13 Egyptians detained in Pakistan for questioning

US to help probe Sunday's blast

ISLAMABAD, Nov 20: Pakistani police have detained 13 Egyptians for questioning after Sunday's bombing at Cairo's embassy in Islamabad that killed 16 people and wounded more than 60, Interior Minister Naserullah Babar said today.

He told Reuters that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) police had detained seven Egyptians at Lahore airport and six at Karachi airport on Sunday night and this morning.

They are being questioned at the airports and will be allowed to leave after "screening," he said.

All of them had come to Pakistan to attend Islamic religious conventions, he said. Babar said the detained Egyptians had attended a convention of the right-wing

hore, capital of Punjab province, on November 8 and a three-day convention of the Tableeghi Jamaat (preaching party) at the nearby town of Raiwind last week. Meanwhile, an Egyptian

consul has died of wounds

Jamaat-e-Islami party in La-

received in the bomb attack on the Egyptian Embassy Hasham Abu Wafa, who was in charge of the Embassy's visa section, died overnight while being treated at a military hospital, the

other people were still in very serious condition. Babar said the United States will send an explosives expert to Pakistan to help investigate Sunday's bombing of the Egyptian embassy.

sources said, adding that two

On Sunday US President Bill Clinton condemned the

attack and offered to help bring the perpetrators to

Arab militants are the prime suspects in the attack. which killed 16 people and wounded more than 60

Egypt's armed militant group. Jamaa Islamiyya, was first to claim responsibility for the blast, followed by similar claims from Al-Jihad which has spearheaded at tacks in Egypt, and the International Justice Group. which last week said it murdered an Egyptian diplomat in Switzerland.

A government investigation into the bombing began overnight while a five-member Egyptian team of antiterrorism experts inspected the blast site after arriving from Cairo late Sunday.

Malaysia: 25 seek help

From Page 1 of getting redress, the report said, adding that the High Commission could not provide the workers with accommodation.

It was also reported that the 25 Bangladeshis were now considered illegal as their employer allegedly with

Comilla dist AL election held

COMILLA, Nov 20: Election to the Comilla district Awami League was held here today after three-and-a-half years of postponement, reports UNB.

The election was postponed on September 26. 1992 following a violent clash over the election.

Prof M Khurshid Alam. Advocate Afzal Hossain and Mujibul Haque were elected president, general secretary and organising secretary respectively.

Five plus five From Page 1

framework", an influential minister told The Daily Star last night. "For this, we need the by-polls."

Acting Secretary General of the BNP Abdul Mannan Bhulyan had earlier told some reporters at his Bailey Road residence, "We will utilise even the last opportunity to reach a consensus with the Opposition. For this we'll wait until the filing of the nominations for the by-polls".

Bodies recovered

From Page 1

laws in the area, police said. In another incident two employees of a restaurant at Mirpur 10, were stabbed by some local mastans for refusal to pay toll.

Hridoy Islam, 25 and Hanif, 28, employees of Madina restaurant were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The mastans also ransacked the restaurant.

From Page 1

Limited (Tk 37.01 crore).

Bangladesh Diesel Plant Lim-

ited (Tk 30.63 crore), Dock-

yard and Engineering Lim-

ited (Tk 22.17 crore), GEM

Company Limited (Tk 20.76

crore), Khulna Shipyard Lim-

ited (Tk 18.17 crore) and the

Metalex Corporation Limited

that Gazi Wires' output was

only 34 per cent of last

year's, while that of

Bangladesh Can Company was

44 per cent, Khulna Shipyard

Child labour

From Page 1

The measures approved

after deliberations lasting two

weeks which ended on

Thursday, included a rec-

ommendation that child

labour be put on the agenda

for an informal ministerial

meeting at the 1996

Both the conference

which meets annually and the

office are parts of the

International Labour

1990 figures showed at least

80 million children aged

between five and 14 were

working while admitting the

estimate could be much

pert Michel Bonnet said a

more realistic estimate would

be 200 million working chil-

Sociologist and office ex-

Organisation based here.

Labour

International

Conference.

higher."

The estimates showed

(Tk 7.13 crore).

prostitution.

held their permits and pass-

Their complaints include inadequate provision of basic amenities and unlawful wage deduction by their employer.

"This is not an isolated case. Thousands of other Bangladeshis have been tricked into coming here to work for non-existent companies," reported The Sun, quoting Golam Ahad. Vice President of Bangladesh Club there.

Gan Box Sin, one of the owners of Lee Sheng Timber Industries, however, refuted claims that the company had not paid the workers accordingly, said the report.

When contacted last night, Minister for Labour and Manpower Mir Shawkat Ali said he was not aware of the reported incident. He, however, said "If it is proved to be true, I tell you, the license of the recruiting agency will surely be cancelled".

Asked if the forgery is committed by the other (Malaysian) side, then what would be happen, the minister replied, "Let our mission in Malaysia first send a report to me, then we will take measures accordingly.

The head of a local human rights organisation, from whom the copy of The Sun was received, told The Daily Star "We have interviewed some of the returnees and found that their description of what they went through is not too different from the accounts which have come out from Kuala Lumpur.

Tenaganita, a human rights group of Malaysia, in a report prepared in July this year, described in details how the migrant workers, including those from Bangladesh, were being subjected to abuse, torture and inhuman condition, in that country.

It is learnt that Tenagantia is also likely to record the complaints of the 25 Bangla-

was 64 per cent, Chittagong

Dry Dock 69 per cent, Pro-

goti Industries 83 per cent.

National Tubes 77 per cent

and Eastern Cables 73 per

enterprises experienced

tremendous fall in the sales-

growth in comparison to that

of the corresponding period

of the previous fiscal. The

Mehar Industries experi-

enced only 36 per cent of

sales growth, while Gazi

Wires had 47 per cent.

Bangladesh Can Company

Limited 46, Metalex Corpo-

ration had 75 per cent

an official of the BSEC said

that the enterprises of the

corporation were not pre-

pared to appear in the free

market within a short time.

Requesting anonymity the of-

ficial said, the BSEC's enter-

prises could not achieve dy-

namism to market their

products, management was

inefficient, quality was not

controlled properly and the

authorities failed to mobilise

the fluorescent lights main-

tained quality. So, in spite of

its higher price (Tk 95 per

piece), it successfully en-

tered the market. However,

the official said, the enter-

prises were able to recover

the variable costs, one of the

basic condition for running

factories and minimising the

Citing an example of East-

the consumers.

Talking to The Daily Star,

growth respectively.

During this period, the 16

cent respectively.

BSEC enterprises

in India for treatment

NEW DELHI, Nov 20: Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike arrived in the Indian city of Thiruvananthapuram today for 20 days of medical treatment, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Bandaranaike, 79, the mother of Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga. is staying at a Kerala state government residence.

PTI did not say what Bandaranaike was being treated for but she is known to suffer from arthritis.

It said that security had been tightened around the official residence where the Sri Lankan Premier is staying. The news agency said Sri Lankan army troops and elite Indian commandos were providing her security.

Bandaranaike's arrival coincided with the entry of Sri Lankan troops into the Tamil Tiger stronghold of Jassna, a month after the launch of a large scale offensive against the Tamil separatists.

NGOs: Poverty From Page 1

BRAC and some others, the study revealed.

Principal Coordinator of Proshika, Sirajul Islam and Savings and Credit Programme officer of BRAC while talking to The Daily Star said some loanees have been identified who are involved with more than one organisation at the same

"Such things happen not very frequently". They do this when they are pressed to repay the loans. The usual practice in this regard is that they become member of other organisations changing their names", they said.

The study said that the development projects had a mixed impact in the society as a whole.

In a video documentary produced by the Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS), Kajoli, a loanee in Gopalgani narrated how her self-employment project was doomed. Her husband and brother took all her loan money and spent it in tea stalls, the roof of the house made of corrugated iron sheets, and some trees in the backyard had to be sold to repay the loan. Kajoli alleged.

Armed Forces Day

From Page 1

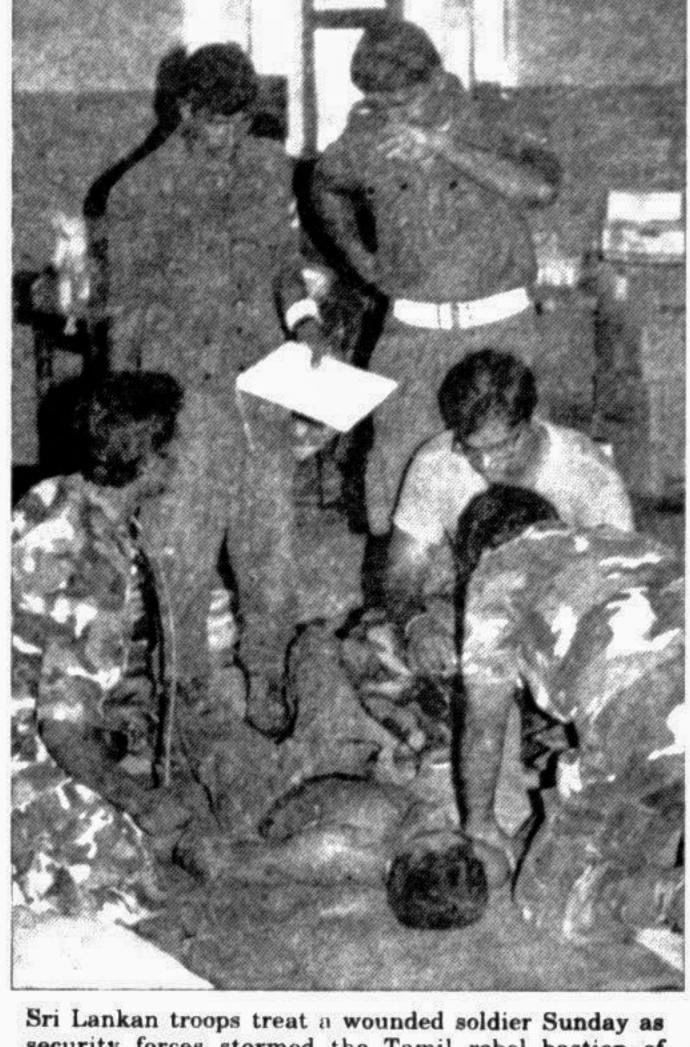
kin of the martyred soldiers

who received the gallantry award 'Bir Shrestho' will be held at the Prime Minister's office, Armed Forces Division, at the Dhaka Cantonment. Similar receptions will also be hosted by the Chiefs of Staff of the services in their respective headquarters. A grand display of military hardware will highlight the day's programme. President Abdur Rahman Biswas will inaugurate the exhibition at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar near the Begum Rokeya Sarani. The exhibition will remain open for all from 2:30 pm to 5 pm on the day. It will also remain open from 9 am to 5 pm from November 22 to 25.

A number of BN ships will also be dressed overall and kept open for visitors at Sadarghat in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Mongla.

In the evening. Prime Minister and Defence Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will host a reception at the 'Sena Kunja', at the Dhaka Cantonment to commemorate the day. Besides, Bangladesh Television will telecast a special programme entitled "Deepta Chetona" illustrating the significance of the day at 9 pm.

Leading national dailies will bring out special supplement to mark the oceasion.



The Paily Star

security forces stormed the Tamil rebel bastion of - AFP/UNB photo Jaffna.

Holiday Inn case: Evidence to be recorded Jan 3

Senior special judge Md Abdus Salam yesterday fixed January 3, 1996 as the start ing day to record evidence of the prosecution witnesses in the holiday inn case, reports

Deposed president H Er shad and three others face corruption charges linked to the allotment of a land in the capital through a "shady

Of the five persons who have been formally charged Abul Bashar, former chairman of DIT (presently Rajuk) expired. In all 17 persons, most of whom are government servants, have been named as prosecution witnesses.

Ershad could not be produced in court due to his illness. The Special Judge's Court which tries him and usually sits near the Central Jail, had its sitting in the court of senior Sessions and District Judge Salam. Moudud Ahmed, a former vice president, Shafiqul Ghani Swapan, a former works minister and Abul Khair Litu, a businessman were in the dock when lawyers from prosecution and defence pleaded for ad journment of the hearing.

After the charge was framed in early 1992, defence went to the High Court

Errata

The High Court Division on Sunday last, upon a writ petition filed by 218 judges of Subordinate Judiciary, directed the government to pay salary to the petitioners for only the month of November on the basis of the notice dated January 8, 1994.

But due to misinformation it was printed "pending disposal of the rule" in place of "one month" under the report headlined "HC rule on govt to show cause within 7 days" published in The Daily Star on November 20.

to quash the proceedings which resulted in a stay that lasted for more than three and half years. Recently the quashing petition was rejected and that's how the case has come up for hearing.

Yusif Hossain Humayun. the counsel of Ershad besides asking for the adjournment. prayed for the bail of the former ruler on humanitarian ground for better treatment outside the jail. In a petition submitted to the court Humayun said government has admitted that his client is now afflicted with viral hepatitis and "critically ill."

Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzak Khan opposed the bail on the ground that as per medical report Ershad is fast recovering. Besides his cell in jail has been turned into a mini hospital with all facilities as per order of the Home Ministry, Khan said. He opposed the bail as Ershad has been convicted and sentenced in a number of cases and that in the instant case he being the principal accused charged with causing the state to sustain loss of Taka five crore by allotting a prime land at a lower price.

The judge fixed November 27 for hearing of bail peti-

The judge in the same sitting fixed January 6 for charge hearing of another corruption case against Ershad and six others including Kazi Feroze Rashid, a former minister.

Four accused persons got stay in this case, while one is absconding. Rashid was the only person to appear yesterday when the charge hearing date was fixed.

Khan was assisted by Abu Ahad Mia, Additional PP and Farugue Omar and Masud Ahmed Talukder, Assistant PPs. ABM Sharafuddin Khan Mukul represented Kazi Fer oze Rashid.



Princess Diana arrives early Monday at her London health club before her controversial TV interview. — AFP/UNB photo

Roh may be deprived of privileges if convicted

SEOUL. Nov 20: South Korea's ruling party today decided to deprive jailed former president Roh Tae-Woo of pensions and other honorary privileges if he is convicted of taking bribes. reports AFP

An agreement was reached at a meeting of government officials and ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) members to submit an amendment to the law on honourable treatment of former president, DLP lawmaker Yoo Heung-Soo told reporters. 'A revision bill will be

submitted to parliament late this month in the form of legislation by the administration," the legislator said.

The amendment seeks to suspend honourable treatment for a former president if he or she is given a sentence of no less than three years' imprisonment for such serious crimes as sedition, Yonhap news agency said.

Settlement of farm workers

Team to visit Mali soon

A delegation is expected to visit Mali shortly to explore prospects of settlement of Bangladeshi farm workers along the East African country's Niger river basin, reports UNB.

An agreement, to this ef fect, was reached between Dhaka and Bamako during the Malian President's visit to Bangladesh last August.

The delegation, to be led by Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower, wil include representatives from other ministries concerned.

Fake doctor held at DMCH

By Staff Correspondent

One Mannan, 27, was caught by the patients at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital when he was collecting money from some people showing the identity card of a practising doctor. Mannan, a resident of Dhaolaipar, was involved in

this business for some time. said police. He was caught by some people when he was collecting money from the patients at the ENT Department of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Fake identity card of a doctor with the name of Zafar lqbal was also recovered from him. The officials of the DMCH

handed him over to the Ramna thana, where a case has been lodged against him.

Balkan talks From Page 1

lies, had set Monday a deadline to end the talks. Bosnian President Alija

Izetbegovic, Croatian President Franjo Tudiman, who returned from Zagreb Sunday night, and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic "truly want a comprehensive agreement," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told a press briefing Monday.

Newsreports here said that the warring factions have had agreed upon at least four major issues. A draft provides for a col-

lective presidency, with ethnic groups sharing authority: separation of rival armies with a demilitarized zone for four kilometers wide; US arming of the Bosnian Army and the Bosnian Serbs' retaining control of Srebrenica and Zepa, two Muslim enclaves seized by the Serbs, the Associated Press reported quoting officials close to the talks.

Walesa defeated From Page 1

Poland, in a brief interview with French television shortly after his victory was confirmed. "Have no fear, democracy

has won in Poland, we are a democratic country, more than before. Polish society has shown its maturity, its democratic aptitude," the former communist told staterun France-3 TV station. Meanwhile. President

Lech Walesa's spokesman implicitly acknowledged elec toral defeat for the former Solidarity leader today.

Marek Karpinski told Polish radio that Walesa was disappointed with results of the vote but that they were a "necessary lesson" for Poland We will see what Kwasniewski does about his election promises."

Walesa share much the same ground on pushing for a free market economy and a quicker rate of privatisation. And membership of both the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the European Union.

The Midnight File

Gen Abacha sued

LAGOS. Nov 20: The defence lawyer of Ken Saro-Wiwa today sued Nigerian head of state General Sani Abacha over the execution of the writer and minority rights campaigner, judicial sources said here, reports AFP.

Inland container port at Keraniganj soon

The work for establishing an inland container river port at a cost of about Taka 400 crore at Pangaon of Keraniganj thana in Dhaka will start soon, reports BSS. Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia is expected to lay

the foundation stone of the port in a few days. State Minister for Shipping Shajahan Siraj said this while visiting the site of the

port yesterday. Amanullah Aman MP and Shipping Secretary Waliul Islam accompanied Shajahan

Already 88 acres of land have been acquired at Pan-

AL agitation From Page 1 the by-elections or general

elections ignoring their demand, then his party would call non-stop hartal in addition to an "extensive gherao programme." he said.

We will accept BNP as a contestant in the general election if our demand for neutral caretaker government is met, if the demand is not met Awami League would go for the toughest of all agitations.

Replying to a question the AL leader said his party will not go for polls with the demand unrealised even if all parties participate. "We are as much ready for

elections as for agitations." "The ruling party may be able to remain in power for sometime but we will oust

them as we did to the Jatiya Party in the past," the leader Call to form full-fledged

Wage Board

A joint meeting of the Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ). Bangladesh Newspaper Press Workers Federation, and Bangladesh Newspaper Employees Federation was held yesterday demanding the formation of a fullfledged Wage Board and anhouncement of 60 per cent dearness allowance for the members of the newspapers and news agencies, reports

Chaired by BFUJ president Igbal Sobhan Chowdhury, the rally was addressed by BFUJ Secretary General M Shahjahan Mia, Joint Secretary General Zakaria Kazal. President of the Bangladesh Newspaper press workers federation, Mosharraf Hossain. Secretary General Bazlur Rahman Milon, president of Bangladesh Newspaper Employees Federation Zahangir Kabir, and DUJ president Abul Kalam Azad.

A nine-member central action committee was formed in the meeting with lqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Fazle Imam as its convenor and member-secretary respectively to realise the demand of the three federations.

A two-hour work stoppage was also observed from 12 noon yesterday at the call of the three federations at all newspaper and news agency offices pressing the demand for Wage Board and dearness allowance.

Auranga From Page 1

But on November 12 the

government filed an application before the Appellate Division for stay of the bail order and Justice Latifur Rahman in his official chamber ordered stay of the HC order till hearing of the petition on November 20 in the full bench of the Appellate Division. Auranga was convicted in

the Ali Azam, a DGFI employee, murder case and was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Additional Session Judge, 2nd Court, Dhaka in 1993.

Challenging the order of conviction and sentence Auranga, who is now in the Post Graduate Hospital under treatment, preferred an appeal before the HC which is pending for disposal.

'Super rice'

From Page 1 per cent from 10 tons a

hectare to 13 tons a hectare. Khush said. Both Kwasniewski and Khush warned a boost in

rice supply was needs to stave off severe food shortages by the turn of the cen tury caused by population growth, loss of agricultural land to industry and neglect of aging irrigation systems.

gaon on the bank of the river Buriganga for setting up the port. The port will have capacity to handle one lakh 16 thousand TEU (twenty feet equivalent unit) containers annually. The port is expected to start functioning by early 2000.

Addressing a gathering the state minister said, the BNP government has been implementing huge projects one after another including Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) Project at a cost of Taka 3,500 crore.

Protest rallies held in N'ganj From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ. Nov 20: Separate processions were brought out in the town today protesting yesterday's clashes between rival groups.

Over 100 people were injured yesterday when activists of Jubo League and Jativa Party fought a series of gunfights with those of BNP over the purchase of a tender schedule. The general students of

the government Tolaram College brought out a procession which marched through the main roads of the town and was barred by the police at Chashara Square. The procession was fol-

lowed by a protest rally at the college premises. The rally presided over by VP of the college student union Abu Hasnat was addressed by father of Niazul, who was critically injured during yesterday's gunfights.

He demanded punishment to those who attacked his

Another procession was brought out by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists protesting the yesterday's incident. The rally was presided over by Saiduzzaman Saeed, VP of Narayanganj Law College student union. Speakers at the rally claimed that 15 BNP activists were injured during yesterday's clashes.

Nari banned

'Nari', a collection of articles by Humayun Azad. has been banned for remarks against Muslim religious sentiment and fundamental faiths, reports UNB.

The government confiscated the book and imposed restriction on selling, distribution and preservation of its copies, said an official handout last night.

US embassy

From Page 1

student counseling service, the Voice of America Fan Clubs office, the US Foreign Commercial Service Library. and the US Foreign Agricultural Service in the Jiban Bima Bhaban in Motifheel will operate normally from today. The USAID library in the US Embassy, Baridhara, will also resume its normal schedule today.

All United States government offices in Bangladesh will be closed for the US holiday, Thanksgiving Day. on November 23.

Raushan From Page 1

government to go by decision of the medical board. Jatiya Party has called an eight-hour hartal in the city on November 25 to press its

demand for shifting Ershad

to a hospital for treatment. Dr Kamal From Page 1

dressed by, among others, Aisha Khanam of the Bangladesh Mohila Samity, Protap Uddin Ahmed of the Trade Union Sangha, Monira Khan, Vice-Chairperson, Fair Election Monitoring Alliance. Ahmedul Kabir, Editor the Sangbad, Mahbub Hossain of the Gano Sahajya Sangstha (GSS). Khushi Kabir of the Nijera Kori, Abed Khan, a journalist.

in a message sent to the meeting said, people want a solution to the crisis and it is the responsibility of the political leaders to do that. Kamal Hossain said, the

Poet Begum Sufia Kamal

present political crisis poses a threat to the budding democracy. Leaders of major political parties will have to choose between continuation of the democratic process and 'authoritarian control and anarchy", he said.

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Bandaranaike