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Border confce

with India ends

From Staff Correspondent

border conference between

Bangladesh and India that

ended at Habigani today agreed

to take necessary measures for

border demarcation and recon-

struction of missing and dam

aged border pillars. The two

sides also decided to stop smug-

gling and other trans-border

Sushil Kumar, district mag-

istrate and collector of

Pashchim Tripura led the 9-

member Indian team while

Iftekhar-e-Alam, deputy com-

missioner. Habiganj led the

BSF hands over

body of

Bangladeshi

From Staff Correspondent

BSF today handed over the body

of a Bangladeshi national who.

along with three others, al-

legedly intruded into the Indian

territory 11 days ago and died

nationals were also handed

Hag, his son Abdus Sattar.

Billal and Abdus Shukur of

village Balidhara of Charikata

Union under Jaintapur thana

were caught by the BSF on

October 20 when they crossed

the Lalakhal border. The BSF

sent them to jail in Meghalaya

where Azizul Haque, 50, died on

handed over at the Tamabil

The Bangladeshis were

BNP to raise

From Page 1

workers across the country.

"partisan role by the BTV and

the Election Commission's

'biased' role in conducting the

deterioration of law and order

and miseries of the common

people at their respective areas.

he said. 'We want to play a very

constructive role in the House

by discussing these in the House

and we hope we would be al-

lowed to perform our duties as

the Opposition," Khandakar

regretted that his party was still

in the dark on the Treasury

bench's planned business for

the JS session and added they

were yet to receive any notice on

the reported meeting of the

Business Advisory Committee.

scheduled to be held just before

the session begins at 4 pm to-

adjourned to meet again soon.

BNP leader said organisational

matters also came up for dis-

he told the reporters.

cussion.

The BNPPP meet would be

Replying to a question, the

The Opposition Chief Whip

The MPs also narrated the

The three other Bangladeshi

Official sources said, Azizul

in a jail on October 28.

over to police

October 28.

by-elections.

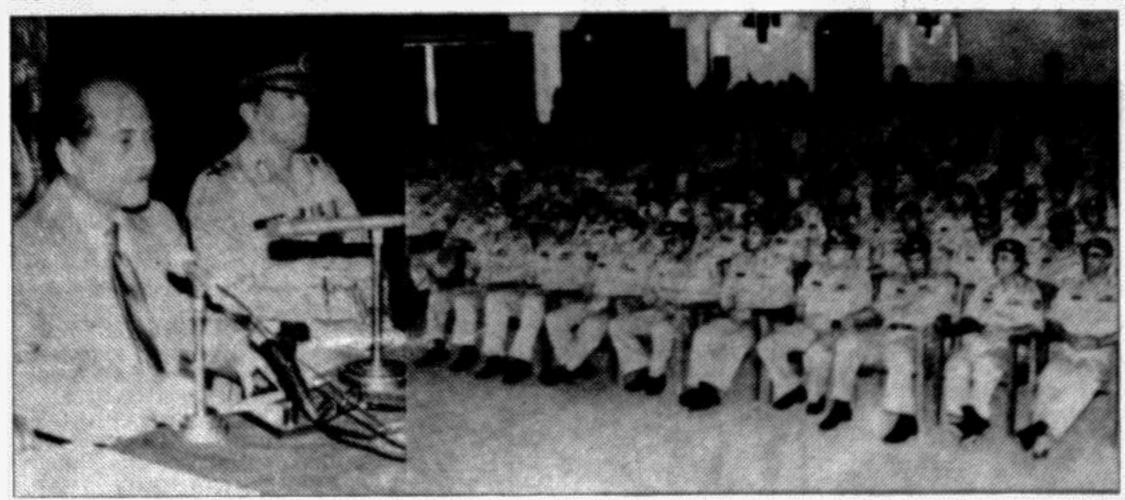
Delwar said.

border.

SYLHET, Oct 31: The Indian

Bangladesh team of 8 officials.

SYLHET. Oct 31: The two-day



President Shahabuddin Ahmed addressing senior Army officers at Senakunja in Dhaka - PID photo Cantonment yesterday.

Wreath placed at Shikha Anirban

President asks army to love country above everything

President Justice Sha habuddin Ahmed placed wreath at the Shikha Anirban in the city yesterday morning to pay tribute to the members of the Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives in the War of Liberation, reports UNB.

President Shahabuddin, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stood there for sometime in solemn silence. He signed the visitor's book

Later President Shahabuddin Ahmed was given a guard of honour at the Senakunja by a smartly turned out contingent of the army. He took the salute and inspected the guard.

Addressing the army officers of various ranks briefly. President Shahabuddin advised them to love the country first and above everything.

Paying tributes to the members of the armed forces who sacrificed their lives in the War of Liberation. Shahabuddin said their contribution will always be remembered by the

He expressed satisfaction that the members of the Armed Forces are doing service-oriented activities during natural calamities in addition to their

regular duty. The country is proud of their praiseworthy performances in foreign countries as members of the UN Peace-keeping Force. the President observed.

Shahabuddin thanked the members of the Armed Forces for cooperating him in 1991 for holding a free and fair election in the country.

Earlier, Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Mah bubur Rahman welcomed the President and assured the President that the Army would maintain discipline and work for the greater interest of the country. Later, the President planted

sapling at Senakunja premises

President Shahabuddin also visited the army headquarters and talked to the senior offi-

During the visit, the President was accompanied by the Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman, Military Secretary to the President Major-General Ruhul Alam Chowdhury and senior officers of the Army.

PM: Tremendous response

From Page 1

response from US investors for investment in gas, energy and petroleum sectors in Bangladesh." A US firm UNOCAL will send a team soon to study prospects for investment in gas and power sectors.

The Prime Minister also replied to a volley of questions newsmen. Prime Minister's Secretary Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir. Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment (BOI) Taulig Elahi Chowdhury and Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr S A Samad were also present.

Asked why there was no mention of the Ganges water sharing issue in her speech at the UNGA, the Prime Minister said that her government did not want to internationalise an issue which was in the process of settlement through bilateral discussions.

" I firmly believe that Bangladesh and India will find it possible to resolve the Ganges water-sharing issue through bilateral discussions", she said.

Referring to raising of the water issue in UN forum on a previous occasion during BNP rule, the Prime Minister said that things did not change after that. About criticism by former premier and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia on this issue. Sheikh Hasina wanted to know why she (Begum Zia) kept 'mum' on water-sharing issue during her Delhi visit in 1992.

She urged all quarters concerned not to indulge in 'politics with water'.

She gave an affirmative reply to a question on the possibility of dialogue with leaders of other South Asian countries on full implementation of the CTBT in the region. "If needed, we would go for mutual discus-

About Bangladesh's candidature for a non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council for the term 2000-2001, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that efforts were on so that the country could win the seat.

Sheikh Hasina set aside a questioner's speculation about deteriorating relationship between Japan and Bangladesh over the recent voting for a nonpermanent UNSC seat in which Japan routed India. "Question does not arise. It was a secret ballot. Who knows who cast for whom," said Hasina.

Asked about Japan's threat to reconsider future grants to Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said, "They are correct in their observation. So far, slow implementation left grants in the pipeline. It's the legacy of slow project implementation that we

inherited from the previous

BNP government. But we are

putting our best efforts in over

coming sluggishness in project

implementation. Turning to the issue of power import, the Prime Minister made it clear that for the sake of rapid industrialisation and removing unbearable load shedding, her government would not mind importing power from any part of the globe which would be cost-effective. Side by side, efforts are on for setting up of power plants, she added. She criticized the BNP for not generating a single extra megawatt of power during its five-year rule and speaking loud against

About the status of November 7, Prime Minister told a foreign journalists. "wait and see, let the day come to us

power import now.

Replying to a question on "Second Revolution" stated by her in New York, she said, "Second Revolution does not necessarily mean a socialist economic policy. The essence is to bring about economic development, no matter in which system - socialist or free market economy".

On trial of the killers of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman she said, law will take its own course and none will be spared if found guilty.

When her attention was drawn to the present position between the two major political parties of the country, Hasina, also chief of Awami League, said, "We had offered them (BNP) to join us in a government of national consensus to participate in a workshop on law and order situation, and the post of Deputy Speaker. They turned down all those offers. They missed the train and are now seeing that what they could not do in five years, we are making headways in four months.

Envoys to Thailand, Egypt appointed

The government has decided to appoint Akramul Qader, at present Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Thailand, reports BSS.

In an official announcement, the government has also decided to appoint Mohammad Ruhul Amin, at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait, as the Ambassador to

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9 killed, 31 hurt in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

Nine people were killed and 31 others injured in three separate road accidents in Tangail, Kushtia and Khulna yesterday. Our Tangail Correspondent says: Two persons, including an

army havildar were killed and eleven others injured in road accidents in Tangail town yes-

Giasuddin, 40, an autorickshaw passenger died as the vehicle turned upside down at Karotia under Sadar thana, according to witnesses and hospi-

tal sources. Four of the injured were rushed to the Tangail Sadar Hospital where doctors declared Gias dead. Others were released

after first aid. In another accident, Abdur Rashid Havildar was killed and eight others were injured when an army pick-up collided with a minibus at 5 pm. said witnesses and hospital sources.

The accident occurred when the vehicle bound for Dhaka collided head on with a mini bus heading towards Sharishabari at Radna Kosta Para under Sadar thana.

The injured were admitted to the Tangail Sadar Hospital.

Our Correspondent from Kushtia adds: Five persons died and another five were injured when an autorickshaw collided head on with a speeding truck at Moshedanga on the Kushtia-Jhenidah road

Omar Ali. 17. Tajal. 16 and an unidentified person died on the spot while Nur Baksh, 18 and Alap Ali. 17. died on way to Hospital Five others were rushed to Kushtia General Hospital. A case has been filed with Kushtia Police Station. Police sent the bodies to the hospital

The sergeant was on duty when the killer truck bound for

Police have seized the truck and arrested driver Solaiman

A case has been filed with

Sonadanga thana.

The driver, aged about 32,

Witnesses said the accident occurred at about noon when a speeding truck dashed the Chittagong-bound bus from

Eight of the injured were admitted to Chouddagram Thana Health Complex.

The truck sped away after the accident. A case was filed

morgue for autopsy. Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports: Sergeant Abdul Momen. 28. of the traffic division of KMP was crushed under the wheels of a truck at about 11 am yesterday.

Sirajganj district hit him from

According to UNB, a bus driver was killed and 15 of its passengers were injured in a head-on collision with a truck on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Batisa in Chouddagram thana yesterday.

succumbed to his injuries on way to Chouddagram Thana Health Complex.

with Chouddagram thana.

Members of a British trade sion and hoped that many of mission, who had elaborate the enquiries would be transdiscussions with the local businessmen last week, have said next few months. that they got "very positive"

trade enquiries from their Bangladesh counterparts, re-Briefing newsmen in the city panies and government deyesterday at the end of their partments, arrived in Dhaka on week-long visit, acting mission October 25 as the third mission leader Malcolm Sewell said

for follow-up negotiations next Six positive enquiries have been made in gas and oil sectors and the British companies are likely to supply equipment for the sector, he said, but declined Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and to disclose details of the busi-Chittagong Chamber of ness enquiries until those are Commerce and Industry.

The British businessmen also got response in textile machinery, scientific instruments. knitwear machinery and in catering.

They told the newsmen that they have benefitted by visiting the country with the trade mis-

they would make a return visit

ports UNB.

October.

lated into business within the

UK companies likely to supply

equipment for gas, oil sectors

Sponsored by Leeds and Bradford Chambers of Commerce. the 20-member mission, representing 16 com-

from Britain in three years. During the visit, the mission held discussions with Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The focal point of the mission was a day-long "British and Quality Design Management" seminar, organised by the UK Department of Trade and Industry's Southern Asia Advisory Group (SAAG) at

Miriam McIntosh, the British Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka, said two more trade missions and another mission to explore education prospect for British edu-cational institution will be vis-

Cleansers with lipo protein

iting Dhaka next year. She said one of the reasons of the current mission is to narrow down the existing trade gap between the two countries as Dhaka has been maintaining an "extremely large" trade surplus with London in recent

In 1995 fiscal. Bangladesh exported goods worth 231.6 million pound sterling to the United Kingdom while imported goods valued at 89.1 million pound sterling from that

During the first eight months of the current fiscal 1996). Bangladesh's exports rose to 174 million pound sterling compared to 132.6 million pound sterling in the same period of last fiscal.

CBI opposes Rao's bail plea: Ruling postponed till Nov 5

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: Former Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao will continue his battle to stay out of prison next week after a court failed today to decide whether to ex tend his bail following forgery charges, reports AFP.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Prem Kumar post poned his ruling to November 5 following two days of legal wrangling.

A dejected-looking Rao, who became Prime Minister in 1991 but lost general elections in May, left the special court under armed guard before being driven away in a bullet-proof

The 75-year-old, who stands accused of masterminding the forgery of documents designed to defame political rival V P Singh in 1989, sat alone, his chin in his hands, through two hours of inconclusive arguments today.

His appeal was contested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which opposed the bail plea on the grounds that the former prime minister might attempt to temper with evidence.

Rao, who a day earlier made history by becoming the first former leader of the country to face criminal charges, wore a traditional Indian suit and was supported in court by a large group of prominent colleagues from the Congress (I) party.

The case was switched from Delhi's Tis Hazari Court to the Vigyan Bhaban international conference complex following police lears that Rao, who leatures on death list drawn up by Muslim and Sikh guerillas. could face and assassination at

Outside the court, pressure was building up on Rao to quit as head of the Congress' parliamentary wing.

Congress spokesman Vithal

Riot in Nigeria: 25 killed

LAGOS, Oct 31: More than 25 people, including two policemen, were killed and many others injured by gunfire in a riot Wednesday in Auchi, in Nigeria's southern Edo State. the official news agency of Nigeria (NAN) said, reports

More than 50 suspects, including a top local government official, have been arrested in connection with the riot in which a police station and more than 10 vehicles were burnt, NAN said.

The riot erupted in the town when street urchins and thugs, popularly called "area boys," clashed with policemen over what they described as police misbehaviour in the area. NAN

Gadgil said today: "It is for Rao to decide whether to step down

"He has already quit the important post of Congress president. But the pressure from party members will increase now to demand his resignation as parliamentary leader.

But he added: "The party directive is clear. We do not ask any minister or leader to resign and it is left to his or her con-Congress president Sitaram

Kesri added: "I cannot deny that the party's image will not be af-Rao who was foreign secre-

tary at the time of the alleged forgery, has refuted all charges.

Contraband worth Tk 9.50 lakh seized CHITTAGONG, Oct 31

Customs officials in separate drives in the district today seized contraband worth about Tk 9.50 lakh, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, a customs surveillance team raided a house at Shitalpur village in Sitakunda thana and seized 24 master cartons of Benson & Hedges cigarettes worth about Tk 7.50 lakh.

In another drive in Saltgola area of the port city's Bandar thana, the customs seized 10 bags of spices worth about Tk 2

Indian troops gun down 4 Pakistanis in Kashmir

in the northern state of Jammu-Kashmir officials said reports AP.

A group of about 10 people opened fire on soldiers of the Border Security Force at the S.M Pur Border Observatory Post. 40 kilometers southwest of the state's winter capital. BSF officials said on condition of anonymity.

The troops fired back killing four people. The others fled back into Pakistan, the oflicials said.

shop, stab owner A group of armed miscreants

ransacked a shop of readymade garments at Elephant Road in the city, stabbed its owner and snatched Tk 30.000 from the cash box on Wednesday reports

Dimple Garments in the evening as the salesmen of the shop earlier had refused to pay back money of some purchased

From Page 1

(SBI) and several others of The accused allegedly used

losses amounting to millions of dollars. The CBI said the SBI offi-

Bull", is already in prison for fuelling an artificial market boom with the help of bankers and heads of some state-run

firms, including Air India. A parliamentary panel and the CBI have also accused 11 Indian and foreign banks of

Protect country's sovereignty with spirit of Nov 7'

Sprakers at a seminar ves terday called for a renewed pledge to protect country's independence and sovereignty with the spirit of November 7 from any treacherous assault on it, reports UNB. The seminar was organised

long programme in observance of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day at the auditorium of Engineers' Institution. Dhaka University Professor Dr Saidur Rahman presented the keynote paper on

by the BNP as part of its week-

"November 7: The Symbol of Independence. Democracy and National Sovereignty. Leader of the Opposition and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia was present at the

seminar Taking part in discussion. Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said a conspiracy against the country's independence and sovereignty was foiled through the joint resistance by soldiers and people on

BNP Secretary General Abel il Mannan Bhuiyan in his address said the army coup on November 3 by Khaled Mosharraf led to the revolution of November 7.

November 7.

Truckers at Jamuna Fertiliser Factory begin strike today

JAMALPUR, Oct 31: Truckers have called a nonstop transport strike at the Jamuna Fertiliser Factory, the country's biggest one, from tomorrow, reports UNB.

Local truck owners' association in a meeting at its office here today, gave the strike call protesting "illegal inclusion of trucks from outside the district" in the transport pool and alleged irregularities by the present

ministries would be headed by

non-minister MPs, the mem-

bers of the bodies would be

raised from 10 to 12, the head of

the committees would be elected

by the members of the standing

bodies, and all the parliamen-

tary parties and groups would

have proportionate member-

ship on the JS bodies, the state

JS session begins today

Highway and so on," a member of the NBP standing committee told The Daily Star Sunday.

"We are also expecting serious discussions on the government's failure to contain law and order, its indifferent attitude towards the paddy and jute growers who are now being compelled to sell their crops be-

daker Delwar Hossain. Discussions on the alleged

politicisation of the administration, repression against political opponents and indiscriminate use of the state-run electronic media in favour of the ruling party might also generate heat in the House during the session, Opposition sources indicated.

Meanwhile, the Local Government Commission (LGC) is trying to finalise an integrated report on a four-tier local government system covering the village, union, thana and district level units of the administration.

If the report is completed, a bill in this regard would be placed in the House during the session, LGC Chairman Rahamat Ali, MP, said last night. Another bill seeking repeal of the constitutional provision that indemnified the killers of the country's founder President

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and

his relatives in August, 1975, has already been drafted. "Subject to approval of the cabinet, the bill would be placed in the House during the second session." State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khashru

told The Daily Star last night. Meanwhile, the Standing Committee on the JS Rules of

minister added. A bill on the constitution of 'Money Loan Court," another seeking production of power in the private sector and also a bill seeking amendment to the Insolvency Act are ready to be moved by the ministers concerned during the session, rul-

Garment sector From Page 1

ing party sources said.

fine. Redwan added, suspension of the services to the defaulting unit might be taken as a re-

course by the BGMEA. "I would like to utter a note of caution that any violation of the provisions of the MOU by any member unit might bring about perilous consequences not only for the member unit itself but also for the sector as a

So far, 247 schools have

been established in Dhaka. Narayangani and Chittagong by UNICEF in close collaboration with the BRAC and Gana Sahajya Sangstha (GSS). The BGMEA and ILO provided financial and technical assistance to the endeavour. The joint verification and

whole," he said

monitoring in garment factories, however, would continue for the next two years to ascertain that the terms of the MOU on elimination of child labour are strictly abided by.

Dhaka, Delhi differ on route to Myanmar conference and Director of

the BNP Parliamentary Party at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

From Page 1 reiterates its stand on a broad gauge route connecting Gede (India)-Darsana (Bangladesh)-Ishwardi-Sirajganj-Dhaka-Chittagong-Dohazari with expected extension up to the Myanmar capital of Yangon via the shortest possible route through Dohazari-Gundung (Bangladesh-120km) through (Myanmar)-Dudhidong-Chawkt-Minbu-Anpas-Yangon (Myanmar-300) km)," the Bangladesh represen-

tative told the meeting. "Myanmar, upon joining the TAR late last year has indicated strong interest in bridging the missing link with Bangladesh. India and Thailand," he said.

 The Bangladesh representative noted that India, on the other hand, wants to connect Lekhapani (India)-Myitkyina (Myanmar) over a difficult mountainous terrain of 350 km and the consecutant detour of more than 1500 km distance between Dhaka and Yangon. "It is not within the spirit of the basic concept of the TAR network route," he said. He also noted that another

Indian proposal to connect

Myitkyina (Myanmar) with the

nearest rail-head of Kunming

in Southern China is an "uphill

task" which demands through

economic and technical feasibility studies. India had also proposed in-

clusion in the TAR network the route of Chittagong-Kulaura-Shahbazpur (Bangladesh)-Lunding-Lakhapani (India)-Myitkyina (Myanmar), he

border point. ESCAP conduct a feasibility study on the proposal in accor-

Bangladesh also offered to provide access to Nepalese goods via Mongla Port over broad gauge route either through the Gede (India)-Darsana (Bangladesh) border point or the Rohanpur (Bangladesh)-Singabad (India) Bangladesh suggested that

dance with ESCAP's guideline of establishing capital-to-capital links and connecting the major sea ports and industrial centres of the member countries through the proposed TAR net-The Indian delegation at the meeting, however, expressed its reservation about the

Bangladesh proposal on the TAR route linking Bangladesh and Myanmar. The Indian representative said that the implications of the proposal should be studied before any decision is finalised.

Secretary of the ministerial

Transport, ESCAP's Communications and Tourism Division Dr M Rahmatullah assured the meeting that the Commission would soon undertake a study covering the possible TAR routes in India. Bangladesh, Myanmar and China to identify the appropriate routes in the region.

Leader of the Opposition and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over a meeting of

Later, the priority Asian connects the major sea port at Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) projects. which includes the Asian Highway and the TAR route, endorsed at the Ministerial Conference, included the "detailed study of the TAR southern corridor routes from the Islamic Republic of Iran to South-East Asia with full consideration of all implications of various alternative linkages between India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Southern China and

South-East Asia.' At the meeting of senior government officials, the Bangladesh delegation also proposed two routes for the proposed Asian Highway According to the proposal, the first route would enter Bangladesh from India at Benapole and go through Jessore-Dhaka-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar and Teknaf to Mungdu and Yangon in

Myanmar. The other route would enter Bangladesh from India at Banglabandh and go through Rangpur-Hatikamrul-Tangail-Dhaka-Sylhet and Tamabil with a link road from Hatikamrul-Bonapara Jessore and Mongla Port. "This section (link road) has been included in the Asian

Highway network because it

Mongla with Dhaka and also

with Nepal via the northern

— Star photo

part of Bangladesh," the Bangladesh representative said He noted that it has been estimated that if Bangladesh is allowed unhindered cargo movement by India through its territories to Nepal, then Bangladesh's exports to Nepal could increase by 50 to 100 million US dollars per year. And Nepal would be able to increase its exports not only to Bangladesh, but also to destinations beyond Bangladesh by using Mongla Port, he said. "It

is thus not surprising that

Nepal has shown keen interest

in the expansion of the Mongla

The Indian representative at the meeting, however, said that India was strongly supportive of increased trade in the SAARC region but it should he discussed at an appropriate forum.

JAMMU Oct 31, Indian paramilitary police killed four Pakistanis who tried to infiltrate the border today in a clash

Armed men ransack

The group stormed the

Harshad Mehta

criminal conspiracy in 1992. investors' money to gamble on the stock market, leading to

cials entered into a conspiracy with Mehta and siphoned off 191 million dollars during the bank's securities transactions. Mehta, nicknamed "Big

sidestepping market rules to association president. gamble on shares. Procedure unanimously agreed the original map of the Asian at a meeting vesterday that the JS standing bodies on various

low the production costs." said Opposition Chief Whip Khan-