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Expatriates are partners in development: PM

ROME, Nov 18: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the expatriate Bangladeshis to invest in the country which, she said, is striving for economic development in all the ways, reports UNB.

Addressing a reception accorded to her by the Bangladeshi community in Italy at Grand Ritz Hotel here on Sunday, the Prime Minister said the economic activities of the country would get a boost if they invest their hard-earned money in the country.

She praised them for sending remittances to the country and said, "You are becoming the partner for development of the country living thousands of miles away."

About the problems of the expatriate Bangladeshis, Hasina said her government was very much concerned about their problems and was taking necessary steps for an early solution.

In this regard, she said, the government has already directed the authorities concerned to set up Bangladeshi banks or money exchange centres to ease the process of sending remittance.

The government has decided to upgrade the Chittagong and

Sylhet airports into international standards, she said.

The Prime Minister said that to ease the investment process in the country, the government has also taken some positive steps. It has allowed setting up of private export processing zones (EPZs) and decided to set up more EPZs in Khulna and the country's Northern region.

The government is proceeding towards economic emancipation of the people by taking some specific economic programmes, said the Prime Minister and mentioned the steps for alleviating poverty and expanding education.

"We want to complete the unfinished task of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by ensuring economic emancipation of the people," she asserted.

She said that to solve problems of the people in the short-term, Awami League tried its best to form a government of consensus and had invited all to join it.

"But the major opposition party did not respond to the invitation," Hasina said. "Rather, they opposed the appointment of neutral personality, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, as the President of the Republic."

Russian Mars probe crashes back to Earth

WASHINGTON, Nov 18: Russia's crippled Mars probe, carrying four canisters of radioactive plutonium, fell to Earth on Sunday over the South Pacific, west of Chile, US and Australian officials said, reports Reuters.

US space command in Colorado Springs Co. which had been monitoring the stricken spacecraft's orbit, said it reentered Earth's atmosphere above a broad ocean area somewhere west of Chile at about 8:30 pm EST (07:30 BST).

Australian officials said the probe landed between Easter Island and the Chilean coast and located the impact site at 31 degrees south, 96.3 degrees west.

US space command spokesman Dave Knox said his agency tracked objects in space, not in the atmosphere, therefore it was impossible to know at this point whether the six-tonne spacecraft exploded upon reentry, and where exactly the resulting debris landed.

2 bodies recovered in Jessore

JESSORE, Nov 18: Police recovered two bodies from the bank of the Srinadi river under Dohura village of Keshabpur thana yesterday morning.

According to police, two unidentified persons were kidnapped from a passenger bus near Kedupur on the Jessore-Chuknag road on Nov 14 last.

Police said, these were the bodies of the two persons who were said to be activists of an outlawed party. The bodies were sent to the General Hospital for autopsy.

Pakistan

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anonymous names or by defendants.

"The law applies to public representatives and the federal and provincial officers... in corporations, banks, financial institutions, firms, concerns, undertakings..." he said.

It also extends to officers in the armed forces of equivalent status working in such organisations," he added.

He said the law excluded the president and the governors of the four provinces who have constitutional protection from criminal proceedings while in office. It would also not apply to members of the judiciary on similar grounds.

Tofail tells British businessmen Dhaka offers attractive incentives to foreign investors

LONDON, Nov 18: Bangladesh is offering foreign investors a window of opportunities with an "incentive package" to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country, reports BSS.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed said this while speaking at a reception accorded to him by British Department of Trade and Industries (DTI) here today.

Presided over by Iain Dale, Chairman of South Asian Advisory Group, the function was attended by the members of the Confederation of British Industries, senior officials of DTI and the leading British investors and businessmen of Balfour Beatty International, Brown and Root Energy Services, Midlands Power Ltd, GEC Alsthom Lasso Plc, National Grid, Norwest

Hoist International and Rolls Royce.

Elaborating the initiatives taken by the government to create a friendly investment environment the minister said Bangladesh government will welcome any volume of FDI and assures full cooperation and assistance to the investors.

The government is taking special measures to develop infrastructure facilities to cope with the trade and investment expansion, he said, adding that Bangladesh has the cheapest and a large number of readily available and industrious workforce and management professionals.

Listing the incentive package, the minister said, "We have agreement with the UK, Italy, Japan, Canada, Korea and other industrialised countries to get relief from double taxation. GSP facilities for export to the USA, EU and Japanese markets and the most favoured nation status for export to the USA and other Western countries."

Earlier, the minister met the UK based business leaders of Bangladesh community and urged the expatriate Bangladeshis to contribute to the country's socio-economic development by investing their savings.

President

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decided to meet the President to explain the reasons behind the present stalemate.

The President should be informed about the impediments to making the Jatiya Sangsad an effective forum for addressing people's problems," the BNP leader said, adding, "The impression we got from the President is that he would help the parties concerned in resolving the crisis."

Dacoits loot five trucks

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, Nov 18: Five truck loads of goods worth Tk one lakh were looted by a gang of armed dacoits at Solakur on the Jessore-Magura Highway last night. A truck driver was also stabbed.

According to witnesses, the dacoits committed the robbery by putting up barricades on the road.

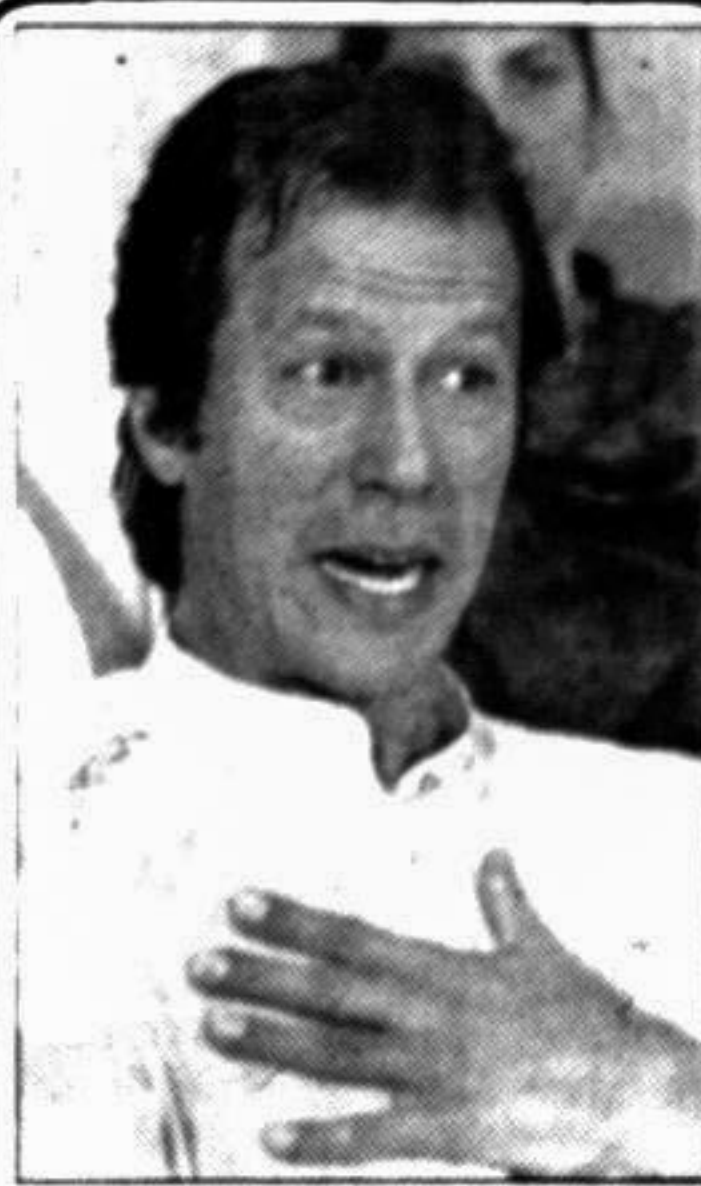
The driver Keramat Ali, 45, was attacked as he refused to pay money to the dacoits.

Young man found dead in Sylhet hotel

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Nov 18: Police recovered the body of a 33-year old man from a hotel in the town last night.

According to police, one person identifying himself as Atiqur Rahman of 6, Haji Mohsin Road, Dhaka took a room in the Hotel Anurag on 15 November. He committed suicide allegedly by taking poison sometime yesterday, police said. As many 5 letters addressed to the Hotel Manager, the Police, the Civil Surgeon, the Pura Chairman and to his parents were found in the shirt pocket of the victim. It has been stated in the letters written in English that the identity given about him in the hotel register was false and that the death should not be investigated.

The police have sent the body to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for autopsy.



Imran blessed with a son

LONDON, Nov 18: Jemima Khan, wife of Imran Khan, former Pakistan cricket captain who is campaigning to become prime minister of Pakistan, gave birth yesterday to a boy, reports AP.

"It was a healthy pregnancy and birth," said family spokesman Patrick Robertson. "It was totally normal in every respect. The family are delighted."

Robertson said the boy was born at 5:34 pm (17:34 GMT) at a central London hospital yesterday weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces (3.5 kgs).

The spokesman said that Jemima was visited by her father, Anglo-French billionaire Sir James Goldsmith, mother and husband.

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Tk 88.7 cr regional botanical garden, herbarium to be built in Sylhet

SYLHET, Nov 18: A regional botanical garden and herbarium will be built here at a cost of Taka 88 crore and 70 lakh, officials said here today, reports BSS.

The work of the proposed botanical garden and herbarium will start after the approval of the ministry.

Meanwhile an experts team recently visited the site of the proposed project here, to be built under foreign assistance.

Officials said 265 hectares of land was allotted for the botanical garden at Khadimnagar here.

Entertainment facilities for the tourists will be made available in the botanical garden, they said.

They also said after the implementation the project would be able to earn several lakhs of taka every month.

JS bodies

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strength in the House. But the situation has changed with JP and Jamaat requesting review of this.

"With the BNP abstaining from attending Parliament session, we shall not constitute the committees," State Minister for Law Abdul Matin Khasru told this Correspondent Sunday night, adding, "We want to do it unilaterally with the Opposition."

He, however, expressed his optimism that "good sense would prevail upon the BNP leaders and they would return to the House for the sake of running the Parliament effectively."

BNP has been abstaining from JS attending the Sangsad session from November 11 to press its 10 point demand to make sure that the Opposition is given adequate opportunity to speak in parliament.

Replying to a question on the issue of proportionate membership of Sangsad bodies, Khasru said that with the JP and Jamaat officially requesting a review, a new situation has arisen. "The issue would be discussed by the committees concerned," he added.

Besides, leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is yet to finalise the list of 30 non-minister legislators of her party for heading the committees. "A list was sent to the Prime Minister last month, but she has not yet approved it," a ruling party Whip told this Correspondent Sunday night.

The Treasury Bench would not be in a position to propose formation of the standing bodies unless the list is finalised, the Whip added.

Utsav, on first day

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festival, first in a South Asian country.

On the opening day, Pandit Jasraj, a classical music maestro known as a living legend, made his presentation for an hour, entralling the audience in the jam-packed auditorium.

He first presented 'ma ki mallar' followed by 'darbari Kanada.' Later, he also presented a Bengali song.

Pandit Jasraj was followed by Raja Reddy and Radha Reddy, the dancer couple who performed Kuchipudi, the Andhra Pradesh style of famous Indian classical dance. A group of four other dancers were their partners in the hour-long presentation.

Opening the festival, Minister Nasim recalled the long cultural, social, political and economic relations with India and hoped that the existing relations would be strengthened further with the festival.

He said the new government of Bangladesh is very eager to expand relationship with the neighbouring countries, particularly with India. "I hope the Indian government will reciprocate the same outlook."

Stressing the exchange of more cultural teams with each other, Nasim said such exchange programmes, not only in the cultural field, but also in other fields, would help strengthen the relationship.

SR Bommai said many such cultural festivals were organised by India in many countries of the world, but it is the first such festival in a South Asian country which "reflects the importance we attach to our relations with Bangladesh."

Both India and Bangladesh have highly developed vibrant cultures in ancient civilizations," the visiting Indian minister said and hoped that the Bangladeshi people will have an opportunity to see the glimpses of Indian culture.

He thanked the Bangladesh government for extending support and cooperation in organising the festival which coincides with the 25th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence for which India played a major role.

"I am sure, this cultural extravaganza will not only strengthen the cultural ties between Bangladesh and India, but will also deepen the understanding and the cultural bond between the people of our two great countries," Bommai said.

The festival will continue till November 30.

Upazila Parishad

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capacities and management of the local bodies.

The study is based on an analysis of 56 pourashavas, 37 union parishads, 10 thanas comprising another 60 union parishads and interviews with over 400 people.

According to the study, the union parishads should be involved in community development, self-policing, and ensuring effective participation of people in all decisions affecting the community.

Upazila should function as the core body for implementing national development programmes, with flexibility to decide on specific activities for the Upazila.

The Upazila Council should have an elected Chair with representatives from the Union Parishad as members of the Council. All field officials should be under the direct supervision of the Chair and the Council, the study said adding that the Council members should have voting rights.

The Zila Parishad should serve as "training ground" for politicians the study said adding the election of the Zila Parishad should be based on party politics. The Zila Parishad should be charged with managing the social sector, including education, health, affirmative action programmes and equity related issues.

Besides, the role of the members of Parliament should be separated from the local government system, the study recommended.

The national government, having the highest level of authority and power should take on the central role of collection and distribution, it added.

2 held

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the afternoon.

They told police separately that their husbands had extramarital affairs which led to the family feuds, police said.

Alam, a worker in a plastic recycling factory, had altercation with his wife, Banu, Sunday night. Mother of two, Banu cut the genital of her husband with a blade while he was sleeping early in the morning, police said.

He was immediately taken to the DMCH.

In the other incident, garments worker Ferdousi, mother of a boy child, injured the private part of her husband, Noor, an unemployed man, when he was sleeping in their house at about 4 pm. DMCH sources said that Noor got married with his cousin, Ferdousi, about three years back.

Separate cases have been filed with Lalbagh and Mohammadpur thanas, police said.

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