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Former Pak CJ discloses formation of arbitration council in process

By Reaz Ahmad

Formation of an international arbitration council for SAARC region is now in process, disclosed the visiting former chief justice of Pakistan Dr Nasim Hasan Shah.

Dr Nasim is now in the city in connection with the three-day Fifth SAARC-CLAW Conference. He chaired one of the working sessions on the second day of the conference yesterday.

In an interview with The Daily Star at his hotel suite yesterday evening, Dr Nasim said SAARCCLAW has on its agenda the formation of a body of arbitrators.

"At present international arbitrations are being carried out in Paris and London. This is a very expensive procedure, involving heavy cost for hiring foreign lawyers and going to distant places for resolution of conflicts," he said.

The jurist added, "We feel that there is enough talent in our region to choose arbitrators of great learning and integrity. Commercial disputes between citizens of the SAARC region can be very well handled by a body of arbitrators within the region."

Arbitration means settling of a dispute by a person or people chosen by both sides in the dispute.

Turning to the question of independence of the judiciary, Dr Nasim observed that in general terms all are in favour of separation of the judiciary from the executive. Pakistan's Constitution has promised it and similar is the case in other countries of the SAARC region.

"But, the only difficulty lies in the implementation of this laudable principle," he noted.

Referring to former chief justice of India P N Bhagwati's suggestion for forming national judicial council in each country to recommend appointment of chief justices and higher court judges, Dr Hasan said, "Good

Confce of SAARC Chief Justices held in Comilla

COMILLA, Dec 28: The second conference of the Chief Justices of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) countries was held this morning at Comilla BARD, reports BSS.

Chief Justice of Bangladesh ATM Afzal presided over the meeting. Chief Justice of India AM Ahmadi, Chief Justice of Pakistan Sajjad Ali Shah, Representative of the Chief Justice of Nepal Priloquo Pratap Rana were present in the two-hour long closed door conference.

The subject matter of the conference was judicial training for judges, present experience and proposal for future cooperation.

Earlier, Director General (DG) of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Akhter Hossain Khan received the Chief Justices and showed them a documentary film on the activities of the BARD.

After conference, the justices visited Comilla Maina Mati Museum, Shaibon Bihar and Commonwealth War Cemetery.

Myanmar border forces kidnap 32 Bangladeshis

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 28: The Myanmar Border security Nasaka force kidnaped 32 boatmen along with six fishing boats from St Martin's Island area of Bangladesh during the last one week, reports UNB.

The 39 battalion of Bangladesh Rifles in Teknaf sent letters to Nasaka forces protesting the incident twice on Friday and Thursday. BDR also requested to free the kidnaped Bangladeshi fishermen and fishing boats. But no response was received till Friday evening.

The six owners of the hijacked boats are the inhabitants of Shahpuri island of Teknaf. They informed that the fishermen took their boat for fishing near St Martin's Island in Bangladesh nautical line.

With the increasing disturbance of the Nasaka forces, the fishermen of Teknaf areas have almost stopped catching fish, it is learnt.

The Daily Star

Talks end inconclusively BR orders resumption of ICD expansion work

Star Report

Bangladesh Railway (BR) ordered resumption of work for the expansion of Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Kamalapur station in the city after a meeting between representatives of BR and local people resisting it ended inconclusively yesterday evening.

BR sources said the expansion work that remained suspended since Tuesday last would resume today.

Residents of Muga, Sabujbagh and some other adjacent localities had earlier forced labourers to stop work, protesting planned closure of the link road through the station for the sake of ICD expansion.

Convenor of the Committee for resistance to closure of Muga-Kamalapur road Advocate Shahajuddin Sarker, who attended the meeting with Divisional Railway Manager Saleh Ahmed yesterday, told The Daily Star that BR authorities would have to resume work at their own risk.

"We had a meeting among ourselves on Friday and as per the decision of the local people, made it clear to BR officials Saturday that we would not allow closure of the link road," he said.

He said people of the localities would not accept any alternative road and the only probable solution to the problem would be construction of an underpass or a flyover. "We will continue our movement," he added.

BR sources, however, told this correspondent that the authorities were ready to construct an alternative road, some 700 feet from the existing road, and would also consider construction of a foot overbridge near the proposed alternative road.

Asked about precautionary security measures for resumption of work today, a BR official said, "Contractors can always seek help from law enforcing agencies. Besides, BR will also take necessary precautionary measures."



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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurating the Thakurgaon relay station of Bangladesh Television yesterday. —PID photo

Police raid

From Page 1

don, the two elder Siddiky — Latif and Oader — rushed home and engaged in altercations with the police officials present there.

Police, in the early hours, broke open the door of the house and found Azad Siddiky, wanted for his alleged involvement in the prolonged intra-party conflict of Chhatra League in the town.

But the ruling party MPs refused to allow police to arrest Azad and instead accompanied him to appear before Tangail Cognizance Court, Zone A. The Magistrate sent the accused to jail hajat.

In all, 350 policemen, including two additional SPs, and OCs of 11 thanas of the district, were engaged in operations in the three houses. Two magistrates were with the police party.

Protesting the police operation, district transport owners association enforced a halt to traffic movement on Dhaka-Tangail highway till 12 noon and demanded release of Azad Siddiky. Otherwise, they threatened to go for indefinite transport strike from January 5, they said.

Deputy Commissioner and Police Super of Tangail, at a press conference in the evening, said that the operation was directed by higher authorities in the town.

Mannan Bhuiyan protests removal of Ahmed Humayun

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday protested and condemned the removal of Ahmed Humayun from the post of the Editor of Danik Bangla, reports UNB.

In a statement, he accused the government of starting a conspiracy to tarnish the image of a noble profession like journalism by removing senior journalist and noted writer Ahmed Humayun in a humiliating manner.

The BNP leader also alleged that after assuming power, the present government has started repression on journalists and was trying to destroy the existing press freedom.

Transparency

From Page 1

order and establishment of rule of law were pre-requisites for taking justice to the doorsteps of people, who really need it.

Justice Naveemuddin said that in Bangladesh the Constitution guarantees independence of judiciary but there exists some constitutional obstacles.

PM opens Thakurgaon TV relay station Govt won't use mass media for propaganda

THAKURGAON, Dec 28: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the government would not use the mass media as its propaganda machine, it would rather engage the hook for the betterment of the people, for projecting their feelings, reports UNB.

"We believe in transparency and objectivity of broadcast media and we will use the media for the people," she said while inaugurating the 13th relay centre of Bangladesh Television (BTV) at Salanda here today.

"We need to work hard to make our TV network popular over the world by boosting its capacity and modernising it," Sheikh Hasina asserted. She said BTV should become a competitive TV network globally.

She observed Bangladesh, being a member of the international communications network, had been working closely with other countries for their mutual trading and economic development.

Hasina, however, referred to rapid development of the modern communications systems that has transformed the entire world into a village, global village.

The Prime Minister hoped that the latest extension of BTV to Thakurgaon would make it more dynamic, and lauded the experts and officials of BTV for their hard work in setting up the new centre. She expressed gratitude to the French government for its grants for supply of necessary equipment.

Imran Khan vows

From Page 1

had been given 90 days to dig out cases of corruption and initiate proceedings against the former government, was making "lame excuses" that there was not enough time to complete the task.

The cricket-turned-politician told a public meeting in the central Pakistani city of Multan late Friday that if elected in February his Movement for Justice (Tehreek-i-Insaf) will "publicly hang all the corrupt elements to teach a lesson to others."

Imran said his party would neither enter into an electoral alliance with any political party nor join any coalition government after the elections set for February 3.

Imran who is standing against Sharif in Lahore and Bhutto's interior minister Naseerullah Babar in Karachi, claimed that both the major parties were in the clutches of a corruption mafia.

The election will be a futile exercise if the old faces, declared corrupt, are returned to the assemblies, he said.

Stem this shameful slide

From Page 1

other nations and thereby lead the country forward. When will we learn to look at the future like most of the countries in this region are doing? Why can't we praise our own heroes and our hearts' content and leave it at that? Why do we think that to bring glory to our leader, we have to insult that of the others?

Listed cos to form assoc

From Page 1

cerns and difficulties faced by the listed companies, a press release said.

A committee for drafting the memorandum and articles of association of the proposed association was formed with Salman F Rahman of Beximco group as convenor. Other members of the committee are Noorul Quader Khan of Desh Garments, Mubarak Ali of Olympic Industries and Aminul Islam of IDLC.

It was decided that the next meeting of the association of listed companies (proposed) will be held on January 7, by which time the draft memorandum and articles of association will have been circulated to all listed companies.

Kerb market

UNB adds: A group of kerb market traders, jittery over persistent fall in share prices, has threatened to disrupt trading on the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) from today to press the authorities for action against irregularities in the capital market.

The group, Bangladesh Small Investors Forum, in a press release said yesterday they were forced to go for "continuous strike" from today to protest what they alleged manipulations by DSE members

Jatiya Press Club biennial general meet begins today

The 11th biennial general meeting of Jatiya Press Club begins at its auditorium today at 10 am, reports UNB.

Voting will begin at 9.30 am on Monday and continue till 5 pm with one-hour break from 1 pm.

Biswa Ijtema begins

From Page 1

of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia in a message yesterday also greeted the devotees.

Adequate medicare, lighting, sanitary and water supply facilities have been arranged.

Several special camps named India, Pakistan, Malaysia, English and Arabia have been set up on the northern side of the very large pandal erected for accommodating the foreign devotees.



A group of unruly youths ransacked some rooms of the Bangla Academy yesterday. —Star photo

Ship sinks

From Page 1

The crew, were on board a Belize flag carrying vessel, loaded with 12,000 tons of sugar. The ship reportedly sank in the Atlantic ocean at 10 am Friday, shipping sources said.

According to reports, the South African government in cooperation with international maritime agencies has begun a search operation with the help of two C-130 Hercules planes.

Another sea vessel has also started a rescue operation in the Atlantic.

Youths ransack rooms

From Page 1

A security man at the Academy told The Daily Star that during the incident the youths allegedly hurled abuses at the Academy's Chairman poet Shamsur Rahman, and member, Aminul Islam Bedu, news editor of BSS news agency.

According to Academy sources Aminul Islam Bedu stirred a 'near pandemonium' at the annual general meeting of the Academy on Friday with a remark about late president Ziaur Rahman, shortly after State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed expressed his annoyance over the delay in publication of the life sketch of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by the Academy.

At one stage, director of the Academy Azharul Islam told the members that the Academy was working on the life sketches of five national leaders.

After persuasion from members he disclosed that the five leaders were Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq, Hussain Shahid Suhrawardy, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Ziaur Rahman.

Rape victims

From Page 1

nel this morning to trace the victims and their father, an engineer. But despite door to door queries police failed to detect them as the reported rape of two college girls early this month was kept a guarded secret.

Police said no complaint was lodged with them in this regard.

They, however, added that efforts to unearth the incident would continue.

It is reported that two daughters of an engineer working with a government organisation were raped at gunpoint by some local mastans who stormed into their house at Nandankon. Worried about the future of the two girls, their father did not dare to complain with police but kept it a secret, the report said.

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