The Midnight File

EU-US jt action plan signed

today, commits both sides to work "boldly and rapidly together and with other partners" to re-establish peace in

former Yugoslavia, including Bosnia, reports AFP.

MADRID. Dec 3: The EU-US joint action plan, signed

Donors urged to look into regional issues

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman has urged the donor countries and agencies to take into account regional water management issues while formulating the water and flood management strat-

some kind of intervention from across the border." Rahman said while inaugurating a two-day governmentdonor meeting on Water Sector Strategy at the National Economic Council (NEC) auditorium yesterday.

The meeting will make an overall review of the "Bangladesh Water and Flood Control Management Strategy," approved by the cabinet on September 11. The plan will be implemented in next five years until the year 2000.

Over 50 representatives of donor agencies and countries including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Food and Agriculture Organisation, European Union, International Monetary Fund, JICA, USAID, Canada International Development Agency, and government officials concerned are participating in the meeting.

Organised by the Economic Relations Divisions (ERD) of the Finance Ministry, the inaugural session of the meeting was also addressed by Minister of State for Flood Control and Irrigation. Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, Minister of State for Planning A Moyeen Khan and Secretary of the ERD Lutfullahil Majid. The Finance Minister said

Bangladesh has a common problem; too much water in rainy season and too scarce availability in dry season. He said, water management policy should take into cognizance that Bangladesh is a lower riparian country which "We have 56 rivers with is being deprived of its

rightful share of water. Dwelling on the structures built years ago, for flood control and water management. Rahman said, 'The structure were unplanned and created misgivings." Speaking about the Flood Action Plan, he said, "It created people's consciousness about the structures and the strate.

But, the Minister said, the Water and Flood Control Management Strategy should be flexible. The interests of farmers, fishermen and stone and sand collectors are not complementary but contradictory". The strategies should ensure integrated use of water, he added.

Moyeen Khan said, "Over the years, the approach of FAP changed and it has now become sufficiently participa-

Participating in the discussion. State Minister for Flood Control and Irrigation Shahjahan urged the donors and NGOs to extend their cooperation to the government's efforts for developing a better water management.

He said the scarcity of water had affected the country's agriculture, fisheries and environment. All these points had to be evaluated in a correct perspective, he said.

Russian minister due today

Russian Minister of Culture Y Sidorov arrives here today on a four-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports

Sidorov, who will lead a two-member delegation, is expected to hold official talks with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahanara Begum on Tuesday. It will be followed by signing of a cultural protocol between the two countries.

7 hurt in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent At least seven persons were injured in separate in-

cidents in the city yesterday. Shamsul Alam, 45, owner of Sheikh Pharmacy at Jatrabari of the city was hacked by chapati at 11:30 by some miscreants. He was admitted to the DMCH. Shamsul Alam is the joint secretary of Demra thana BNP.

Litan, 20, Motaleb, 18 Shaffuddin, 45 were injured in bomb blast at the Dhaka-Narayangani bus stand at Gulistan in the city as two groups of mastans clashed in the afternoon.

Motaleb was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and two others were released after first aid.

Sekander, 51, Sohrab, 35, were injured in a bomb blast when two group of mastans clashed at Balumat of Nawabganj. They were admitted to the DMCH.

Snatcher

From Page 1

police, when Abdus Sabur an employee of Khaled trading, was depositing the money at the cash counter of Agrani Bank Chaktai branch, suddenly two miscreants came to him and told him that 'your money has fallen on the ground." As Abdus Sabur looked at

the ground, the two miscreants snatched the money from the table and started fleeing.

Local people caught them red-handed. The people mercilessly beat the snatchers . Anwar, 35, succumbed to his injuries.

Badal, who was critically injured in the beating, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and his condition was stated to be critical, the hospital sources

72-hr hartal

From Page 1

Nasim from the AL, Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Anwar Hossain Monju from the JP and Ansar Ali, Mujahid and Quamruz Zaman from the JI.

Under the new programmes, the opposition parties will organise countrywide demonstrations and rallies on December 7.

The AL will also organise a procession towards the PM's office.

The next day, the opposition parties will organise torch processions and the 72-hour countrywide hartal will begin from December 9.

Jute sector reforms

From Page 1 it was found that BJMA was not in a position to achieve its already existing production target and some of its members have already cut production. The BJMA mills reduced their capacity from about 9000 looms to about 4.500 looms.

the sources, were made because of the WB's concern about the status of the reform -and a letter sent by its headquarters seeking to know how the government intends to finalise a revised programme for consideration by the bank.

The bank, under its Jute Sector Adjustment Credit (JSAC) effective since April 1994, is financing the JSAP.

In a letter addressed to the Jute Secretary, the Chief of Private Sector Development and Finance Division of the Bank's South Asia Region said, "Given the searcity of IDA resources and the many competing claims on these limited funds, we need to be in a position to assure our Board that the government intends to revamp the JSAP with a view to seeking continuing IDA support."

Meanwhile, the WB has stopped releasing of the second and third tranches, totalling 100 million US dollars, of the total credit amounting to 250 million dollars due to the delay in implementing the reform programme.

According to the project status report of the Bank, the government has closed down four public sector jute mills out of nine and downsized one out of two under the

"It has now become inevitable that the project must be restructured to The reviews, according to establish new schedule of implementation. Obviously, this will have increased budgetary cost of implementation, because of delayed implementation," says the WB status report.

Dwelling on the major problems faced and the key actions to be taken by the government, it says "There is a need to invite bids for mills which did not receive good response." The government should re-tender for the second group of mills for privatisation, it suggested.

"Unless rapid progress is made in rationalising the industry, the operating losses of the 29 public sector jute mills will amount to 58 million dollars next fiscal year (1995-'96). This compares with a situation where losses would have been cut to 30 million dollars, if the programme had been implemented on schedule," says the WB letter to the Jute Ministry.

According to the WB, the annual expenditure in subsidising public sector employment would be sufficient to employ 1,30,000 primary school teachers.



Some disabled beggars yesterday brought out a procession in the city in observance of the World Disabled Day. Star photo

Biman starts Barisal flight

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Dec 3: Biman Bangladesh Airlines today started operating flight between Dhaka and Barisal.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas formally inaugurated the Biman flight at a function at Rahmatpur Airport, 15 km of the divisional headquar-

Initially, Biman will operate once-a-week flight on Dhaka-Barisal route on Sun-

Addressing the function, President Biswas said with the launching of 70-seater ATP aircraft a longtime demand of the people of Barisal has been fulfilled.

He said the Rahmatpur Airport will be upgraded into an international one in future.

AL rejoinder

From Page 1

to Sheikh Hasina is baseless. fabricated, motivated and not true. The countrymen do not expect such untrue, distorted, fabricated, and motivated news from a newspaper like The Daily Star. What AL chief Sheikh Hasina said regarding the India-Bangladesh friendship treaty at the inaugural ceremony of the threeday long cultural programme at the Ramna Batomul yesterday evening is as follows: There is no necessity to renew the treaty after the formation of SAARC and SAPTA for regional cooperation. The foreign ministers of Ziaur Rahman and Ershad (governments) and of the present government have repeatedly described this treaty as 'friendship treaty' in their statements inside the Parliament. Challenging the claim of the Prime Minister at Chittagong. Sheikh Hasina also said that it had to be made public which clause of the treaty made it a 'treaty of slavery'. Sheikh Hasina also said If this treaty is for slavery then why did not she (PM) liberate the nation from the chain of slavery by repealing this treaty during her four and a half years rule?

The statement of Sheikh Hasina was unambiguous and clear. The distorted report in your paper may create confusion in the public mind. We strongly condemn and protest the news item."

Rail link restored

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, Dec 3: Rail communication between the northern districts and the capital was restored today following the resumption of railway ferry services after seven days of suspension due to siltation of river channels.

Ferry services between Teestamukh Ghat and Bahadurabad Ghat resumed this morning after the heavily silted up channels at Kalasona and Teestamukh Ghat at Gajaria Point were made navigable by dredgers and local tug vessels.

Lankan troops raise flag in Jaffna

COLOMBO, Dec 3: The Sri (LTTE) in 1990, officials said. Lankan army today raised the national flag in Jaffna in the island's north in a symbolic gesture to mark the recapture of the Tamil Tiger bastion, officials said, reports AFP.

Senior army commanders raised the lion flag at the Jaffna fort for the first time since Jaffna came under the control of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

PM distributes 12 buses

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday distributed 12 buses, minibuses and microbuses to 11 educational institutions, reports

The Prime Minister handed over keys of the buses among the respective heads of institutions at her office yesterday afternoon.

The educational institutions are: Agriculture University, Islami University, Jagannath University, Fine Arts Institute, Dhaka University, National Medical College. Dhaka, Zia Mahila College. Feni, Institute of Post-Graduate Studies in Agriculture, Gazipur, Ispahani Public School and College, Commilla, Rifle Public School and College, BDR, Dhaka, Brahmanbaria Government College and NATRAMS (National Academy for Training and Research of Multi-Lingual Shorthand), Bogra.

The ceremony came a day after troops captured the fort, built in the 16th century by the Dutch but now in shambles, after weeks of fighting for Jaffna town.

Sri Lankan soldiers used Jaffna fort as a garrison for decades until they were forced to evacuate en masse in 1990 following a prolonged LTTE siege.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger chief Velupillai Prabhakaran has called on Tamil youths to join separatist war he is leading in the country.

Prabhakaran said in a statement released by the LTTE that increasing the

See also page 8

rebel movement's military power has become the inevitable historical necessity today.

"This is crucial for the survival of the Tamil Nation, he said in a message released on November 27 to mark the LTTE's 'martyrs' day.'

"Our nation has been forced into a necessity to struggle for survival,' he said. The young generation of Tamils cannot escape from this national duty, from this call of history."

'Any delay in this task will endanger the existence of our nation," he added "Therefore, I call upon the younger generation to join our liberation movement without delay."



Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited Chhatra League leader Abul Kalam Azad of Patuakhali who is now under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. His left hand was chopped off allegedly by some terrorists. -AL photo

Opposition rejects polls schedule the Prime Minister's letter rejected the election sched-

Working Committee yesterday said people would not accept the "government's uni-

lateral announcement of election schedule with scant regard for the opposition demand for a neutral nonpartisan caretaker govern-An emergency meeting of the committee with party

President Sheikh Hasina in the chair, stated that the unilateral announcement of election schedule through the Election Commission amounted to ignoring public opinion.

It smelt 'deep conspiracy' in the announcement of the schedule within few hours of to the Awami League Chief, a ule because the Election party press release said. The AL committee alleged that the move was in-

tended to keep the crisis

Jatiya Party yesterday rejected what it called unilateral announcement of the general election schedule.

It urged the people to observe fresh agitation programme including the 72hour hartal from December 9 to press for election under a non-party neutral caretaker government.

Acting Chairman of JP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury in a statement said, "We have

Commission, being influenced by the government. has declared the schedule hurriedly." Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday

expressed its dismay over the

announcement of parliamen-

tary election schedule with-

out formation of a caretaker

government.

The Jamaat central working committee at a meeting with its Ameer Prof Ghulam Azam in the chair asked the interim Prime Minister to immediately resign and handover power to a caretaker government.

Khaleda's fourth letter

From Page 1

interest of the country and democracy you will take this opportunity to sit for a dialogue with a view to solving the present problem. During my telephone conversation with you, I have also made a definite request to you that we will discuss with priority any issues raised by you.

"I have been repeatedly requesting you to sit for discussion with a view to solving the persisting political crisis. We will, through discussion, reach an understanding in the light of logic and the Constitution.

"You also know that I had

offered to step down from the post of premiership as per the Constitution before the end of my tenure for peaceful solution of the political crisis. We had ourselves also proposed to form an interim national government for conducting the polls taking equal number of members of Parliament from the Opposition and the Treasury Bench, and requested the President to hold new elections ahead of the stipulated timeframe. None of these prove our willingness to cling to power.

Besides. I have recently also reiterated my wish to solve the existing crisis while

EC meets officials tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission will hold a meeting with divisional commissioner, DIGs of police, city police commissioner, district administrators, and superintendents of police tomorrow to discuss measures for creating an enabling environment for holding a free, fair and neutral parliamentary polls, said an EC press release last night.

From Page 1

Police sources said 12

leaders and workers of the

Jatiayatabadi Chhatra Dal

(JCD) were nabbed during

the 90-minute operation at

Mandalpara BNP office,

known as 'High Command.' A

good number of arms and

huge bomb manufacturing

Secretary of Narayangani

District JCD Abu AL Yusuf

Khan Tipu, VP of Narayanganj

College Students Union

Mashiur Rahman Pavel, his

younger brother Pappu, Ab-

dus Sattar, Rasel, Ali Ashgar,

Selim, Ashek Ali, Anwar Hos-

sain, Arman, Dalim and

eign made guns, one re-

volver, one countrymade gun,

two chapatis, one ramdao,

four cartridges and huge

brought to the DB office and

police remand for Tipu, Pavel

and Pappu while other nine

were remanded for six-days.

under Special Powers Act

and Arms and Ammunition

Act for their alleged involve-

ment in violence, toll collec-

tion and bomb blast in the

shopowners at different mar-

kets and shopping complexes

today observed strike to

protest the widespread vio-

lence and terrorism in the

Additional police forces

have been posted in the

town.

Meanwhile, traders and

The arrested were first

The court allowed four-day

The accused were sued

bomb making materials.

later sent to the court.

Police recovered two for-

Khokon.

The arrested are: General

materials were recovered.

Arms recovered Certificate cases blasts in the town for last two

From Page 1 commuted if the debtors pay the principal amount before

4 BCL activists

held at DU

By DU Correspondent

Four BCL activists were ar-

rested from the Salimullah

Hall premises of the Dhaka

University (DU) yesterday by

the Detective Branch police

them are DU students

were identified as Babu, San-

joy. Belal and Faisal. The rea-

not be known immediately.

son behind the arrest could

a gunfight occurred between

the armed youths of the Za-

hurul Haq Hall and Salimullah

League (BCL), the student

wing of the Awami League,

claimed that they were the

activists of the BCL city unit.

Demanding their immediate

release, the BCL leaders said

at a rally that they came to S

M Hall for organisational

Held in front of the TSC

vesterday evening, the rally

was addressed by the Ba-

hadur Bepari, BCL DU unit

president, Mahbubul Haq

Shakil. BCL vice president

and Rafiqul Haq.

The Bangladesh Chhatra

Earlier, on Friday evening

The arrested - none of

at about 2 pm.

30th Chaitra of 1402 BS. With these decisions, the handout said, the poor section of the people will get rid of about 4.5 lakh certificate cases which had long been unsettled.

Deputy commissioners have been directed to take proper steps in this regard, the handout said.

Earlier, the Cabinet approved the proposal for withdrawal of all certificate

The approval was given at a meeting of the Cabinet held at the cabinet room of Prime Minister's office with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair. The Cabinet also ap-

proved, in principle, the draft of government University Ordinance 1995, which will facilitate upgradation of selected post graduate colleges into universities. The draft law to reorganise the Bangladesh Com-

merce and Investment Ltd into a bank was approved in principle. Approval was also accorded to the draft of

amendment of the Non-Government Educational Institution's Teachers and Employees Welfare Trust Act 1990 and the draft of Non-Government Educational Institution's Teachers and Employes Retirement Benefit Act 1995. Copenhegan amendment

of Montreal protocol was also approved in the meeting, the handout said.

responding to questions from journalists.

"I still hold the expectation that scope still exists to solve the political crisis through dialogue. Let us avail this opportunity by sitting for a dialogue with an attitude for settlement. Let us show our sincere respect to the martyrs of War of Liberation by consolidating democracy and the constitutional process which are the fruits of Independence, through united efforts. Let us together cele-

JS elections From Page 1

brate the 25th Victory Day

along with the countrymen."

and sent it to the President. The CEC. however, said that he would address the nation on Radio and Television to appeal for an all-out coop-

eration of all quarters. Meanwhile, high level delegations of the Awami League and the Jamaat-e-Islami have met the CEC. The CEC said that both the parties have given constructive suggestions to conduct a free and fair elections.

But it was reported that the four-member AL delegation led by Mofizur Rahman lodged a formal complaint with the CEC on Saturday regarding the recent train journey of the Prime Minister and alleged that it was a trip for campaign for the election

The Jamaat delegation. led by Moqbul Ahmed, also lodged the same complaint to the CEC yesterday. As far as the EC and its

role are concerned, both the parties have extended their cooperation. The political impasse is something out of our reach and concern, the CEC said.

US visa lottery

From Page 1 Those who did ot receive notification by early September were not selected in the lottery.

The USIS cautioned that receiving of notification letters does not ensure US visas since more Bangladeshis have been notified than the available number of visas under the country quota. "Many of the people who

received letters will not reach the next stage, which is the visa interview," the release said. Moreover, having a visa interview also would not guarantee a visa. All visa applicants must

also qualify under certain educational standards. They must have successfully completed at least a high school education or its equivalent or within the past five years, have two years of work experience in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience. Recipient of notification

letters should follow the instructions and return completed forms to the National Visa Centre as soon as possible, the release added.

Significant delays in return of the forms could result in the applicant not receiving a visa interview appointment.

Raw jute

From Page 1

tatives of Bangladesh Jute Association, Jute Merchants' and Exporters' Association and Jute Goods Producers' and Exporters Association held in the ministry's conference room.

The jute minister called upon all concerned to ensure fair price to the jute growers by exporting quality raw jute and jute goods, according to an official handout.

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