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PID photo

The Prime Minister also dis

tributed Bachelor of Science

Degree certificates conferred

upon the Midshipmen by the

Commission on local

govt to finalise report

by Dec 31

By Staff Correspondent

mission yesterday decided to

finalise its draft report on the

outline of a four tier local

government system by Decem-

The eight-member body

ber 31, sources in the LGC said.

headed by ruling party legisla

tor Rahmat Ali, met yesterday

morning to review the progress

of its work that began on Sep-

tember 1. Initially, the Com-

mission, was scheduled to fi-

nalise the report by December 5.

interviewed representatives of

almost all sections of the peo-

ple, studied the local govern-

ment system in different demo-

cratic countries, and some of its

members have visited some

foreign countries to see for

themselves the composition.

powers and functioning of the

local bodies of the countries

concerned," the LGC Chairman

told The Daily Star. It was re-

ally a time consuming process,

From Page 1

The ministry pondered over

the letter for some time but de-

cided to forward it to the

Bangladesh Bank for taking

tion had filed a case against the

MD, and Chairman of AB Bank,

and nine other persons on

October 19 for alleged

corruption and irregularities in

sanctioning loans amounting

filing of the case against the MD

and Chairman of the bank co-

incided with the election to its

board of directors which took

place a few days later. Salman

Rahman of Beximco who was

an aspirant in the election

difficult one as he had to face

another strong candidate ap-

parently backed by Morshed

Khan. Rahman had earlier re-

signed as a director of the bank

as he had taken loans which

Bank is now consulting its

lawyers to prepare possible ac-

tions against the AB Bank's

from the PM's Office has caused

deep resentment in the banking

circle who view this as another

unwarranted interference in

the country's banking system.

particularly the private sector.

Road accident

From Page 1

when a truck hit the three

wheeler from behind at Bijoy

Sarani in the city early yester-

dul Mannan, 25, died while be-

ing taken to the Dhaka Medical

College Hospital (DMCH).

DMCH morgue for autopsy.

The victim, Mohammad Ab-

The body was sent to the

UNB adds: Two pedestrians

The deceased: Zinnat Ali, 70,

Witnesses said, the accident

Police seized the bus but the

died in a road accident at Sen-

ganti under Raiganj thana of

Sirajganj district yesterday po-

and Rustam, 28, hail from Ka-

occurred when the two were

markhand thana.

crossing road.

driver escaped.

lice and hospital sources said.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh

The information of the letter

remained largely unpaid.

found his way into the board a

But sources alleged that the

The Bureau of Anti-Corrup-

necessary actions'

to Tk 3.5 crore.

he added.

"The LGC commission has

The Local Government Com-

National University.

Country needs strong naval force: PM

CHITTAGONG, Dec 19: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her determination to build a strong and effective naval force essential for guarding the country's territorial waters and marine resources, reports UNB.

"We like to proceed towards that end in a planned way by collecting ships and other equipment within our limited resources," she said addressing the President's Parade marking the Commissioning of a batch of Midshipmen of the Bangladesh Navy at the Naval Academy Parade ground at Patenga today.

She said the resources in the country's 40,000 square mile sea area could play an important role in building a bright future for the nation.

In this regard she mentioned that a huge reserve of natural gas was already discovered there and experts found prospect of a oil reserve. "A modern and effective navy is essential to explore and guard these resources.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam accompanied by Commanding Officer of the Naval Academy Captain B Rahman received the Prime Minister on her arrival at the parade ground in a ceremonial motorcade.

Hasina was taken to the decorated Quarter Deck from where she took the salute presented to her by smartly turned-out midshipmen to the tune of national anthem. She inspected the impressive march-past by the midshipmen.

The Prime Minister gave away Chief of Naval Staff's trophy to midshipman Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman, who also received the Osmani Gold Medal and Gold Medal of the Chief of Naval Staff for his out-

John Major

From Page 1

The two leaders are expected to focus mainly on expansion of trade and economic cooperation and investment in Bangla-

The visit of the British Prime Minister is seen here as significant as it is taking place in the backdrop of a changed global scenario at a time when much of economic activities have been shifted to the Asia-Pacific and Indian ocean re-

Some senior businessmen from the UK will accompany the British Prime Minister, Walker said. During the trip, Major is

likely to visit some Britishaided projects in Bangladesh. Details of his itinerary is being worked out.

Major will be the second British Prime Minister to visit Bangladesh after James Callaghan who came here in 1978.

It monitoring

The Joint Committee will appoint some engineers "to observe and record" the daily flows at Farakka, the flows below Farakka Barrage, the Feeder Canal, the Navigation Lock and the Hardinge Bridge.

Unlike in previous agree-ments and MOUs, the new treaty, has included, for the first time, monitoring and recording of the flow at the Navigation Lock of Farakka Bar-

Bangladesh the sources said. has already selected two executive engineers and one assistant engineer for the purpose of monitoring the water flow at Indian points.

Bangladesh has automatic readers at Hardinge Bridge and will request the Indian side to install such readers "to enable instant and constant reading of water level," the sources said.

It was also learnt that a date for holding a meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) will also be

fixed shortly.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurating the Chittagong television centre yester-

behind the capital, she said adding that this TV centre will be able to feed information and provide entertainment to the standing performances in acaviewers of the division demic and professional sub-

The Prime Minister said her government's only target is to work for the people. "We don't want to waste a single moment, we want to work for the economic emancipation of the downtrodden

PM opens

From Page 1

She said Chittagong city is noted for its role in the war of liberation and every democratic movement of the country. 'The proclamation of independence by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib was read out from this city by Hannan on March 26 in 1971.

"Bangabandhu's proclamation of independence first reached this city and was then spread elsewhere," the Prime Minister said adding that the role of Chittagong in the liberation would be ever remembered by the nation.

On March 25, 1971, the Pakistani occupation army attacked the unarmed people of the country and according to an earlier plan the proclamation of independence of Bangabandhu was read out by Hannan from here, she added

Later, the Prime Minister inaugurated the transmission by pushing a button. The inaugural function was telecast live.

Hasina unveiled the plaque of the centre, planted a sapling at its premises and went round it to see the studios and control

Information Minister Abu "However, we have now de-Saveed, Information Secretary cided to finalise the report by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed and the last date of the year " the Director General of Bangladesh LGC chairman said. Television Shahriar Z R Iqbal also spoke on the occasion. AB Bank

Krishak leader Office, recommending the removal of the AB Bank's MD. killed in Satkhira Abdur Rahim, the sources said.

From Our Correspondent SATKHIRA, Dec 19: A leftist leader, also an accused in a murder case, was killed allegedly by his rivals at Magura

under Tala thana today. According to police, the armed cadres of the outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party killed Tarapod Das. 52, the vice president of the Tala Thana Krishak Sangram Parishad. He is

accused of murdering four communist activists in 1993. Police says, he was also a member of the rival Purba

Bangla Biplobi Communist Party. Tarapod was released from

jail on bail recently.

AL, BNP

From Page 1

the latter was rigid on its position of not joining the session until its workers were released and the Speaker "acted neutrally.

According to BNP insiders young lawmakers of the party were mounting pressure on the party top notchers to evolve a way out for their return to the parliament so that they could project in the House the government's "anti-people" role. Besides, the party policy-planners also want to voice their protests against the Bangladesh-India Ganges water sharing treaty on the floor of

the House, the insiders said. Against this backdrop, a top BNP leader said, that they were looking for a wayout to return to the parliament. A meeting of the BNP parliamentary party is likely to be called soon to discuss the issue, he added.

The next session of the parliament is expected to begin in mid-January next year, an official of the JS secretariat said.

Asked whether his party was firm not to sit across the table unless its three-point demand was met. Khandakar Delwar said, "We're not rigid on our demands ... Let them call us to dialogue. We're ready to return to the House if our grievances including denial of our rights as lawmakers are removed through discussions."

Lima continues

LIMA (Peru). Dec 19: Split up in separate rooms by rebels armed with guns and grenades. a dozen ambassadors and hundreds of the international dignitaries spent a third day of captivity today in the home of Japan's ambassador, reports

A doctor who was allowed inside the compound in the morning said the hostages ap-peared calm and healthy de-spite the Tupac Amaru rebels threat Wednesday to begin exe-

cuting them one by one.

The US Embassy set up a special hostage crisis center. manned by FBI agents, and Britain and Germany sent in

trouble-shooting experts. The rebels, who took over the compound Tuesday night by posing as waiters during a birthday party honouring Japanese Emperor Akihito. demanded the release of 300 jailed comrades, economic reforms, money and safe passage

BIRDEM fire victim dies

By DMC Correspondent A construction worker, Abdur Rahman, 30, who sustained burn injuries in a fire at the BIRDEM hospital in the city Wednesday, died at the DMCH vesterday. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. The victim hailed from Seraj

to the Amazonian jungle in eastern Peru. Fujimori has made no public statement on

the standoff. Reuter adds: Japan's Foreign Minister rushed to Lima and celebrations for the Emperor's birthday were cancelled today as the nation became increasingly focused on the Peru hostage siege.

The Japanese government, meanwhile sent out strong signals that saving lives not standing up to terrorism, was the top priority.

Emperor Akihito cancelled all formal functions connected with his birthday next Monday. a public holiday in Japan.

\$134.4m ADB loan for 9th power project

MANILA, Dec 19: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said today it had approved at 134.4 million dollar loan aimed at increasing power supply to the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka, reports AFP.

The loan would support Bangladesh's ninth power project, intended to set up a transmission system for its first private-sector power project in Meghnaghat, outside Dhaka, the Manila-based ADB said in a statement.

The project is also intended to create two new semi-au tonomous power agencies, one to handle transmission, the other to handle distribution of power, the ADB added.

Restrictions on US student visas

The new amendment to the JS immigration law which took effect on November 30 has imposed some restrictions on student visas to the United States for public schools, reports UNB

The amendment will require foreign students wishing to attend public secondary schools in the United States to show proof of tuition payment before they can be granted visa.

The new 'Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996" in cludes provisions affecting the issuance of F-1 visas to students coming to the US to attend elementary school (grades kindergarten to 8), public secondary school (grades 9 to 12) and publicly funded adult education programmes, such as foreign language classes.

In the US schools which are subsidised at the state and local levels are called public schools. said a USIS press release yesterday.

The US consular officers overseas will no longer be able to issue the F-1 visas for public elementary schools studies or publicly funded adult education programmes.

Officers may issue F-1 visas limited to no more than 12

From Page 1

Correspondent, the inmates of

the overcrowded district prison

came out of barracks and cells,

attacking the wardens in a co-

ordinated assault at about 8-30

am. Armed with iron bars and

other assorted weapons they

could garner from the kitchen

and workshop of the prison,

they chased out all but three

wardens and a jail hospital

locked inside a room of the

prison hospital. The inmates

then barricaded the main en-

trance of the jail, with sacks of

flour, rice and lentils and post-

officials including the DC and

the SP rushed to the jail and

tried to calm down the situa-

tion, holding two rounds of

talks with the prisoners, led by

cadres of the student fronts of

Awami League and BNP. They

put forward a seven-point de-

mand which included, reintro-

duction of an Ordinance pro-

mulgated by the then caretaker

government in 1991, and com-

muting sentences of different

categories of convicts. The or-

dinance was scrapped recently

but it became a battle cry to

rally the revolting prisoners at

Jessore and Tangail. They also

successfully used the over-

crowding at the prisons, poor

quality food and absence of

amenities as well as delay in

gail, quoting reliable sources.

said that the inmates had been

expecting amnesty for different

categories of prisoners on the

occasion of the Silver Jubilee of

Victory in Liberation War. But

they were frustrated. The news

from Jessore Jail added fuel to

The condition of the Tangail

prison also helped ignite the re-

bellion. Several under trial

prisoners there were waiting

for more than seven years for

jail total 448 out of the 598,

cramped in a prison having a

of sub-standard food and other

amenities and ill-treatment

from authorities, allegedly for

lack of payment to earn better

Our Staff Correspondent

Quazi Amanullah reports from

Jessore: The overall situation

in the Jessore Central Jail re-

mained tense as the prisoners

continued their revolt for the

fourth consecutive day today

Undertrial inmates of the

They were also complaining

The correspondent in Tan-

trial.

their revolt.

capacity of 319.

facilities.

Some of them are reportedly

Soon after this, top district

The four were tied and

paramedic.

ing vigilantes.

under trial inmates.

According to our Tangail

months of public high schools if the applicant demonstrates that he/she has reimbursed the school authority for the unsubsidised per capita cost of education for the intended period of

However, the revisions do

who wish to attend private schools or to any students participating in a J-1 exchange visitor programme. Also, the provisions do not affect dependents of other cate-

not apply to foreign students

gories of visa holders visiting the US such as E, H, J and L visa holders It is not yet clear what effect if any, this legislation will have

on students who were already in the US before November 30 in But it will no longer be possible for foreign high school

students to use the US residence of their relatives for the purpose of attending high school. If an F-1 student in a private elementary school or publicly financed adult education transfers to a public school or

programme, the visa is considered void unless requirements of the time limit (maximum 12 months) and cost conditions

Prisoners revolt in Jails

while the stage is set for the

members of law enforcing

The Deputy Commissioner

agencies to storm into the jail.

of Jessore said that all ways

and means to resolve the crisis

failed as the mutineers seemed

determined to adhere to their

decision till all demands are

fully met. 'Yet we are still try-

ing to avoid bloodshed and

bring the situation under con-

Prison said he will make allout

efforts for a peaceful settlement

of the problem according to ex-

isting jail code. "But I can not

be forced to do anything for

meeting some of their demands

seen weeping as there is no im-

provement in the situation.

They neither can go against the

rebellion, nor want it to con-

tinue fearing operation by the

Rapid Action Force," already

the revolt became furious when

they heard that under trial

convicts met the under-trial

prisoners and threatened to kill

them in case of any "breach of

trust and betrayal with the

movement." The threat came on

Wednesday midnight when the

under-trial prisoners declined

been destroyed by the unruly

prisoners, said a high official of

the jail administration. They

also broke the condemned cells

and released 36 convicts

amnesty on Victory Day were

also seen weeping out of fear.

They could not come out of jail

due to the Their relatives

were also seen weeping in front

of the police quarters outside

told this correspondent in front

of the jail that her son Mahadev

Mondol was granted amnesty.

but could not get out since the

revolt began in the early

morning on the Victory Day.

Taramon Bibi who came from

Dhaka to receive her son Masud

Rana fainted four times seeing

the preparation of law enforc-

ing agencies to crush the rebel-

condemned prisoners once

again made it clear today over

hand mike that they will not

give in under any circum-

have been placed to scale the

walls of the jail since the rebels

A large number of ladders

The mutineers, led by 20

Minoti Rani of Jessore town

Thirteen prisoners granted

awarded death sentence.

the Central Jail.

lion.

stances.

The gallows in the jail has

to give support to the revolt.

prisoners wanted to retreat.

The convicts who are leading

The so-called leaders of the

in Jessore from Dhaka.

Under-trial prisoners were

which have no logic," he added.

When contacted, the IG

trol," he said.



L'ORÉAL P A B I S

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handed over to an Indian High Commission official in the city yesterday. Seen in the picture are (from left) Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmed Tareq Karim, Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Dev Mukherjee, the two Indians and Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Secretary to the PM. - Star photo

hands over two Indians

Two Indian nationals including an MLA of Tripura Bidhan Sabha, who escaped from confinement in India and entered Bangladesh, were handed over to the Indian High Commission official in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir, Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmad Tareq Karim and Additional Inspector General of Police Burhan Siddiquee on behalf of Bangladesh government handed over the two Indians to a representative of Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

Surinder Singh. First Secretary of Indian Commission, received Pronab Deva Barma, MLA and his per sonal guard Anil Chakravarty at the state guest house "Padma" Pronab Deva Barma told

this correspondent that he and his personal guard were held in confinement in India for a long time. They have managed to escape and entered Bangladesh in the early morning on Wednesday without knowing where they were, he said.

They surrendered to the Bangladesh authorities and later were brought to the city Wednesday night.

The two Indian nationals left Dhaka for home by road yesterday noon with Bangladesh escorts up to the border, a foreign office spokesman said.

inside, according to sources in

the jail administration. Supply

of drinking water has been

stopped and power line discon-

district administration said

some jailed members of out-

lawed organisations are incit-

ing the revolt. He said the muti-

neers will give in only when

foodstuff in the jail godowns

will exhaust. "We are waiting

Security in and outside

Chittagong Central Jail was

okayed. However, extra security

was deployed to avert any un-

toward incident," said the jail

super who did not want to be

condition of anonymity, told

UNB that inmates were not

brought outside the lockup yes-

terday afternoon and there was

750, is stuffed with some 3,200

The jail, with a capacity o

Another official, also on

UNB adds from Chittagong:

"The situation in the jail is

for that moment," he added.

tightened yesterday.

tension in the jail.

named.

A highly placed source in the

nected, the sources said.

• 1

Bangladesh Rao resigns as Congress parliamentary party chief NEW DELHI. Dec 19 PV

Narasimha Rao, the first for mer Indian prime minister charged in criminal cases, resigned from his last politically powerful job Thursday to save his party further embarrass ment, reports AP.

Ved Prakash, the party's joint secretary, said Rao's resignation as head of the party's delegation in Parliament came in a letter to party President Sitaram Kesri

On Wednesday, Kesri supported calls for Rao's resigna tion from the influential position. Earlier. 24 party legisla tors sent a letter to Rao, saying his departure was necessary to restore the party's image. Kesri, who succeeded Rao as

the party chief in September was asked to send another let ter by the party's highest policy making body, which met in New Delhi on Wednesday night for three hours, a party spokesman said.

Grameen Court From Page 1

Replying to a question, he

further said that the heads of the courts would be termed honorary magistrates and they would be paid a certain amount of money every month as "hon-Asked what types of cases

such courts would be dealing with, the state minister said "Mostly allegations of petty offences of disputes over trivial issues that could include family disputes over small property, dowry related trifles and so on. In disposing of the cases, the magistrate would enjoy the right of conducting local investigation, he added.

Explaining the objectives of the proposed courts, Khashru said. "We are trying to free the magistrates' courts from the burden of thousands of pending cases on the one hand and on the other to make sure that the poor people get justice at the lowest cost.

Responding to another question, he said that the union parishad leaders, elected by the people, could have taken the responsibilities of setting disputes in the rural areas. "But they have no executive power necessary to implement the verdicts. Besides, the partisan attitude of many chairmen and members of union parishads and their lack of control over the law enforcing agencies have made the government to think

about setting up of the grameen courts. Law Ministry sources said that before finalising the outlines of the rural courts, the ministry would hold six seminars in six divisional head quarters to seek public opinion

and jurisdiction.

on their composition, powers

Rao, 75, did not attend the meeting, saying he was ill. Rao remains a member of

Parliament and of his party. Under Rao's leadership Congress was tainted by a series of corruption scandals which led to the party's worst defeat in May general elections. Rao resigned as party presi

dent in September when criminal charges were filed against him in court. But Rao held on to his post as the Congress delegation chief in

Parliament, a job that gave

him considerable influence with Prime Minister HD Deve Although Congress is not part of Gowda's coalition government, its support in Parliament is essential for the

continue in power. Rao is the first former or serving prime minister to face criminal charges in India.

14-party minority alliance to

Gowda From Page 1

and the joint utilisation of regions market potential, skills and resources as "the global economic environment is undergoing a transformation of vast dimensions.

He noted that there has been

an all-round progress in enhancing economic cooperation in the South Asian region and areas of investment, taxation. customs and standards are also being addressed. The Indian Prime Minister said that he was happy to note

the recommendations of the first meeting of the SAARC commerce ministers, held in Delhi earlier, to implement the South Asia Free Trade Area by the turn of the century.

SAPTA is a reality and the second round of trade negotia tions under it has produced encouraging results, he said

Deve Gowda called for promotion of intra-SAARC trade and commerce and reiterated India's commitment to participating actively and fully in the second SAARC Trade Fair to be held in Islamabad next year.

He expressed the hope that the current meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers' would give momentum to the growing economic cooperation in the region.

Addressing the meeting Indian External Affairs Minister IK Gujral stressed the need for evolving new strategies in relation to international issues of common interests and concern to the SAARC coun-

The Council of Ministers meeting to be concluded tomorrow is expected to endorse the recommendations of the SAARC standing committee which will include a calendar of activities for the next year.

prisoners.

Bangladesh Power Development Board

Purchase of Power from Barge Mounted Power Plant"

- It is notified for all the interested parties that the submission date for the above has been extended up to 12-30 PM (BST) of 30th January 1997. All other conditions will remain same.
- 2. Addendum No-3 in pursuant of "Recorded Notes of the Pre-bid meeting" held on December-2, 1996 is available from the office of the Director, Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

Habibur Rahaman Jamaly Secretary

Bangladesh Power Development Board WAPDA Building (1st floor) Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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