

Demand-supply gap of meat, milk & egg wide

Bangladesh is facing a wide gap in demand and supply of meat, milk and egg, resulting in severe malnutrition among the majority population, reports UNB. The country produces 489,030 metric tons of meat which is only 10 per cent of the total annual demand for 5,085,980 tons of its 11.61 crore population. Production of milk in the country is only 1,392,373 metric tons, 13 per cent of the demand for 10,170,360 tons. Some 24 crore eggs are available every year while the deficit is 1819.35 crore or 89 per cent of the total demand. This was revealed by Dr Ziauddin Ahmed, former director of Agriculture Extension Department, at a seminar on 'Role of Livestock in Poverty Alleviation' in Dhaka yesterday. Comparing the investment in fisheries and livestock sub-sector with that of industrial sector, he said the sub-sector contributes 13 per cent to the GDP while the industrial sector with a huge investment contributes 11 per cent. Noman also regretted the disparity in investments between industrial and agricultural sectors. KIB President and Director General of Agriculture Extension Department M Ayubur Rahman said that unlike in the past the rate of agricultural growth was not increasing proportionately. He informed that 46 agriculturists having Ph D degree left the country in last one year failing to get any important assignments.

No change in BNP stance

From Page 1 Col 5. Non members not to resign from Parliament to show respect to democracy, the BNP Secretary General said. He said the BNP is not even thinking of the President becoming chief of an interim government. He brushed aside the latest Opposition proposal that they (Opposition) are ready to accept Begum Khaleda Zia as chief of an interim government if she resigns from the post of BNP Chairperson and refrain from election activities. 'How can a politician make such a proposal,' he asked. He said that the party standing committee Tuesday night discussed organisational activities and also the aftermath of the Opposition's resignation from Parliament. The BNP would increase the frequency of its public meetings and processions in the capital and other divisional cities, he added. Talukder said the public meeting scheduled in Barisal on December 27 will now be held on January 29 because of the Bakerganj by-election and Barisal pourasabha elections. In Dhaka, BNP wings would organise public meetings in different wards but no big rally would be organised shortly, he said. About the recent move of Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali for resumption of the Government-Opposition dialogue, Salam Talukder said as the guardian of the House he felt that he should do something. In reply to a question regarding Razzak Ali's optimism about a solution, the BNP Secretary General said 'he (Speaker) has been misunderstood by a section of the press.' If the opposition parties accept Sir Ninian's proposal, the crisis can be solved, he added. The Commonwealth Emissary, after more than a month of discussions between the two sides, had suggested that an interim government could be formed during the elections with the present Prime Minister as the chief of 10-member cabinet. The cabinet would comprise five members each from the ruling party and the Opposition. The opposition parties, however, turned down the proposal. Talukder pointed out that a number of opposition parties took part in the elections under the Ershad government but they did not demand any caretaker government during that period. Meanwhile, the opposition parties in Parliament will meet today to finalise the course of action to be announced on December 28, the date of their resignation. Opposition sources said a three-day hartal may be called, beginning January 2. A ruling party source said the Prime Minister may again call upon the opposition MPs, before December 28, not to resign from parliament.

PM: Nothing will happen

From Page 1 Col 4. Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder. Communication Minister Lt Col (ret) Oli Ahmed, BB, who is Chief Adviser of the Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal, was the main speaker. Without naming the Awami League, the prime minister said they were proceeding to establish democracy and the spirit of liberation war by joining hands with the anti-liberation force and the autocracy. 'Those on their right cannot be friends of liberation movement,' she said indicating Jamaat-e-Islami. 'Those on their left cannot be friends of democracy,' she said meaning the Jatiya Party. Begum Zia accused the opposition of pushing the country towards a disaster and called upon the freedom fighters to stand against those who want to enchain the country in slavery. 'It is time to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the country,' she said. Turning to the problems of the freedom fighters, Begum Zia assured that the government would take sincere steps to assuage genuine grievances. She also assured contribution to the Freedom Fighters' Welfare fund created recently by the Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal to assist the needy fellowmen. On rehabilitation demand of the freedom fighters, Begum Zia said preference would be given to assisting them in different self-employment projects. The Prime Minister urged the freedom fighters to portray the actual history of liberation war before the young generation.



Chechen volunteers load a truck on the way to Petropavlovskaya (20 km northeast of Grozny) yesterday, where heavy combats have taken place during the last few days. Rebel Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev called yesterday for international pressure on Moscow to halt its offensive on his breakaway Muslim republic but Russian troops pursued their attack. — AFP photo

Adhikary seeks vote of confidence today

KATHMANDU, Dec 21: Nepali Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikary, the Himalayan kingdom's first communist leader, will seek a vote of confidence in parliament today, the Speaker of the lower house said, reports Reuters. Adhikary, 74, was expected to win the vote even though his government had only a narrow majority over its main rival in the second general elections since multiparty democracy was established in 1990. Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikary has requested permission to table a vote of confidence, house Speaker Ram Chandra Paudel told parliament today.

Price hike

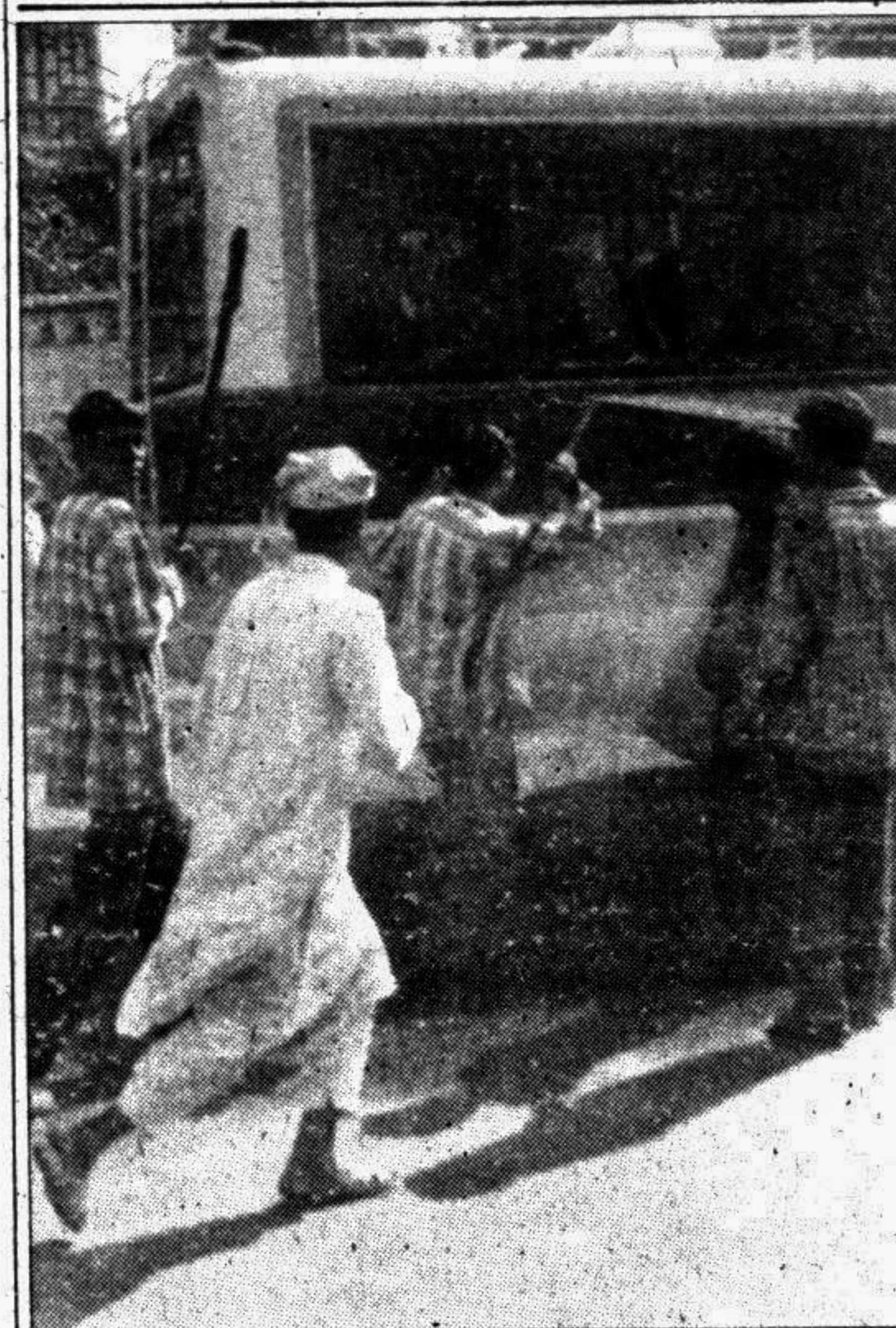
From Page 1 Col 8. day or two. Another two ships carrying the same quantity of foodgrains is likely to reach Chittagong Port within the next 10 to 15 days. Another 4.5 lakh tons of foodgrains are in the pipeline to be shipped to the country. The minister said, allocation under food for works programme which is likely to begin within the next two weeks will be increased substantially and the government is distributing over two lakh metric tons of wheat among the primary students this year under the food for education programme. These two programmes will positively have a favourable impact on the price condition of foodgrains and the price will definitely face a downward pressure.

Doctor not reinstated despite HC verdict

By Staff Correspondent. A doctor of the Titas Gas Company lost his job without being given an opportunity to explain his position. Last October the High Court Division of the Supreme Court declared his termination of service as illegal but he is yet to be reinstated. According to Titas Gas sources, Dr Azizul Karim, who was a medical officer of Petrobangla from 1986 and was appointed Chief Medical Officer of the Titas Gas on a permanent basis in 1990, lost his job last January. He was given no show cause notice. He was removed from service on the ground that when the Titas Gas appointed Dr Karim as the Chief Medical Officer in 1990, he was two years older than the upper age limit for the post. Following a writ petition challenging the legality of the termination of service, the High Court in a verdict on October 31 declared the termination illegal. The verdict said, the service rules had provisions for the flexibility of the upper age limit for the appointment of the Chief Medical Officer and also, the authorities had appointed him to the post knowing fully well that he was 48 years old. After the verdict, Dr Azizul Karim applied to the Titas Gas authorities for rejoining his post, but he was not allowed. 'The Titas authorities have decided to appeal to the Supreme Court against the verdict' an authoritative Titas Gas source said. He said recruitment rules were not followed strictly while appointing Dr Karim in 1990. The then, management did not advertise in the newspapers for the post of Chief Medical Officer. 'After the change of government, many raised complaints against his appointment and age limit,' the source pointed out. According to the High Court verdict, the Titas authorities similarly dismissed Musharrif Hossain Chowdhury, manager, in the early eighties. Musharrif eventually got back his job through a law suit. Regarding undesirable rush

DUTA, JUTA will elect executives today

By DU Correspondent. The teachers of Dhaka and Jahangirnagar universities will elect representatives to their respective teachers associations in separate elections today. A 15-member executive committee of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), the apex body of over a thousand university teachers, will be elected today for the next one year. The voting will be held from 10 am to 2 pm at the Dhaka University Club. Teachers from three panels — Blue, Pink and White — are contesting the polls. The candidates for the president post are Prof ATM Zahurul Huq and Prof AK Monwar Uddin Ahmed of the Economics Department from the Blue and Pink panels respectively while Prof Abul Kalam of the International Relations Department from the White panel. Prof SM Imamul Huq of the Soil Science, Muhammed Mohtuddin, Associate Prof of Management and Prof Kamrul Ahsan Chowdhury of Sociology are contesting for the general secretary post from the Blue, Pink and White panels respectively. Besides, all three panels have put their representatives to contest the other posts — one each for vice-president, treasurer, joint secretary and ten executive member posts. Prof Aminul Islam will be the election commissioner of the DUTA polls. Besides, the annual general meeting of the DUTA will begin at 9 am this morning. Our JU correspondent adds: The elections to the executive committee of the Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA) will be held today. The voting to elect the 11-member committee will be held between 9 am to 1 pm at the Teachers' Club on the university campus. Candidates from two panels of the university teachers are contesting the polls this year. Prof Mesbausa Salehin and Afsar Ahmed are jointly leading one panel while Prof Mostahidur Rahman is leading the other. Prof Tajul Islam of Economics and Afsar Ahmed Associate Professor of Dramatics are the president and general secretary candidates from Salehin-Afsar led panel. Besides, Prof Enamul Huq Khan of History and Dr AKM Shahnewaz of Archaeology are the president and general secretary candidates respectively from the panel led by Prof Mostahidur Rahman.



Stick welding activists of the Alliance for Resisting Anti-Islamic Activities, on the rampage near the Bangladesh Bank in the city yesterday. The pro-Islamic Sangram Parishad called a Dhaka siege programme today. — Star photo

Plan to improve ZIA's security system

An international meeting yesterday decided to improve and tighten the security system of Zia International Airport (ZIA) for the convenience of passengers, reports UNB. The meeting, chaired by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, also decided to work in a coordinated manner to protect the innocent passengers from unnecessary harassment by unsocial elements outside the airport premises. It decided that from now on all officers and employees of the agencies working at the airport would wear and display a duty pass while on duty. During this time a duty pass has to be displayed in addition to a security pass which is required for entry at the airport premises. Regarding undesirable rush

2 Bangladeshi soldiers leave Zagreb hospital

Two of the four Bangladeshi Army personnel injured in Bihac, have been released from the hospital in Zagreb, reports UNB. According to an ISPR press release, the army personnel Ltk Mohammad Anisur Rahman and Sarwar Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman are now convalescing in their camp Pleso. The condition of two others — Risaldar Niranjana Kumar Bhounik and Ltk Mohammad Shafiqul Islam — are improving. They are expected to be released from the hospital within a week.

USIS from Zagreb adds: Late last week, United States ambassador to Croatia Peter W Galbraith visited several Bangladeshi-UN troops injured during a recent Serb attack in the Bihac pocket.

Moitree

From Page 1 Col 4. tured and he received multiple injuries. He was attacked while taking photographs of the police lobbing tear gas shells to control unruly activists of the Chhatra Moitree. He was admitted to a local clinic. Meanwhile, the Khulna district and city units of JCD brought out a joint procession to protest the unprovoked attack on public property by the Chhatra Moitree activists and also on photo-journalist Abdul Gaffar by police this evening. The JCD leaders later in a rally demanded immediate punishment of those involved.

Cricket

From Page 1 Col 8. that Bangladesh is staging the four-nation tournament following an abortive attempt in 1992, which was postponed halfway through due to political unrest resulting from the demolition of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, India. The 17-member Pakistan team arrived in the capital Tuesday and the two other participants were due late last night. Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh will cover the matches of the limited-overs tourney live.

Saudi Mufti

From Page 1 Col 7. protest the international air embargo on their country which prevents them reaching Mecca, except over land. Sheikh Ibn Baz also called on the hardliners to cooperate with the Palestinian authority and stop divisions among Palestinians in the self-rule Gaza Strip and West Bank enclave of Jericho. He called on PLO chief Yasser Arafat to 'allow sharia (Islamic law) to prevail in the autonomous territories.' The mufti also condemned militants for using violent means in the Arab and Islamic world to express opposition to the government. 'This is against the precepts of Islam,' adding that Islamic reforms must take place in line with the sharia 'without resorting to violence.' Saudi Arabia has been taking part in multilateral talks with Israel as part of the Middle East peace process, launched at the Madrid conference of October 1991. But there are no direct talks between the two countries.

Serbs shell Bihac

From Page 1 Col 7. called Tuesday 'probably the worst day in Bihac thus far, at least in the recent past.' He said two or three makeshift missiles, packing 250 kilogram bombs as warheads, hit Bihac. Those mortar and artillery rounds resulted in at least 13 wounded, he told reporters. Bosnian radio said five people died and 47 were wounded. Serb snipers killed an 81-year-old man in Sarajevo Tuesday. But world attention remained on the fight for Bihac, where outgunned government troops are defending 70,000 people trapped in the city and its environs. Fighting in the area intensified on Monday after a weekend lull. A Hague report says, in what may be a last-ditch effort to bolster the UN force in Bosnia against Serb intimidation, military commanders on Tuesday suggested deploying attack helicopters. But they insisted the UN mission will remain humanitarian and the peacekeepers will refrain from clashes with the Serbs. The top military commanders from most of the 20 nations with troops on UN duty in Bosnia wrapped up a two-day meeting by passing on detailed recommendations to their governments on how to make the embattled UN mission more effective. But they shelved American and French proposals to set up a fortified corridor from Sarajevo to the sea and to allow UN convoys to fight their way through Serb road blocks.

The Midnight File

8 burnt to death in Karachi. KARACHI, Dec 21: At least eight people burned to death and several were injured when gas cylinders exploded in two goldsmith shops in a busy market place today, police and hospital sources said. Witnesses told AFP that several cylinders exploded one after another, causing a fire in a five-story building. The victims were said to be workers at two shops in the five-story Mohammedi building in the congested business area of the city. 4 Italian ministers resign. ROME, Dec 21: Four of the five northern League ministers in Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's cabinet handed in their resignations today. The only one of the five ministers to remain in the cabinet was Interior Minister Roberto Maroni, said Institutional Reform Minister Francesco Speroni, reports AFP.

Major reforms in admin

From Page 1 Col 4. ment to the local level was raised by Suranjit Sengupta, MP. He said the central administration is burdened with matters which easily can be performed at local level. The transfer of responsibilities would not only help the people, but also enable the government to look into the important national issues more carefully. World Bank Resident Representative P Landell-Mills spoke of the need for transferring the responsibilities of the government to the private sector. The country should make use of the advantage of private sector management system for serving the people more quickly. He said a chaotic situation has been prevailing in the country's administration. Promotions are given without considering the efficiency of the civil servants and appropriate persons are not given training, he added. Prof Chowdhury alleged that many of the government decisions with regard to administrative reforms are not compatible with constitutional provisions. Establishment Secretary Habibur Rahman said that they had to face a lot of pressure from various quarters regarding the matters of transfers. Pressures come from top officials, from the political level and also from other levels. The ministry is really in a difficult situation, he added. The dialogue, held in two sessions, was also participated by Prof Nurul Islam, former deputy chairman of the Planning Commission; Gano Forum leader Shamsuddoha, MP, former Finance Minister M Sayeduzzaman, Dr AMM Shawkat Ali, Shahed Latif of the ESCAP, Dr AKM Mashur Rahman, Dr P Rana of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), KZ Islam, and Salma Khan, Director of Bangladesh Management Development Centre, Executive Director of the CPD Prof Rehman Sobhan moderated the dialogue. ATR Rahman: Deputy Di-

Phone, telex


From Page 1 Col 7. centres has been made in view of the expansion of this business in the major cities and towns, especially in the capital. Meanwhile, a section of such businessmen had somehow escaped paying a huge amount of bills to the T and T authorities, sources said. The provision for deposit money has been introduced to check such practice, he added.

Businessman

From Page 1 Col 5. who shot Sabuj on the chest at point-blank. The gunmen believed to be waiting outside the building fired at least 10 shots during their ten-minute operation. When Sabuj was hit with the first bullet both he and Sohel jumped off the rickshaw and tried to run for cover. Sohel managed to flee the scene unhurt but Sabuj who received another bullet on the leg fell on the street. The gunmen fired three more shots at him. The gunmen fled the spot by an auto-rickshaw unchallenged leaving Sabuj and Sohel Mia in a pool of blood on the street, witnesses added. Ramna police who took up the investigation believed Sabuj, a contractor and a supplier, was killed in a business-related feud. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. No arrest was made until last night. Sabuj was a resident of North Circular Road, Kakrail in the city. UNB reports: Unidentified miscreants shot at a young man near Ayesha Shopping Complex at New Circular Road in the city yesterday injuring him seriously. Police said miscreants fired two shots at Dipan Ali while he was going towards Shiddeswari College at about 1 pm. He was shot in the leg. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Oil exploration

From Page 1 Col 8. 13 and 14 greater Sythet area. In oil and gas, Occidental is active in more than 20 countries and has oil and gas producing operations in over 10 countries including Pakistan, Malaysia, Russia, Oman, the Philippines and Yemen. It will be the first mega multinational company to invest in Bangladesh in a favourable foreign investment climate that exists in the country, the sources said. Occidental discovered more than 11 billion barrels of oil and gas equivalent in its 30 years of operations. In 1993, it had sales of more than 8.1 billion US dollars.



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- R.N. Road, Jessore
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