দুলু আজহা উপর্যুক্ত সহযোগ

বিশ্বিকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান সামরিকভাবে ঝুঁপিত ছিল।

সকল সম্মানিত গ্রাহকের স্বাক্ষরে বকেয়া গ্যাস পরিশোধ করে সহযোগ বিশ্বিকরণের স্বাক্ষরে বকেয়া গ্যাস ব্যবহারের স্থানে বকেয়া পরিশোধের রাস্তা প্রদর্শন করা হচ্ছে। সহযোগ বিশ্বিকরণের স্বাক্ষরে বকেয়া গ্যাস পরিশোধের রাস্তা আবৃত্তি করা হচ্ছে।

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বকেয়া গ্যাস পর