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Finance Minister SAMS Kibria addressing as chief guest the inaugural session of a 3-day national convention on 'women and poverty', organised by Women for Women, at the auditorium of the Academy for Planning and Development in the city yesterday.

PM tells non-resident Bangladeshis Develop your country thru' investment

NEW YORK, Oct 26: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here yesterday urged the non-resident Bangladeshis to develop their country through investment, reports BSS.

"Everyone living abroad has feelings for his own soil. Therefore, if you make investment in Bangladesh it would help the country," she said while addressing the non-resident Bangladeshis at a New York hotel.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Minister of State for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP, chairman of Board of Investment and Secretaries accompanying the prime minister and some leading businessmen from Bangladesh were present.

The Prime minister had a very free and frank exchange of views with non-resident Bangladeshis on the country's present economy and politics.

Former FBCCI president Salman F Rahman and a leading businessman A S Mahmud took part in the discussion.

Police, mob clash

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angry people did not want to hand over the alleged mugger to police as they wanted the money to be returned first. The situation became volatile when the police asked Kabir to go to thana and file a case, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, a large number of share certificates were allegedly damaged during the clash.

The Deputy Commissioner (East) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Naam Ahmed, was among those injured in the hour-long clash, police said. The injured police men were taken to the police hospital. The other injured were taken to different city clinics.

Police arrested Hobu while Faizul Kabir filed a case with Motijheel thana in connection with the snatching. Police filed a case against the 21 arrested persons on charges of attacking the police, Motijheel police said.

The traffic movement on the busy roads of the Motijheel commercial area was suspended with the clash spreading from the Shapla Square to the Ittefaq crossing.

Sparks protest

From Page 1

against him with different police stations in the city, police said.

Local people said that about 50 people, mostly teenagers, brought out a procession on the road near the Farmgate over-bridge at around 1:30 pm protesting the arrest of Anwar. They were associates of Anwar, locals said.

At one stage the unruly youths started pelting stones on vehicles and ransacking shops beside the roads, locals added.

Police gheraoed the whole area and arrested eight persons. They were identified as Shiplu, 19, Mofazzal, 18, Ibrahim Khalil, 16, Fazle Elahi alias Ditu, 17, Mofiz, 18, Biddut, 17, Zakir Hossain, 15, and Abu Naser, 17, police sources said. Police also picked up one Salimullah from the spot who was, however, later released as he was not involved in the rampage, police added.

A case was lodged with Tejgaon thana in this connection, police said.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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3 Jamaat MPs quit NA seats Pak opposition stage anti tax strike

ISLAMABAD, Oct 26: Pakistani opposition parties and business groups staged a party effective anti-tax strike today and an Islamist party said police had rounded up thousands of its supporters to try to disrupt further protests, reports Reuters.

The Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) party said the security forces had detained more than 5,500 of its activists to prevent them from taking part in a march on Islamabad planned for Sunday.

Islamabad-based JI spokesman Ovais Qasim, said the party's leader, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, was in hiding. "He is on the move to avoid arrest," Qasim said. "He is being chased by police."

An Interior Minister spokesman said the JI figure for detainees was exaggerated, but could not say how many people had been seized. He denied that the JI leader was being sought.

All this fuss is a smoke-screen designed to hide what they know will be a failed event," he said.

Three JI members of parliament resigned their seats in the National Assembly (lower house) on Saturday, following the example of Ahmad, who quit his seat last month in an attempt to put pressure on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to resign.

Women's rights

From Page 1

"The womenfolk is neglected and deprived of fundamental human rights. The problems of rural women are much more serious," she said, adding that women are not getting due recognition of their contribution to various sectors.

Presided over by President of the Women for Women Salma Khan, the inaugural function was also addressed by Shaheen Anam of the PRIP Trust. Dr Khaleda Salahuddin delivered the welcome address and explained the theme of the convention.

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Dr Rita Afsar, Simeen Mahmud and Dr Khaleda Salahuddin will present keynote papers on various topics related to the theme of the convention. University teachers and researchers will take part in discussion.

About 150 researchers, development activists, NGO executives and journalists from different parts of the country are attending the convention which will review and discuss in detail the state of women and poverty in Bangladesh.

Bus services from Barisal suspended

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 26: Bus service between Barisal and other places remained suspended from this morning. The disruption in communication followed a conflict between the Barisal Bus Owners Samity and the newly introduced Dakshin Bangla Bus Owners Samity, sources said.

Two buses of Samity were reportedly damaged at Bhurghate on Friday.

3 shops, 6 houses guttled

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 26: Three shops and six houses were gutted in a fire at Sadar road of Kalapara thana headquarters in Patuakhali district last night, witnesses said.

Delhi talks on terms, quantum of water

From Page 1

tional principles of water-sharing between an upper and a lower riparian and admitting the hardship of the Bangladesh people by agreeing to a "satisfactory and guaranteed level of water flow in the proposed agreement," said an analyst.

The Daily Star learnt that Bangladesh has been provided with the data on the quantum of water flow at Farakka. According to the figures made available, the lowest flow at Farakka this year during the last 10 days of the lean season (April 21-30) was recorded as 58,000 cusec. The average flow during April this year was 63,000 cusec. These figures, experts pointed out, were similar to that in the early Seventies at Farakka point.

Bangladesh, sources concerned pointed out, received around 16,000 cusec water on an average during April this year while the lowest flow recorded on one day was 14,996 cusec. Last year, Bangladesh received on an average 13,500 cusec during the lean season. In April last year, it received 15,000 cusec and a record low of 9,400 cusec during a 10-day lean period in April, 1993.

It appears from available statistics that on an average nearly 40,000 cusec water was being diverted through Farakka feeder canal during the dry season from January to May, with the stated objective of flushing the Calcutta Port. It is learnt from different published reports and other sources that the Calcutta Port has lost its effectiveness because of lowered traffic due to restriction of navigable draft and the diversion of shipping cargo to the Haldia port.

That withdrawals of around 40,000 cusec have been made

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PHILIPS

Pakistan, India expel each other's diplomats

ISLAMABAD, Oct 26: Pakistan today accused an Indian diplomat of spying and ordered him to leave the country within seven days, the state-run news agency reported, says AP.

AK Wali an employee of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad was "caught red handed while purchasing information of a sensitive nature from his local contact," reported the Associated Press of Pakistan.

There was no immediate comment from New Delhi. Reuters from Delhi adds, India ordered also the expulsion of a Pakistani diplomat whom police had earlier been detained and accused for acquiring secret documents on the navy from an Indian contact, a government official said today.

An Indian police spokesman said the diplomat, named as Hafiz Ahmeda Khosa, had been detained on Friday after he was alleged to have accepted the secret documents on the southern naval command from an Indian student.



Suu Kyi ventures from home

YANGON, Oct 26: Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi left her home today for the first time since Tuesday night, when she was advised to stay in her compound and not to go to see a nighttime street protest staged by university students, reports AP.

There had been speculation earlier this week that the military authorities who rule Myanmar had confined her to her home in the wake of the demonstration.

Sources within the military had denied making such a move, but refused to allow all but her closest associates to visit her home, where the telephone line has apparently been cut.

Suu Kyi, the head of the National League for Democracy, was driven this morning to the home of Tin Oo, a party deputy, whose 10-year-old granddaughter was celebrating her birthday.

In similar-warded statements Thursday, the US State Department and the British Foreign Office demanded that Myanmar's military rulers "immediately and unconditionally" release 78-year-old Kyi Maung, a soldier-turned-activist who was imprisoned on political charges from 1990 to 1995.

DCCI team starts 19-day visit to 4 countries

A 10-member delegation of the DCCI left Dhaka yesterday for a 19-day visit to China, Japan, Korea and Malaysia to promote bilateral business and explore investment opportunities for the country, reports UNB.

President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Ali-Hossain Hasan, who is now in New York as a member of the Prime Minister's entourage, will join and lead the "Business and Investment Promotion Delegation" from China.

During the visit, the DCCI delegation will highlight the congenial business conditions and the investment opportunities now prevailing in Bangladesh.

The delegation will also discuss various issues relating to the promotion of bilateral trade and prospect of joint venture investment with the promising investors at the individual level.

The delegation members, during their stay in China, will visit the International Fair at Guangzhou International Exhibition Centre.

In the Republic of Korea, the delegation will join an investment seminar at Pusan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the PCCI.

In Japan, the DCCI delegation will hold meetings with the Nishio Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The members of the mission will hold discussion with the Malay Chamber of Commerce Malaysia and sign memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Top UNICEF official cancels Dhaka visit

By Staff Reporter

Stephen Lewis, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, has postponed his visit to Bangladesh because of the growing crisis in Eastern Zaire.

Lewis was scheduled to inaugurate the new office of the UNICEF in the city at 7 pm today, UNICEF sources, however, said, the new office will be inaugurated as per schedule.

President From Page 1

tional institutions could be stopped, the President said dispelling the contentions.

One of his suggestions was temporary suspension of so-called student politics on the campus provided all political parties agreed. "This meant if any party disagrees, the suggestion will automatically fall through," the President observed.

JAGPA president Shafiul Alam Prodhan led the delegation.

PM: Raphael

From Page 1

Minister of the function of their respective organisations in Bangladesh.

Hasina sought support of UNDP to enhance the effectiveness of the parliamentary system in Bangladesh in the context of better governance.

She also urged UNDP and other agencies to focus on poverty eradication and effectiveness of the local governments in Bangladesh.

Accident

From Page 1

five were rushed to Jhenidah Sadar hospital.

A young man was killed when a tempo hit another one standing at Katakhal crossing on Magura-Mongla road today, UNB quoting police said.

Mollah Abu Syeed (28) who was in the tempo died on the spot.

A Sirajganj reports says, one person was killed and 40 others injured as two passenger buses collided at Janglebari on Bogra-Nagarbari highway today.

Identity of the killed could not be known. Of the injured three were admitted to hospital and the rest were given first aid at the local hospital, doctors said.

Police said the accident occurred when Dhaka bound bus from Chilmari and another Bogra bound bus from Nagarbari collided head on at about 12 noon.

A middle-aged man was killed and 15 others injured, five seriously, when a coach rammed a jeep on Chittagong-Khagrachhari Highway in Manikchhari thana today.

Police and witnesses said the Khagrachhari-bound coach from Chittagong collided with the jeep from opposite direction at Garitana area at about 5 pm.

Both the vehicles caught fire and an unidentified man receiving severe burn wounds died on the spot. The seriously injured others were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Another reports says, a middle-aged man was killed and 15 others injured, five seriously, when a coach rammed a jeep on Chittagong-Khagrachhari Highway in Manikchhari thana today.

Prabarana Purnima celebrated

CHITTAGONG, Oct 26: Prabarana Purnima, one of the major festivals of the Buddhists, was celebrated here today with due religious fervour and traditional enthusiasm, reports BSS.

Members of the Buddhist community celebrated the 'Purnima' marking the end of the three-month-long seclusion of the Buddhist monks and beginning of one-month-long yellow-robe-giving ceremony tomorrow.

Religious ceremonies were held in all monasteries and offices of various Buddhist organisations in the city. The day's programme was headed with chanting of the sacred verses from the Tripitaka and hoisting of the national and religious flags atop all monasteries.

Shilgrahan, mass prayer, blood donation, discussion, and prapad puja were included in the programme.

The chief attraction of the Purnima was releasing of lighted balloons in the evening from all monasteries at the same time amid chanting of scriptures and other rites and rituals.

Girl rescued

From Page 1

bazar sold her there, according to police.

Ashunoor's first client at the brothel was kind enough to listen to her tale. He carried a chit from her for Selim, owner of the said tailoring shop. Selim went to Narayanganj thana yesterday and informed the police of the incident.

The police later rescued the girl and lodged a case against Ruma. The police will hand over Ashunoor to Ramna police station in Dhaka tomorrow.

ORT communication campaign begins today

A massive communication campaign begins today to check diarrhoea, a disease that kills some 125,000 children a year and has been the country's main health problem, reports UNB.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the 18-month-long Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) Communication Campaign in the capital, Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf said yesterday, announcing the campaign programme.

Addressing a news-briefing session in the ministry's conference room, he said the programme aimed at changing people's longstanding habits through a massive awareness and communication campaign over the next one-and-half years.

Pre-winter

From Page 1

ternoon, grey clouds began gathering in the south-east. As the sun set, the clouds blanketed the full moon and sparked off lightnings.

Droplets of rains slowly turned into heavy showers after 6:30 pm, catching many passersby off guard and forcing them and rickshawpullers, cyclists and motor-bikers scurrying for shelter. During the heavy rains, a massive jam stranded traffic for about an hour at Kawan Bazar. Hundreds of vehicles formed over a mile-long queue on the busy Airport Road.

But traffic also slowed down in many other areas of the city as the roads went under water. The situation was worse in Motijheel, Gulshan, Purana Paltan and Kakrail areas.

The rainfall recorded by the Met office yesterday evening was: Kutubdia-25 mm, Teknaf-11 mm, Barisal-11 mm, Khepupara-10 mm, Cox's Bazar-8 mm and Patuakhali-2 mm.

Thakur

From Page 1

13 from Chandina thana in Comilla district and was taken on police remand twice.

Earlier, on October 20, Lance Naik (ret'd) Sheikh M Younus Ali also made confessional statement to the CMM Court.

The CMM Court allowed revival of the jail-killing case in the second week of September while a receptionist-cum-resident personal assistant of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Mahitul Islam, filed the Mujib-killing case with Dhanmondi police on October 2.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is investigating the two cases.