IDA mission to evaluate export development fund

Star Report

An international Develop ment Agency (IDA) mission arrives in the city tomorrow to evaluate the status of the country's Export Develop ment Fund (EDF)

According to official sour ces, the two-member mission is coming in response to the government's proposal to the World Bank (WB) for exten sion of its assistance to EDF

The EDF, a 25 million US dollar fund, was created by the government with assistance from the WB to help boost the country's export.

The fund was allocated among the private banks for financing exports.

"The performance of the fund was excellent," said a senior Bangladesh Bank official. "The total sum was utilised and the repayment on the credit is excellent. As the fund had created great demand among the exporters, we, in concurrence with the Commerce Ministry, had requested the WB for continuation of the Fund. This team is coming to see the performance of the Fund."

The mission will review the number of export clients under the EDF facility, the volume of lending to the export sector, the rate of interest charged to exporters, and the repayment rate in the export sector in general and under the EDF facility. The mission will also study the various types of ex-

porters for pre-shipment fi-Taliban capture

port financing offered to ex-

porters and the types of col-

lateral requested from ex

military base east of Kabul

KABUL, Nov 23: The Taliban militia captured a key Afghan government military stronghold east of Kabul as they stepped up their drive to seize Kabul, defence officials said today, reports AFP. The Islamic militia over-

ran five more kilometers (three miles) of governmentheld territory, the defence ministry said.

Mannan Bhuiyan protes-

that the offer for a national

government to hold elections

proved unfairness in the

elections held under the

government of Begum Zia. In

this regard, he said BNP won

seven of the 16 by-polls and

two of the four city corpora-

tion elections that took place

until the Magura by-polls was

did not object to those polls

and went for street agitation

after the Magura by-polls, he

pointed out. They could go to

the election tribunals or raise

in the floor of the parliament

their charges for rigging be-

cause those would not have

stood in the eyes of the law.

the three major opposition

parties boycott the general

elections they would hold the

general election with the

Germany to provide

\$3m aid this yr

will provide Bangladesh with

a development aid of 90 mil-

lion German marks (3.0 mil-

lion US dollars) within this

vear, the German Foreign

Economic Cooperation Min-

istry has announced, reports

House wife

hacked to death

By DMCH Correspondent

death allegedly by her hus-

band at BISF colony, Pallobi,

Selina, 28, died on the spot.

Relatives of Selina said that

she was killed following a

quarrel with her husband

and sent it to the Dhaka

Medical College Hospital

with a knife, a guard of the

Commerce College caught

him and later handed over to

Mohammad Aslam of My-

mensingh, was married to

Aziz about ten years ago and

was the mother of two chil-

with the Pallobi police sta-

Appointments

By Staff Correspondent

man of NBR, yesterday joined

as secretary of the Finance

Ministry. He replaced

Nasimuddin Ahmed, who

went on retirement on

tary, Roads and Highways Di-

vision of the Ministry of

Communications took over as

the Secretary of the Ministry

of Home Affairs yesterday,

Ahmed who also went on re-

Trade team

largest recipient of British bi-

lateral aid. Many UK compa-

nies have worked and are

working on projects which

are receiving finance from

nies, many of them interna-

tionally reputed, will have

representation in the 40-

strong Trade Mission. Peter

Lee, Managing Director of

Mott Macdonald Interna-

tional, one of the world's

largest engineering consul-

tants, will lead the mission.

Some 30 British compa-

British aid programmes.

From Page 1

He replaced Azimuddin

according to sources.

tirement on Wednesday.

Syed Rezaul Hayat, Secre-

Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Chair-

A murder case was lodged

(DMCH) for autopsy.

the police.

dren.

tion.

Wednesday.

Police recovered her body

When Aziz was fleeing

Selina, daughter of one

Mohammad Azizur Rahman.

in the city early yesterday.

A housewife was hacked to

The victim identified as

BONN, Nov 23: Germany

*participation of other opposi-

He also said that in case

he added.

tion parties.

The opposition parties

PM to address nation

From Page

ing all steps to make the ted Sheikh Hasina's remark polls free and fair and hoped that the Awami League and other opposition parties would participate in the polls.

Addressing a hurriedly-arranged press conference at his Bailey Road official residence, Mannan Bhuiyan reiterated his party's call to the Opposition to take part in the by-polls for resolving the political crisis within the constitutional framework. "We'll continue our efforts until the last minute for an understanding".

Explaining the PM's statement urging the Opposition to form an interim national government, Mannan Bhuiyan said, the offer was only for the three major opposition parties (the AL. Jatiya Party and the Jamaate-Islami) and added that the offer would be invalid if these parties do not accept it. The proposed interim national government could be formed with equal number of representatives from the ruling and the three opposition parties, he said adding that the BNP, as the largest party, should head it.

Asked about the PM's earlier announcement to resign 30 days ahead of the polls the BNP leader said, "It would depend on the situa-

Repeating BNP's stand against the concept of a new tral caretaker government he said. We're ready to give all concessions permitted by the Constitution, which we'll continue to uphold".

Minutes of 36th TCC meet okayed

The 37th tripartite consultative committee (TCC) meeting of Ministry of Labour and Manpower was held yesterday at the ministry with Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting approved the minutes of the 36th TCC meeting and discussed the progress of its decisions. Various issues concerning ratification and implementation of ILO conventions and recommendations were also discussed.

The representatives of the Bangladesh Employers' Association and different labour organisations attended the

meeting. Six held, arms recovered in city

By Staff Correspondent Police arrested six people and recovered two sawed-off

rifles, bullets and cocktails from Banani and Lalbagh areas in the city yesterday. The Speed Enforcement Squad nabbed two persons from an auto-rickshaw with a

sawed-off rifle, 10 bullets and two magazines from Banani in the afternoon. The arrested are Shoab.

and Abul Kalam, the driver. Another person who was in the auto-rickhaw fled away.

A mobile squad, on suspicion, chased the auto-rickshaw from Gulshan Circle Two and caught hold of them near Banani graveyard. The passengers hurled a cocktail at the police escape arrest.

Meanwhile, in a separate raid, police arrested four people from a house in Lalbagh area and recovered a foreign rifle loaded with two bullets, 25 cocktails and materials for making cocktail from their possession.



Nick Leeson arrives at Singapore's Changi airport yesterday, after being expelled by Germany to stand trial on charges of fraud and forgery over the collapse of Britain's Barings Bank in February. - AFP/UNB photo

Leeson will be formally charged today

SINGAPORE. Nov 23: Nick Leeson was formally placed under arrest today by Singapore's anti-fraud agency after his extradition from Germany, reports AFP.

Officers of the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) arrested Leeson on 11 counts of forgery and cheating connected to the February collapse of Britain's Barings Bank, the CAD said in a statement

On arrival from Frankfurt. he was first escorted to the criminal investigation de partment for registration formalities required in all cases of "registrable crimes, the CAD said.

"As is required by the law, he would have to be notified of the charges and be given the opportunity to answer to the charges," the statement

"For this purposes and for questioning, he was brought to the CAD and may be held over for the night. As in all criminal cases handled by the CAD, we will allow him access to his counsel," the statement added.

The 28-year-old Leeson would be produced in a court Friday and formally charged with the offences, it said.

Leeson's multi-million dollar bets on Japanese financial instruments led to losses of 1.5 billion dollars and caused the collapse in February of Barings PLC, Britain's oldest merchant bank.

Four killed in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least four people were killed and 35 others injured in separate road accidents in Faridpur and Siraigani ves terday and Wednesday night.

Our Faridpur correspondent reports: Three people were killed when a bus fell into a roadside ditch on Faridpur-Barisal highway under Bhanga than yesterday morning.

The dead were identified as Aslam, 14, and Moslem Ahmed, 55, both are passersby, and Emdadul, a rickshawvan driver.

Thirty others were also injured in the accident. They were admitted to Bhanga hospital and Faridpur hospi-

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports: Driver Khaibar Ali, 35, was killed and five others were injured when his bus was collided head on with a truck Wednesday night on Nagarbari-Dinajpur highway near Raihata village under Raiganj thana.

PM: Stipend

From Page 1

She said the children of government employees will get stipend for education from this year and a fund of Tk 8.2 crore has already been given for the purpose.

The government contributed Tk 13 crore to the Employees Welfare Fund this year, she said adding that it is also actively considering the development of the gov-

ernment employees' hospital. "Now the government employees do not have to suffer for getting pension. We have eliminated the pension complexity and taken step so that the employees could get pension with their retirement", she added. The government has also introduced

Begum Zia said she had already instructed the concerned authorities to allot a government fielding at Moghbazar to the 4th Class Government Employees Association.

a life-long pension system.

Several thousand employees' delegates from all over the country and representatives from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka are participating in the conference.

54 fundamentalists jailed in Egypt

HEIKSTEP, Egypt, Nov 23: An Egyptian military court sentenced 54 Muslim Brotherhood leaders to three or five years in jail today at the end of a trial condemned by human rights groups in Egypt and around the world, reports Reuter.

The court, meeting at an army camp in the desert northeast of the capital, also ordered the Cairo headquarters of the fundamentalist organisation closed and all its contents seized

The 54 men include prominent academics, doctors and community leaders. They were accused of nonviolent offences such as organising an illegal group. holding illegal secret meetings and preparing anti-government leaflets.

Amnesty International this week described them as prisoners of conscience and urged the authorities to set them free. It said they were civilians who should not face military trial. The defendants, arraigned

inside a large cage and dressed in white shirts and trousers, responded to the sentences with Islamist slogans. "God is great, praise be to God. We look only to God.

Victoria college students observe hunger strike

From Our Correspondent COMILLA, Nov 23: More than five hundred students of the Comilla Government Victoria College observed a six-hour token hunger strike at the Town Hall today demanding upgradation of the college to a full-fledged university.

The students under the banner of university implementation committee have also announced the next agitation programme including torch procession in the town and rail-road barricade tomorrow to press their demands.

JCD workers attack Sylhet BNP office: 5 hurt

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Nov 23: Five people were injured and three private cars damaged as activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) attacked the district BNP office here this afternoon.

The JCD workers came to the office in a procession and went on a rampage at about 5:30 pm when a meeting of district BNP was going on inside the office.

The district BNP in a press release blamed the 'armed group' in the JCD for the attack.

the best protector," they chanted.

Mohamed Khairat, a com puter specialist sentenced to five years of hard labour, told Reuters prison would not change them. "The Muslim Brotherhood is like steel." he said from the cage.

"Islam is the only solution the only hope against the corruption and injustice of President Hosni Mubarak he added

Salah Abdel Magsoud, one of 27 men acquitted in the case, said: "It's purely political. There is no criminal act and no witnesses and the only aim is to suppress the Islamist trend."

Outside the camp hundreds of relatives and sympathisers had gathered but few were able to attend. At one point they tried to break through army barriers but soldiers forced them back.

The Muslim Brotherhood Egypt's largest and most influential fundamentalist group, has said the aim of the trial is to prevent the defendants taking part in next week's parliamentary elections. But the government has tried to link them with violent Islamist groups fighting the security forces.

Malaria kills 80 in West Bengal since Sept

NEW DELH! Nov 23: The outbreak of malaria in certain parts of India including West Bengal, has taken a serious turn. Cerebal malaria epidemics claimed hundreds of lives in Rajashthan last year and at least 80 lives so far in Calcutta since September, according to media reports, says BSS.

Meanwhile, West Bengal Youth Congress chief Mamata Banerjee has decided to "gherao" the Calcutta Municipal Corporation building tomorrow in protest against its, what has been described, complete failure to check the spread of the malignant dis-

EC instruction From Page 1

presided the meeting.

Among others Election Commissioner Justice Md Abdul Jalil, secretary of the Election Commission Ershadul Huq, additional secretary in charge of the Ministry of Information Syed Amir-ul Mulk, additional secretary of the Election Commission S M Zakaria, Director General of the Bangladesh Television Risalat Ahmad, Director General of the radio Bangladesh Mohiuddin Ahmed and other concerned officials of the Ministry of information and government media were pre-

Rauzan power plant

From Page 1 proval.

The site of the plant is situated 15 km east from Chittagong on the road to Kaptai and 6 km away from the Karnaphuli river. Because of the distance from the river, the water pump and cooling tower of the plant together consume 6 MW of electricity, a fact criticised in the PSMP. In an investigation some

467 technical faults were found at the first plant. The PMSP noted, the plant was unable to run for more than 15 to 20 minutes while carrying only the station

service load.

"This can often happen. not because of a fault on the unit itself but because of lighting induced trips on the out-going 230 kv line. If load cannot be restored within 15-20 minutes, the casing of the steam turbine starts to distort and the unit has to be shut down completely. Once this happens, it has to be left to cool off completely for 72 hours before it can be restarted," the Master Plan noted.

The authorities have not yet given the final acceptance certificate (FAC) for the plant. PDB sources said that unless the defects were removed, the FAC could not be provided.

A high powered technical committee was formed by the PDB known as final completion certificate committee to resolve these issues. But due to nonfulfillment of major contractual obligations in respect to rectification of lapses and deficiencies, the committee could not complete its task as the CMEC was not agreeing on having the price of the faulty equipment deducted

Shutdown costs US taxpayers over \$700m

NEW YORK. Nov 23: White House officials said last week's government shutdown cost US taxpayers between 700 and 800 million dollars the New York Times re ported in its Thursday ediuons, reports Reuter.

The newspaper quoted unidentified officials as saying half of the estimated costs were the salaries of 800,000 workers furloughed for four working days as Republicans and Democrats battled over a seven-year plan to balance the federal budget.

The officials also said they could not promise federal workers another shutdown would not happen in a few weeks

US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin also disclosed that the Clinton administration was developing plans to pay bills into early 1996 in the event the Republicancontrolled Congress refuses to raise the borrowing limit the New York Times report

Clinton vetoed a bill on Monday that would have temporarily raised the debt ceiling by 67 billion dollars partly because it contained measures that would have limited the administration's maneuvering room in the fu-

Analyst said treasury's decision to reschedule previ ously postponed securities auctions, including a threeyear note sale next Monday and 10-year note sale next Tuesday, made it certain that treasury must use some ac counting tricks.

15 JCD activists expelled in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 23: The Sylhet district unit of the Jatiy atabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) today expelled 15 leaders and workers of the party for their alleged involvement in the killing of JCD leader Muyeen Khan, who was shot dead by rival group on Tuesday on the MC College campus.

The district unit took the decision at an emergency meeting today and also urged the central committee to approve the expulsion decision

Police SI shot From Page 1

Police said that when the SI along with four constables caught the alleged killer. Mohammad Rashedul Islam Russel (20), his accomplices fired shots and tried to snatch Russel Russel failed to escape

from Badrul's grip. At one stage, injured Badrul fired one round to save his life and the miscreants fled the Russel hails from Gob-

indopur area of Demra thana Doctors at the DMCH said that the condition of the SI was improving. Russel and his accom-

plices allegedly gunned down one Mohammad Hossain in front of Shekhdt School on July 19 last, police said. Meanwhile, police ar

rested one Ripon a few days ago in connection with the murder. Ripon, who was released on bail, reportedly led the attack yesterday, police

Hasina From Page

herself as an autocrat. She is pushing the country towards a confrontation by giving this controversial by-election".

Hasina cautioned those who were going to submit nomination papers for the byelections should do it on their own responsibility. "The government will be responsible for any untoward incidents centering the dropping of nomination papers." "We are conducting the

movement for establishing the voting right of the people. On the other hand, the government is trying to snatch voting right through terrorism and rigging," she told the meeting. The ruling party knows

that rigging would not be possible under a caretaker government, so it is not accepting the demand, she al-The meeting, presided

over by City Awami League President and Dhaka Mayor Mohammad Hanif, was also addressed by Zillur Rahman, Tofael Ahmed, Obaidul Kader. Ivy Rahman, Siddigur Rouf Khan and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

Chittagong city

From Page 1

30.000 telephone connections in the port city under eight exchanges located at Nandankanan, Sagarika, Kalurghat, Agrabad, Muradpur, EPZ, Pahartoli and Bayzid Bostami area. But most of those are under analogue system, T&T sources said

The Midnight Rile

OIC to help implement Bosnia peace accord

RIYADH, Nov 23: Islamic states are ready to help implement the Bosnia peace accord between the Serbs. Croats and Bosnian Muslims, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) said today. The OIC said member states were "prepared to take part in any international mechanism for implementation" of the accord

'None can play foul with Constitution'

President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Justice TH Khan yesterday described the Constitution as the highest law of the country and said none could play foul with it, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at an open discussion on "Current Political Situation and Constitutional Continuity" organised by the Supreme Court Unit of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, Justice TH Khan stressed that the constitutional continuity must be maintained.

Presided over by president of the Supreme Court unit of the Forum. Abdur Rab Chowdhury, MP, the discussion was addressed by additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khondkar, former justice Maksudur Rahman.

Justice Khan said that could the Opposition accept the reality in the context of their demand for a caretaker government, they would not have resigned from Parliament. Because, he added, the Opposition knew very well that any amendment to the Constitution required support of two-third members.

Cyclonic storm

From Page 1

Under the influence of the edge of the severe cyclonic storm cloudy activity is expected over the country with chances of rain or thundershowers in coastal areas.

All fishing boats and trawlers over deep sea and north Bay have been advised to come close to the coast and proceed with caution.

Fertiliser

From Page 1 through imports.

BCIC has a stock of 25,559 tonnes of TSP and 17.937 tonnes of SSP, the sources added. The government decision

to build up buffer stocks in the northern region was identified as the principal cause of the prevailing crisis, because this led the mills to despatch less fertiliser to the traders, some sources said. "Zia Fertiliser Company is delivering 500 to 600 tonnes

per day, instead of at least 1500 tonnes a day," said another BFA member, they could not collect urea at the mill-gate price of Tk 186.25 per 50-kg bag, rather they were compelled to give more than Tk 200 a bag, he alleged. Though the authorities had accepted 483 Demand Orders (DOs) at the Zia Fertiliser Factory, but later they changed their decision and accepted 235 DOs, he said.

Some BFA members expressed doubts about the accountability of governmentappointed dealers. They also feared that the farmers would not get fertiliser at the right prices once again as some non-professional dealers might be enlisted.

BFA has suggested a 'fair distribution system of fertiliser throughout country. The suggestions include 10 per cent penalty for not lifting urea as scheduled, steady supply of fertiliser throughout the year, delivery system based on "first payment first serve," abolition of command areas and a buffer stock (1,00,000 tonnes) in the northern region.

Direct

5 police officers killed in Assam blast

NEW DELHI, Nov 23: Five police officers and a civilian driver were killed when their minibus was blown up by a remote-control bomb in the far northeastern Indian state of Assam, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today. says AFP.

Police told the news

agency the vehicle was destroyed while crossing a concrete bridge on Wednesday in Assam's Darrang district. Five police officers and

their civilian driver were killed while two policemen were seriously wounded. PTI The news agency quoted

police as saying that Bodo tribal guerillas were suspected of planting the bomb. Raushan breaks

hunger strike By Staff Correspondent Begum Raushan Ershad

and the other family members broke their 8-day hunger strike yesterday. They broke their fast unto-death on request of the leaders of Jatiya Party and

some other smaller parties as they fell ill after observing the strike for seven days Raushan Ershad, the wife of former president HM Er shad, began the hunger strike on November 16 to press the government to shift her ailing husband to a hospital from the Dhaka Central

Jail. Ershad, sentenced to 13

years imprisonment, has

been suffering from viral hepatitis since November 4. A JP press release regretted that the government did not shift Ershad to hospital despite the orders of High Court, recommendation of medical board and hunger strike by Ershad's family

Jaffna

members

From Page 1 thousands of government troops, will fall before the rebels celebrate the birthday of their chief Velupillai Prab-

hakaran on Sunday. But the loss of two large transport planes may now delay it. The Antonov was carrying 62 servicemen, mostly soldiers. Air Force sources said it vanished from radar as it neared the Palaly Airbase near Jaffna after an hour's

Officials said the plane's pilot asked Palaly to switch on landing lights before it disappeared from radar about an hour after taking off from Colombo's Ratmalana Airbase at 1150 GMT.

flight from Colombo.

There was speculation it might have been shot down by the Tamil rebels, who have used heavy guns and missiles to bring down military planes in the past. But this was not confirmed.

UN sanctions From Page 1

favour of accumulating arms in the region but in restricting them and reducing them," ambassador Sergey Lavrov told the council

France, which since August has warned it would not support the move unless it was accompanied by confidence-building measures and agreement on regional stability, supported the resolution, diplomats said.

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