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West Bengal Finance Minister at BIDS seminar
We're committed to giving water

Visiting West Bengal Finance Minister Dr Asim Dasgupta yesterday hoped that Bangladesh's longstanding water sharing problem with India would be resolved soon, reports UNB.

He said he is very much optimistic about a settlement of the Ganges water sharing issue as both the countries are sincerely trying to find a solution.

Dr Dasgupta was addressing a seminar on 'Decentralisation and Planning: The West Bengal Experience' organised by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) at its conference room.

Presided over by Executive Chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue Prof Rehman Sobhan, the function was also addressed by Director General of BIDS Abu Abdullah.

The West Bengal Finance Minister said a favourable atmosphere has been created to resolve the water sharing issue with the assumption of the democratic government in Bangladesh.

Hasina, Basu

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Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir. Among others, later participated in the discussions, sources said.

Jyoti Basu was later joined by West Bengal Minister for Information, Home and Cultural Affairs Buddha Dev Bhattacharjee, Finance Minister Dr Asim Dasgupta and Chief Secretary A K Majumdar.

Later, the visiting dignitaries attended a dinner hosted by the Prime Minister at the Ganabhaban. It began at 9 pm, an hour behind schedule. It was attended by Cabinet ministers, Awami League leaders, MPs and high officials.

Jyoti Basu is learnt to have said that on his return to his state, he will make a trip to New Delhi for two days to brief Prime Minister Deve Gowda about the progress of discussions on water sharing and other bilateral issues within the context of Indo-Bangladesh relations.

It is learnt that further discussions would be held between the governments of the two countries at the political level, through diplomatic channels, in the coming days.

There is also a possibility that the Joint Committee of experts from Bangladesh would be visiting New Delhi shortly to work out further details.

Competent sources said they were optimistic that a water-sharing accord would be signed during Sheikh Hasina's proposed visit to New Delhi this month. She might undertake this trip between December 10 and 12 or in the third week of the month after finalisation of details of the agreement, including its nature, tenure and quantum of water, the sources added.

Cyclone

From Page 1

It asked the authorities to make the people of coastal areas, particularly the offshore islands, aware about the storm or rough sea.

The meeting asked the Health, Power and Food Ministries, Red Crescent Society, Armed Forces and other organisations to remain prepared to face any natural calamity.

Chittagong Port authority as a part of pre-cyclone preparedness programme stopped all operation including loading and unloading from 5 pm today, port officials said.

The ships anchored at the jetties were forced to drift to outer anchorage and no incoming vessels were allowed to enter port jetties, they added.

Chittagong City Corporation held an emergency meeting chaired by the mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury to chalk out preparedness programmes.

Officials said repeated announcements were made in the six wards asking the people to take shelter in safer places.

Transports were kept ready to evacuate the people from risky areas to cyclone shelters. Besides a control room was opened to work round the clock, officials said.

Chittagong district administration headed by the Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong held an emergency meeting with representatives of all concerned organisations to take preparedness programmes.

Sino-Pak

From Page 1

AFP added: Visiting Chinese president Jiang Zemin today assured Pakistani leaders his country would continue its co-operation with Pakistan in the peaceful application of nuclear technology.

China will continue its co-operation with Pakistan for the utilisation of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, a Chinese spokesman told a news conference after 90-minute meeting between Jiang and President Farooq Ahmed Leghari.

The spokesman, Shen Guofang, rejected Western claims that China had transferred nuclear weapons technology or related material to Pakistan, saying no such transfer had taken place.

FBCCI

From Page 1

context, West Bengal occupies a privileged position.

He said the two countries can cooperate with each other in the fields of investment, infrastructure development, transfer of know-how and technology, and exchange of technical and skill development activities.

Referring to the country's inland ports located in the border of West Bengal, Harun said trade through these routes can be increased manifold having tremendous opportunity and materials in the areas around them.

Therefore, he said, the neighbouring Indian state of West Bengal is likely to be the major beneficiary from this increased volume of trade and enhanced economic cooperation.

The meeting at a local hotel was attended by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak and State Minister for Housing and Public Works Afzar Uddin Ahmed Khan.

Members of the visiting West Bengal government delegation, the members of FBCCI, leading businessmen and industrialist, and senior officials of both countries were present at the meeting.

FBCCI vice-president Alhaj Kazi M Shaheque Islam gave the vote of thanks.

Mostafiz laid to rest

Former foreign minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman was laid to rest at the Banani graveyard yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

His first *namaj-e-Janaza* was held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Zohr prayers. It was attended by leaders of BNP and other political parties, senior officials, journalists and sports organisers.

They included Dr Kamal Hossain and Saifuddin Ahmed Manik of Gono Forum, Jamaat Secretary General Maulana Ma-tiur Rahman Nizami, Dedar Bakht of Jatiya Party, State Minister for Jute and Textiles AK Faezul Huq, former army chief Lt Gen (Retd) Atiqur Rahman and former air chief Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AG Mahmud.

From the Baitul Mukarram Mosque, his body was taken to the BNP central office where party leaders and workers paid their last respect to the late BNP leader, who was a member of party's highest policy-making Standing Committee.

His second *namaj-e-Janaza* was held in front of the party office.

The third *namaj-e-Janaza* was held at the Gulshan Azad mosque after Asr prayers, was attended by former foreign minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, ambassadors, high commissioners and officials of the diplomatic mission of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Palestine, Iran, Indonesia, Turkey and Kuwait.

Help build society free from poverty: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the people to extend their all-out cooperation and put in their best efforts to build a society free from poverty and hunger, reports BSS.

"If we can win independence after a long-drawn battle, why will not be able to achieve economic emancipation for our teeming millions?" she asked.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating a month-long special exhibition on the evidence of the Liberation War in celebration of the silver jubilee of independence at the National Museum in the morning.

She said that after a long movement the people got back their franchise. "But our struggle for economic freedom is still on," she said adding "We have a long way to go and lot of work to do for fulfilling the hopes and aspiration of the people."

Chaired by Prof. Mostafa Nurul Islam, the inaugural function was also addressed by State Minister for Sports, Youth and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader, additional secretary, Ministry of Cultural

Worker crushed to death in printing machine

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was crushed to death while working at a printing press at Patilkhah Lane under Sutrapur thana in the city yesterday.

Lutfur Rahman, 25, of a running printing machine met the tragic end when his hands got stuck between the rollers while pouring ink into a machine at around 2pm at Al-Amin Printing Press, police and fire service sources said.

He was then pulled into the powerful machine and died instantly, police added.

Husband kills wife in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Dec 1: A housewife Hosne Ara Begum, 20 was killed allegedly by her husband at Nazir Sankarpur here at noon today.

On receipt of the information Kotwali police rushed to the spot and arrested her husband, Azad and his mother.

The cause of the murder could not be known.

Bus passengers robbed in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Dec 1: A dacoity was committed in a Jessore bound minibus near Dulal-Mundia in Kaliganj thana last night.

Police said, a gang of armed dacoits travelling in the guise of passengers took control of the Padma Paribahan after attacking the driver. The dacoits got down near Barobazar after looting the valuables worth about Taka sixty thousand.

Three passengers were injured by the robbers.

Transparency must for sound stock market

From Page 1

Some felt that the market, now going through a correction, should not be flooded with new funds from banks and should be allowed a free play. Others felt money from provident funds, pension funds should be allowed to flow in the market while the funding of money from IPOs should be expedited to overcome liquidity crisis in the market.

The participants also felt that the SEC should initiate investigation of alleged manipulations in the stock markets to eliminate any future irregularities. It was also suggested that brokers should be divorced from policy-making and management of stock exchanges to ensure transparency.

The participants in the roundtable were: Saifur Rahman, former finance minister; Manzur-e-Elahi, former adviser; Shah Abdul Hannan, Banking Division Secretary; Dr Harunur Rashid, chairman of SEC; Yousuf Abdullah Haroon, president of FBCCI; Samson Chowdhury, president of MCCI; Imtiaz Ahmed, chairman of DSE; Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, president of Chittagong Stock Exchange; Prof Abu Ahmed, chairman of Investors Forum; Khurshed Alam, immediate past president of DSE; Moazzem Hossain, editor of the Financial Express; Barrister M Zahir, Rizwan Bin Farouq, managing director of First Capital Securities; Syed Mahmudul Haque, Director of CSE; Nazimuddin Ahmed, DSE broker; Khandoker Abu Bakar, joint secretary of Law Ministry; Zahangir Miah, deputy general manager of ICB; Hemayetuddin Ahmed, DSE broker; Syed Mahmudul Haque, director of CSE; Nizamuddin Ahmed, DSE broker, and A Dutta manager of Standard Chartered Bank.

Explaining the reasons behind the recent boom of the stock market, Chairman of the DSE Imtiaz Hussain said it was the result of years of liberalisation policy, gradual development of capital market and the newly achieved stability that the investors found as a ground for investment.

He said the boom came unexpectedly for which nobody was prepared, resulting in distributive problem.

He said any law to regulate the market must be made in parliament, and not by the bureaucrats.

Harun Ur Rashid, chairman of SEC, said the market lacked transparency and investments made without relying on fundamentals resulted in the current overheated situation.

He said technical and institutional upgradation of the stock exchanges are now needed to bring back transparency.

Noting that the standard of accounting of the prospectus has a lot to be desired, he said there will be a framework to examine prospectus.

He said there has to be a regular monitoring and surveillance of the stock situation to check manipulation.

Former finance minister Saifur Rahman said the recent happenings at the stock markets should be examined by the SEC to put the market on a sound basis in the future. He said the SEC should not allow issuance of right share by companies before their projects go into operation.

He also felt that no new bank loans should be infused into the market and it should be allowed to correct itself.

Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said the halting of funds by banks and ICB, re-

4 steps to avert AIDS epidemic in Bangladesh suggested

From Page 1

Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleeda Zia, in the restoration of democracy in the country and pointing to the results of the last general elections, said that the difference in the percentage of votes secured by the two parties, which was not higher than 4 per cent, suggested that in spite of differences in politics, there should be consensus on the basic national issues.

Giving a brief resume of the long liberation struggle, Justice Rahman said, in fact, the liberation struggle began in the country in early 1948 with the historic Language Movement, which ultimately culminated in the proclamation of independence of the country by the great leader, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, on March 26, 1971.

Presided over by the president of Muktojonidha Sanghati Parishad, Col (retd) Shawkat Ali, MP, the opening day's discussion was addressed, among others, by Dr Khan Sarwar Murshed, journalist M R Akhtar Mukul, Shariat Kabir and coordinator of the Chetona Mancha, ASM Shamsul Arefin.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday urged

Writ: Indemnity

From Page 1

cluded in the daily cause list today as applications.

It was submitted in the petitions (Repeal) Act, 1996 is illegal as the same has been passed by simple majority instead of two-third majority in parliament.

"As the Indemnity Ordinance was inserted in the 4th Schedule of the Constitution it became a part of the Constitution, but according to Article 142 it requires two-third majority to repeal or amend any part of the Constitution," Barrister Qurban Ali, counsel for the petitioners, told The Daily Star.

He also said that Col Rashid and Col Faruk were protected by the Indemnity Ordinance, but by the Act they became unprotected which is violative of their fundamental rights to protection of law as guaranteed by Article 31 of the Constitution.

It was also stated in the petitions that all the occurrences happened at the command of the superior officers of the Army of which Lt General (rtd) Shahullah was the Chief of Staff.

Attorney General Barrister K S Nabi, appearing on behalf of the government, sought for adjournment of hearing of the petitions as the notices were served just yesterday.

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PHILIPS

Cite a single case of arrest

From Page 1

where in the world." In this regard, she referred to discussions on power import from India when BNP was in power and said the issue of providing India with transit facility was included in the SAPTA accord.

Hasina urged the people to have confidence on her government and said "The party that achieved independence for a country, can never jeopardise its sovereignty."

She said within 162 days of her government, it succeeded in recovering from the legacy of bad governance for 21 years and regained the lost glory of the nation.

"My government's main objective is to free the nation from poverty and reach the benefits of economic development to every door," said the premier and mentioned drafting of policies for education, health and power and for industrialisation. She also referred to the efforts for attracting more foreign investment.

She claimed that unlike in the previous years, prices of essentials did not increase following this year's budget.

Hasina came down heavily on the chief of a major opposition party, without naming, for the latter's recent speech at Savar and asked the gathering, "Do you hear 'ulu dhani' in mosques? Do you think 'Bismillah' will be snatched from the mouth of a Muslim? When people at the meeting replied in the negative, she said, "I will not utter anything about a liar. Allah will punish a liar."

V-Day celebration begins

From Page 1

all pro-liberation forces to be united for socio-economic emancipation of the country.

He was speaking at the inaugural day of the week-long drama festival to celebrate the silver jubilee of independence at Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

"Samoy" drama group has organised the festival with the slogan "projanma theke prajanner prane jagye eka-ekator shukha."

Book fair

A fortnight-long book fair on the Liberation War organised by the daily Aikta Kagaj, was inaugurated by veteran writer Shawkat Osman in the city yesterday.

Books on the Liberation War have been put on display in the 12 stalls at the fair.

Road accidents

From Page 1

as Mohammad Abdur Razzak, 50.

Of the injured Minu, 30, Salahuddin, 21, Rina, 35, Manik, 25, Ali Asgar, 25, Anis, 15, and Emdad, 22, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Eyewitnesses said, the Dhaka bound minibus was hit by the truck coming from the opposite side at Ghoradia at about 5 am.

In another road accident, a pedestrian was run over by a speeding truck at Jurain at about 9:30 am.

The victim who could not be identified immediately was about 40. He succumbed to his injuries at the DMCH after admission.

Meanwhile, one Rabeya, 50, died when a speeding minibus ran over her at Kawran Bazar.

She died on the way to the DMCH.

ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স ইনস্টিটিউশন, বাংলাদেশ
সদর দফতর: ১ রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০
ফোন: ৯৫৫৪৪৮৫, ৯৫৬৬৩৩৬

আইইবি'র ৪১তম সম্মেলন

সম্মতিত সদস্যদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আইইবি'র ৪১তম সম্মেলন আগামী ০৯-১২ ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৬ ঢাকা মহানগরীতে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

পূর্ণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মানবীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা ৯ ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৬ সোমবার সকাল ১০-০০ ঘটিকায় সম্মেলনের আনুষ্ঠানিক উদ্বোধন করতে সন্মুখ সমিতি জ্ঞাপন করেছেন।

সম্মেলনের সফলিত কর্মসূচী নিম্নে দেয়া হলো:

- ৬-৭ ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৬ : নিবন্ধীকরণ (প্রাক-নিবন্ধিত সদস্যদের জন্য)
- ৮ ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৬ : নিবন্ধীকরণ, সাংবাদিক সম্মেলন, কেন্দ্রীয় কার্ডশিল সভা।
- ৯ ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৬ : উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান (সকাল ১০-০০ টায়)
- ১০ ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৬ : পুঁজি বক্তৃতামালা ও প্রযুক্তি বিষয়ক অধিবেশন।
- ১১ ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৬ : জাতীয় সেমিনার ও করিপরী অধিবেশন।
- ১২ ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৬ : বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা (সকাল ৯-৩০ মিঃ)
- ১৩ ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৬ : মহিলা ও শিশুদের ত্রয়্য কাফেরে।
- ১৪ ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৬ : করিপরী ত্রয়্য, প্রযুক্তি বিষয়ক অধিবেশন ও সন্মাপনী।

সম্মেলনের বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য সদস্যগণ আইইবি সদর দফতর এবং ঢাকা কেন্দ্রের সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন।

প্রকৌশলী মোঃ মুকুল হুদা
সম্মানী সাধারণ সম্পাদক

সৌজন্যে টেকনোডেড

বিখ্যাত নিকা কন্সাল্ট্যান্ট
কেমিকেলস-এর একমাত্র পরিবেশক
১২২ কাকরাইল রোড, ফোন: ৪৮৮৭৭

Sika

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