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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a seminar on 'Governance and Development' South Asia in the 21st Century' organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies at its conference room in the city yesterday. — PID photo

PM: Regional cooperation

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Development efforts, she said, are devoid of any meaning without spontaneous participation of the people.

It is unfortunate that the spirit of democracy is not yet firmly woven in the fabric of our society. Development will take its own roots only when we can make politics revolve around development.

The prime minister said although her government assumed power only six months ago, but had adopted courses of action for ensuring good governance and economic growth.

Ghali welcomes water treaty

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the Ganges water sharing treaty signed between India and Bangladesh on December 12 in New Delhi, reports UNB.

A statement issued by his spokesman said Ghali pays tribute to the Prime Minister of India and Bangladesh on their statesmanship and the spirit of friendship and good neighbourliness that they had displayed in signing the important treaty.

The UN Secretary-General expressed his sincere hope that the treaty would be implemented in the spirit in which it was concluded to the benefit of the peoples of the two countries, said a PID handout.

Truce in CHT

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an AL MP.

The two BNP MPs in the Committee Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and Wahidul Alam were absent from the dialogue.

The five-member PCJSS leaders were flown to the circuit house by helicopter from Dudukchhari bordering village at 10:15 am.

They were flown back to their destination at 3:30 pm by the same helicopter.

Abul Hasanat Abdullah and other members of the National Committee gave a hearty send-off to the PCJSS leaders.

The PCJSS leaders were seen waving hands cheerfully while boarding the helicopter, witnesses said.

The last dialogue was held under the previous government on October 25, 1995.

12 hurt as students, police clash in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Dec 21: Twelve people, including three policemen, were wounded as a group of agitated students of Rajshahi College fought a street battle with police today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said some examinees who appeared at honours and masters examinations under National University in December last year were enraged as police tried to clear road barricades put by them in front of the university college at 11 am.

The students were staging the agitation demanding publication of their exam results without further delay.

At one stage, at about noon, police resorted to lathicharge and teargas shelling on the agitating students to clear the road barricade.

2.4 pc decline in import LCs

By Staff Correspondent

Opening of Letter of Credit (LC) for import during the first four months of the current fiscal declined by 2.4 per cent compared to the corresponding period of the last fiscal, said a Bangladesh Bank press release.

Import LCs opened during the period under review were worth Tk 8839.87 crore, 2.40 per cent less than the corresponding period's 9247.42 crore.

The decline is mainly due to 87.73 per cent less foodgrains import during the period, the Bank said.

However, import LCs for items other than foodgrains went up by 9.36 per cent mainly due to increase in import of industrial raw materials and intermediate goods.

The highest amount of Tk 2287.12 crore worth of LCs were opened for import of textile fabrics and accessories for garments.

Some other major items against which LCs were opened during the period are: rice Tk 19.73 crore, wheat Tk 11.90 crore, sugar Tk 65.36 crore, pulses Tk 11.00 crore, milk food Tk 88.88 crore, edible oil Tk 232 crore, oil seeds Tk 93 crore, raw cotton and synthetic Tk 297.81 crore, drugs and medicine Tk 23.14 crore, machinery Tk 622 crore and motor vehicle Tk 194.71 crore.

Nafis Sadik arrives today

Dr Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Under Secretary General, United Nations arrive in Dhaka today on a five-day official visit, reports BSS.

During her stay she is expected to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Samad Azad calls on Mahathir

NEW DELHI, Dec 21: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, now here in connection with the 17th SAARC Foreign Ministers' meeting, called on visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohammad at his hotel suite yesterday, reports BSS.

The foreign minister stayed with the Malaysian Prime Minister for sometime and handed over to him an important message from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

LGC

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respective electorate, the sources added.

The Thana level body, which is almost certain to be named Upazila Parishad, would also have similar powers and jurisdiction. The village level body which might be named Grameen Parishad, would have Village Defence Party (VDP), Chaukidars and Dafadars directly under its authority.

The commission was formed on September 1 this year and was scheduled to submit its report to the Local Government and Rural Development Minister by December 5 last. The commission has so far studied a lot of materials on the subject, visited some foreign countries to see for itself the functioning of the local bodies there and interviewed representatives of a cross section of our people and is now poised to write the report, LGC sources said.

Once submitted to the LGRD minister, the draft report will be produced before the cabinet. If approved by the cabinet, the LGRD ministry would take initiative to draft two or three separate bills accommodating the recommendations in the report.

The chairman of the commission said that they would try their best to submit the report by December 31 "so that the ministry can propose legislation in the light of the recommendations in the next session of the Jatiya Sangsad."

The Sangsad is likely to meet sometime the first week of next month.

The Daily Star

Stop repression on Opposition: BNP

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP yesterday said the country's independence would be meaningless unless the interests of peasants were protected, reports UNB.

"The independence of Bangladesh has been achieved through massive sacrifices made by the peasants," he said while addressing a meeting of the Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal at the BNP central office.

Bhuiyan alleged that the peasants were now being oppressed in many ways. Even they were not getting fair prices for their agricultural produce like jute and paddy, he said.

Besides, the price of fertiliser has gone beyond their capacity, he said terming the role of the present government in this regard "frustrating."

The BNP leader called upon the government to provide the peasants with necessary fertiliser at fair price.

He demanded of the government to stop repression on leaders and workers of the BNP, Krishak Dal and other front organisations.

"The government has started repression on the Opposition to hide its failure in different sectors," he said.

Criticising the government for its plan to import fertiliser, Bhuiyan said normally Bangladesh produces enough fertiliser that should meet domestic demand and leave some surplus for export.

But the planned import, he said, indicated that the much needed agri-input was being smuggled out to neighbouring countries.

The meeting of the Krishak Dal central executive committee began yesterday morning with its acting president Mahbubul Alam Tara in the chair.

It was addressed, among others, by Krishak Dal general secretary Shamsuzzaman Dudu MP, Shamsul Bari, Borhan Uddin, Mirza Alamgir, Ashraf Hossain Mojibor Rahman, Ehsanul Kabir, Ahmed Ali MP, Rashedunnabi Babu and Shahjahan Samrat.

The meeting was adjourned yesterday till 11 am today.

Importers of reconditioned cars evading VAT

Star Reports

A section of importers of reconditioned cars are evading Value Added Tax (VAT) while selling their vehicles in the retail market, according to sources in the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

The government is being deprived of crores of Taka in VAT due to the unscrupulous practice by such dealers, the sources said. They also mentioned that VAT on retail sale of imported reconditioned cars is quite low.

These dealers after importing the vehicles, immediately register those with the BRTA (Bangladesh Road Transport Authority) under individual names showing that those were meant for private use, not for commercial purpose. The vehicles are then sold from the showrooms and the traders approach the BRTA and get their ownership transferred in the name of the buyers, thus shifting the VAT onto them, the sources said.

"Here, the buyer has no idea that ownership of the imported reconditioned car is only being transferred in his name from another name. In this way the trader evades the VAT under a cover, an NBR official said.

VAT on retail sales of vehicles was imposed in July this year.

The NBR in a recent notification said that buyers who bought such vehicles from local markets after July 28 this year have to carry VAT receipts. Receipts should be shown to any checkpoint manned by VAT detectives on the roads, the notice said.

"Since July, we realised only two lakh Taka VAT on car sales in Dhaka division whereas a rough estimate showed that over two thousand reconditioned cars were sold from the city showrooms. On an average seven to ten thousand Taka is paid as VAT for each sale depending on the price of the car," it was learnt that in July last, the NBR, through a gazette notification, vested in the

Clash over land in Sylhet: 4 shot

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 21: Four people including two children sustained bullet wounds during a clash over a disputed land at Kuarpur area of the town this morning.

The clash erupted when a group of people resisted another group who were erecting a wall on the disputed land. At one stage, the latter group opened fire indiscriminately in which four residents including a woman of nearby houses were wounded, police said.

On getting information, police rushed to the spot and arrested 18 young men. They also recovered a revolver, a pipegun, several bullets and other lethal weapons.

\$213m WB Credit

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The Bank said population growth and limited financial resources had created severe pressure on existing municipal services, including water supply, sanitation, solid waste collection, and drainage services in Dhaka.

Only half of the city's population, or some 4.1 million, is served by the water supply system while the remainder depends on contaminated sources. About two out of five people living in urban areas have access to sanitary waste disposal services.

Because of the limited sewerage systems and inefficient sanitary waste disposal facilities, untreated or poorly treated domestic sewage is a major source of water pollution and waterborne diseases.

The aim of the Roads and Markets Improvement and Maintenance Project is to help boost rural employment and incomes and reduce rural poverty by establishing an improved, sustainable rural transport and trading infrastructure.

Roads and waterways are the arteries which feed the heart of the rural economy — the markets, says project task manager Thampil Pankaj, a principal transport specialist

2 brothers held for damaging Bangabandhu's portrait

By Staff Correspondent

Two brothers were arrested on charges of ransacking a Jubo League office and damaging portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Dayaganj under Sutrapur thana in the city, police said yesterday.

Police raided a house in Dayaganj area and arrested Jahangir Miah and his brother, Salam Friday afternoon.

Police said they were involved in trading heroin and acts of terrorism in the area. Jahangir, a fugitive, was wanted in a number of cases including a case of kidnapping filed with Demra thana, police said.

The two persons along with some of their accomplices had ransacked the house of Alimuddin, commissioner of Ward No. 76, at about 9:45 pm on Dec 10, police said. Later, they entered the Jubo League office, close to the residence of the commissioner, ransacked it and damaged the portraits of Bangabandhu and the Prime Minister, police added.

The reason behind the attack on the commissioner's residence and the Jubo League office could not be known immediately. However, police claimed that the arrested persons made the attack as the commissioner protested their terrorist activities in the locality.

A case has been lodged with Sutrapur thana in this connection.

AG urges C'wealth states Repatriate accused in Bangabandhu Murder Case

Attorney General Barrister K S Nabi yesterday urged the Commonwealth countries to repatriate the accused persons involved in the killing of country's founding and national leaders for the sake of establishing the rule of law and justice, reports BSS.

Participating in a seminar on 'The Commonwealth in the 21st Century: Possibilities and Challenges — Bangladesh Perspective', the Attorney General made a fervent plea to repatriate those accused in the killing of elected leaders and overthrowing an established government.

Even in the absence of any convention, the accused killers of the founding and national leaders of the country could be repatriated under bilateral basis, the Attorney General said.

Organised by the Commonwealth Society of Bangladesh, the seminar was attended by Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, Bir Uttam as the chief guest while State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury as the special guest.

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No-confidence motion against Nepali govt

KATHMANDU, Dec 21: The leader of Nepal's main opposition today tabled a no-confidence motion against the government in the lower house of parliament, state-run radio announced, reports AFP.

The 15-month-old government has no right to rule anymore. It has failed in every aspect," said Man Mohan Adhikari, leader of the Nepal Communist Party United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML).

Discussion of the motion will continue Monday and voting is expected either Monday or Tuesday after debate with prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.

The tabling of the motion was delayed today after the government MPs demanded the expulsion of two dissident MPs of the pro-India Nepal Goodwill Party (NGP).

100 feared dead in Chinese bridge collapse

HONG KONG, Dec 21: As many as 100 workers were feared dead after a bridge under construction collapsed in southern China, a Hong Kong newspaper said today, reports AP.

Labourers were racing to finish the 110-meter (360 foot) bridge in Guangdong province in time for the Chinese New Year starting February 6, said the China News Service, an official Chinese agency monitored in Hong Kong.

It said deaths and injuries in the Friday disaster were heavy, but did not give a figure. The English-language Hong Kong Standard said 100 people were believed to have died.

An official of the roads department in the nearby city of Shaoguang, reached by telephone from Beijing, said the death toll has not reached 100.

Cases against 42 prisoners of Dhaka jail filed

Dhaka Central Jail authorities yesterday sued 42 prisoners for staging Friday's abortive jail revolt by letting loose anarchy in the prison, reports UNB.

Police said Jailor Giasuddin Mollah lodged the case with Lalbagh police accusing the 42 prisoners, mainly convicts, of perpetrating a planned attack on wardens violating the jail code.

He also charged the accused for injuring jail wardens, obstructing government activities and unleashing chaos in the central jail.

Jail wardens quashed a prisoners' bid to revolt in jail on Friday that left at least 10 security personnel and an unspecified number of inmates wounded.

Meanwhile, officials at Dhaka Central Jail said situation in the prison was normal yesterday.

18 die in Saudi bldg collapse

DUBAI, Dec 21: At least 18 people were killed and 15 were injured when a four-storey building collapsed in Saudi Arabia on Friday, a Saudi newspaper said today, reports Reuters.

Rescue teams rushed to the site to save residents trapped under the debris of the building in Yanbuon, the Red Sea coast. The English-language Arab News added.

It gave no other details. Saudi officials were not immediately available for comment.

Radio, TV

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government. There will be a new policy, a law reform policy and suggestions regarding a restructured pay scale," he said.

The commission is also studying the prospects and probable guidelines for opening up private TV and Radio stations, he said.

DUTA polls

From Page 1

Rashid of Physics, Dr Hossain Monsur of Geology, Rafiqul Khan of Bengali, and Prof Mahfuzur Rahman of Finance and Banking have submitted their nomination papers from the Blue panel for the posts of president, vice-president, general secretary, joint secretary and treasurer respectively.

The member candidates from this panel are Dr A M S Arefin Siddique, Prof Abdul Mannan, Prof Shadul Hakim Sarkar, Prof Abulhasan Ghosh, Dr Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, Prof A B M Mahmood, Prof S M Ehsanul Haq, Kazi Afroz Jahanara, and Sayed Gius Uddin Ahmed.

The candidates of the White panel for the posts of president, vice-president, general secretary, joint secretary and treasurer are Prof Yusuf Haider of Physics, Prof Nazrul Islam of Biology, Prof Nazrul Islam of Psychology, Waresul Karim Bulbul of Finance, and Dr Sirajul Islam of Management respectively.

The member candidates from this panel are Prof Rahim B Talukder, Dr Mainuddin Khan, Dr Z N Tahmina Begum, Dr Ishrat Shamim, Dr Sayedur Rahman, Dr Sirajul Islam Khan, Dr Amzar Hossain, Dr Jahidul Islam, Dr Shaquifur Rahman, and Dr Mohammad Ahad Ali.

Two die, 100 fall sick in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Dec 21: Two minors have died of food poisoning and about 100 people have fallen sick after eating meals in a Quikhwani at a village in Jhenigati thana on Thursday night, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said today residents of Bhaluka village became sick one after another after having the meals of the Quikhwani of late Majid Ali.

An 11-year-old boy, Salam, died on Friday afternoon while eight-year-old Farooq this morning.

Six others — Noor Mohammad, 30, Kalam, 7, Fakir Ali, 6, Imran Ali, 55, Rajibul Sarker, 5, and Moni, 6 — are undergoing treatment at Jhenigati thana health complex.

Deve Gowda

From Page 1

the two countries.

"It will be predominantly a goodwill visit to further cement the friendship between the two countries, fostered through the Ganges water-sharing treaty," said a senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two prime ministers, who initiated the historic treaty on sharing the Ganges water between Bangladesh and India on December 12 in Delhi, are expected to discuss water management of the common rivers when they will meet in Dhaka.

Bangladesh, locating in the delta of two international rivers — the Ganges and the Brahmaputra — has 54 common rivers with India.

The officials said the forthcoming summit meeting between the two leaders, which is to deal with the entire gamut of bilateral relations, would also cover regional and international issues of common concern, against the backdrop of a changed scenario.

Gowda, now the current chairman of SAARC, will also discuss with Hasina the future and progress of the seven-nation forum.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, who went to the Indian capital to attend the just-concluded meeting of SAARC ministers, are now finalising the details of the Indian Prime Minister's Dhaka trip.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate of Primary Education
Bangladesh, Dhaka
Notice

Like every year, the programme of free distribution of text books among primary school students has started also for 1997 academic year. These books will have the words "for free distribution" printed on them. Printed on superior quality paper at a very high cost these books are suitable for longtime use. It has been observed through experience that these books after being used by students, remain quite in good condition at the end of the year. So, like other years, the policy to distribute old books alongside the new ones has been taken up for the year 1997 too. This time one old book each to the students of Class I & II and two old books each to the student of classes III, IV & V will be distributed. The new & old books distribution policy has already been sent to the officers & headmasters concerned.

Students of such educational institutions as not deemed eligible to get free text books, can purchase the books on cash payment from National Curriculum & Text Book Board, Motijheel, Dhaka and Board appointed agents/dealers at district level. These books will have the sale price printed on them.

Illegal collection, hoarding a sale of free text books are prohibited by law & punishable offence. Book selling libraries are cautioned to refrain from collection & sale of books with the words "for free distribution" printed on them. All concerned are requested to keep a vigil in this regard.

Assistant Director
Directorate of Primary Education
Bangladesh, Dhaka.

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