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Vietnamese President Vo Van Kiet placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar yesterday. — PID photo

Four accords signed

From Page 1
Bangladesh Minister for Commerce and Industries Tofael Ahmed visited Vietnam recently.

The two sides noted with pride that besides geographical proximity, Bangladesh and Vietnam share a common cultural heritage and a long standing bond of ideological and historical ties.

At the talks, the Vietnamese Prime Minister showed interest in cooperation between ASEAN and SAARC. Vietnam is a member of ASEAN while Bangladesh is a member of SAARC.

Vo Van Kiet lauded Bangladesh government's efforts for poverty alleviation and mentioned that the major thrust of his country was on removal of poverty and hunger.

Before the formal talks, the two prime ministers had a 20-minute tete-a-tete.

After the talks, the four agreements were signed.

The accord for setting up of a

joint commission was signed by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam.

A cultural cooperation agreement was signed by State Minister for Culture and Sports Obaidul Kader and V Hong Quang, Deputy Minister for Cultural and Information of Vietnam.

Another agreement on exchange of information through Bangladesh's official news agency BSS and Vietnam News Agency was signed by State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed and V Hong Quang.

An agreement on private sector cooperation was signed by FBCCI President Yusuf Abdul-Harun and Doan Ngoc Baong, Vice Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vietnam.

DSE trading floor shifted to new venue

The trading floor of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) was shifted yesterday to the 7th floor of 9/E, Motijheel, to provide wider space for business and trading and to cope with the increasing volume of trade.

According to a press release issued yesterday, the DSE secretariat will stay at the same building at 9/F, Motijheel. The automation process of the bourse has already started, and the civil work for that will start soon at the old trading floor. Automated trading is likely to be started from September this year.

There are two booths at the new trading floor with a space of 5,200 square feet, and two more booths may be added at the new place in future, the release added.

Tribals demand autonomy

The Hill People's Council, the Hill Tracts Students' Council and the Hill Women's Federation jointly organised a procession and a rally in the city yesterday demanding autonomy for the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The procession that started from the TSC crossing on the Dhaka University campus ended at the National Press Club. The rally was held in front of the Press Club.

The rally was addressed by Rabisagar Chakma, Sanjoy Chakma and Kabita Chakma. Prosit Bikash Khisa presided over the rally.

The speakers at the rally put forward an eight-point demand.

Strike to protest mugging

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, Mar 10: The filling station owners will go on a strike for an indefinite period from Mar 12 in protest against mugging in a local filling station.

The decision was taken in an emergency meeting of the Khulna Divisional Fuel Distributors' Society and the Tank Lorry Owners' Association held here last night.

Saifur blames govt

From Page 1
of black money. Rahman dubbed it an act against morality. A democratic government cannot take such decision, he said.

"They want to reward the vices and penalise the virtues."

About foreign investment, he said not a single farthing had so far been invested from foreign countries due to "lack of political stability."

Foreign investors, would not feel encouraged to invest here if "unrest in politics" continued, observed Saifur Rahman.

Pointing to other economic sectors, he said revenue spendings increased while earning decreased. The government has borrowed Tk 1000 crore from the banking system to meet its revenue expenditure.

"How development could take place when the government took 30 per cent loan as against 2.5 per cent given to the private sector," he asked.

The former custodian of exchequer said the foreign exchange reserve squeezed to 1.9 billion dollars. The volume of imports, on the other hand, has also come down from previous year's mark as there has not been any import to feed the manufacturing sectors.

Saifur, however, said only the agricultural sector made some progress.

Former Energy Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain

Bank co bill

From Page 1
institutions.

If any amount remains, it will be considered as government demand and will be recoverable under the Public Demands Recovery Act, 1913.

If any director loses his post under the Act, he will be disqualified to be a director of the concerned bank company or financial institution for three years.

According to the Bill, no registration of a director of a debtor company would be effective if he/she cannot transfer his/her shares without the approval of the board of directors of the concerned banks or financial institutions.

All the bank companies or financial institutions will from time to time send the respective lists of their loan defaulters to the Bangladesh Bank which will send those to all the banks and financial institutions of the country.

No bank company or financial institution will extend loan facilities in favour of the loan defaulters. The bank company or financial institution will file cases against the loan defaulters under the law of the land.

"If these amendments become effective, it is expected that more discipline and accountability will be restored in the banking sector," the Finance Minister said in the objective of the bill.

Hearty send-off

From Page 1
Minister's Office. The summit covered all aspects of bilateral relationship as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

Senior ministers, including Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and Home Minister Maj (Retd) Rafiqul Islam, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps PLO Ambassador Shahta Zarab, Chiefs of three services, and high civil and military officials were present at the airport during the departure of Vo Van Kiet.

Two tiny toys presented bouquets to the Vietnamese Prime Minister before boarding the special aircraft of the Vietnam Airlines.

Showcouse on govt BB order putting ex-dy governor on LPR stayed

From Page 1
The High Court has issued a Rule Nisi on the Government and the Bangladesh Bank (BB) to show cause why the order putting former Deputy Governor of the BB Mahbubur Rahman Khan on Leave Preparatory to Retirement (LPR) should not be declared illegal.

A Division Bench of the HC consisting of Justice Mainul Reza Chowdhury and M A Aziz issued the rule on Sunday after hearing a writ petition filed by Mahbubur Rahman Khan. He also stayed for two weeks the LPR order.

Dr Kamal Hossain, Dr M Zahir, Barrister Khaled Chowdhury and some others appeared for Mahbubur Rahman Khan. This is the second writ filed by Khan, who was made an OSD in the Finance Ministry in September last year. He was later asked to show cause for violating banking rules while granting licenses to investment and leasing companies. He filed a writ against that and a Division Bench of the HC on February 16 asked the government to show cause within four weeks.

On March 1 the BB issued a circular saying that he had gone on LPR under the public servants retirement act, 1974 and BB (staff) regulations. Dr Kamal Hossain contended that his client's job did not fall under that category and it was not applicable in his case.

BCI bill passed

From Page 1
owners of the BCIL financially compensate those who had been affected.

Without saying whether the government would make any step to compensate the former clients of the BCIL, the minister said: "The BCIL was closed down during the rule of the BNP government, but it did not take any step to compel the BCIL authorities to compensate those who had been affected by the organisation."

It is in regard, Kibria also said that the BNP government rather enacted a similar law to convert an identical financial institution into bank "on political consideration."

BNP legislators including M K Anwar, Abdul Mannan, Mashur Rahman and Shahidul Islam moved a number of amendments to the bill, but they were rejected by voice votes.

The bill was passed at 11:05 pm with Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid presiding over the sitting of Jatiya Sangsad.

According to the bill, a 11-member board of directors will be constituted for the reorganised bank with four representatives from the sponsors, two from scheduled banks and financial institutions, four from the depositors and one nominated by the government.

But the first board of directors will be constituted with the members nominated by the government on recommendation of the Bangladesh Bank for a maximum one year.

The authorised capital of Bangladesh Commerce Bank Ltd. will be Tk 200 crore and the paid up capital Tk 92 crore.

Any person who has personal liability in the BCIL could be a director of the new bank after repaying his/her entire liability.

As per the bill, the principal amount, not the interest, of all the liabilities of the BCIL would become the liabilities of the reorganised bank on a specific date to be fixed by the Bangladesh Bank.

The reduced liabilities will be paid back by the bank to the depositors as per the provisions of the bill, in cash or in the form the depositor desires as per the schedule given below:

Amount of taka	Time limit for repayment
the 1st 25,000 taka	between 2 to 4 months of the fixed date
another 25,000 taka	between 4 to 6 months of the fixed date
another 25,000 taka	between 6 to 8 months of the fixed date
another 25,000 taka	between 8 to 10 months of the fixed date
another 25,000 taka	between 10 to 12 months of the fixed date
another 25,000 taka	between 12 to 15 months of the fixed date
another 50,000 taka	between 15 to 18 months of the fixed date
another 50,000 taka	between 18 to 21 months of the fixed date
another 50,000 taka	between 21 to 24 months of the fixed date
another 50,000 taka	between 24 to 27 months of the fixed date
another 50,000 taka	between 27 to 30 months of the fixed date
another 50,000 taka	between 30 to 33 months of the fixed date
another 50,000 taka	between 33 to 36 months of the fixed date
another 50,000 taka	between 36 to 42 months of the fixed date
another 100,000 taka	between 42 to 48 months of the fixed date
another 100,000 taka	between 48 to 54 months of the fixed date
another 100,000 taka	between 54 to 60 months of the fixed date
the rest balance	after 60 months of the fixed date

Kerb market traders demonstrate

By Staff Correspondent
The agitating kerb market traders yesterday demonstrated in front of the Dhaka Stock Exchange building protesting the circular issued by the DSE recently, asking the enlisted companies not to accept any share certificate without their "Hawala sheet."

Demanding withdrawal of the circular, the kerb market traders paraded the road in front of the DSE building and held a rally there at noon.

They raised different slogans against the DSE and also the government during the demonstration and rally for what they said creating a chaotic situation in the capital market.

The kerb market operators also gave a 72-hour time limit to the DSE authorities for settling the matter.

The rally, organised by Bangladesh Small Investors' Federation (BSIF) was addressed by among others Abdul Gafur, Ali Zaman and Moshed Kamal while BSIF President Moniruzzaman presided.

Terming the circular "illegal" the speakers demanded withdrawal of it and urged the DSE authorities to take immediate measures for bringing buoyancy in the capital market.

Meanwhile, the DSE All Share Price Index continued to fall and declined to 1434.20 points yesterday, from previous days 1474.24 points.

The market capitalisation of the bourse lost Tk 518.43 crore declining to Tk 11402.31 crore from Tk 11920.74 crore on the previous day.

Out of 14 traded issues prices of 77 dropped and only 35 gained while that of two remained unchanged.

As many as 2.98 lakh shares and debentures valued at Tk 8.70 crore changed hands during the first day of trading at its new venue. The DSE trading floor was shifted to an adjacent building yesterday.

Share trading at the new building started yesterday.

Samad, Nguyen discuss issues

Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and Vietnam at a meeting yesterday expressed the hope that the two countries would be benefited through trade and consolidating the existing friendly ties, reports BSS.

The meeting between Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam, was held at the state guest house Jamuna in the city.

Foreign Ministry sources said the two foreign ministers discussed various issues of mutual interest including trade, agriculture and industry and put emphasis on exchange of skills and experiences in these fields.

Sechchhasebak Dal body dissolved

The convening committee of BNP's front organisation Jatya-atabadi Sechchhasebak Dal has been dissolved with the consent of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, reports UNB.

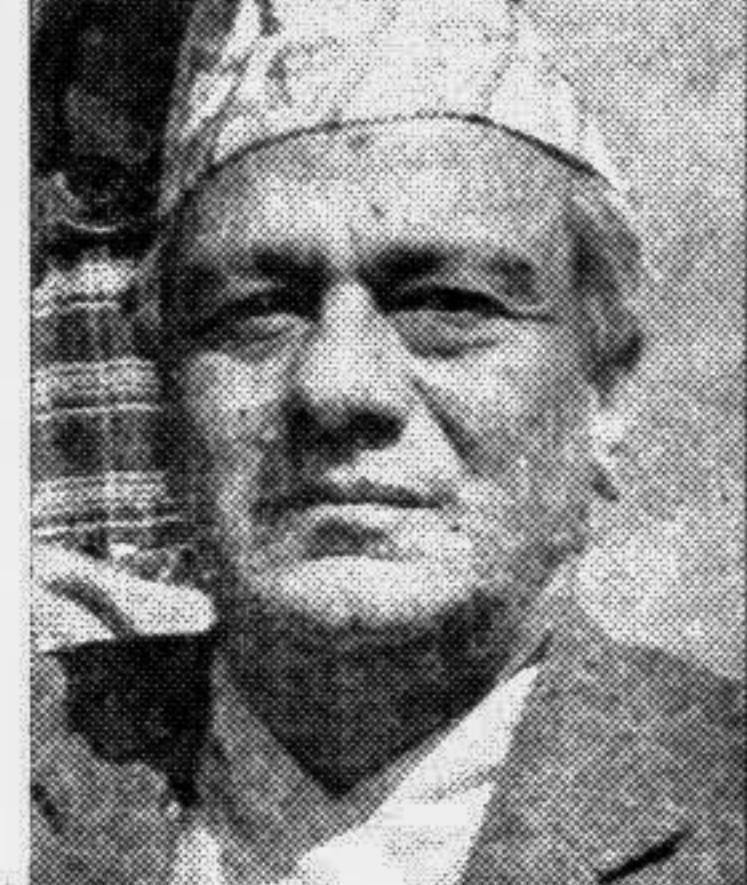
A 131-member new executive committee has been formed with Rizvi Ahmed as its president and Fazlul Huq Milon as general secretary, said a BNP press release yesterday.

According to an official handout, the other members are: Prime Minister's Adviser for Parliamentary Affairs Suranjit Sengupta MP, Deputy Minister for Shipping Dharendra Debnath Shambhu MP, Fanchanor Biswas MP, Dharendra Nath Saha, MP, Birin Sikder MP, Goutam Chakrabarty, MP, Sudhansu Sekhar Haldar, Chittarangan Kar, Anil Kumar Sarkar, Biplob Prasad, Santosh Kumar Saha, Nabo Kumar Dutta, Ranjit Kumar Chowdhury, Santosh Sharma, Tapan Chandra Majumdar, Badal Roy, Paritosh Kumar Dutta, Dr Manoranjan Rajbongshi, Ashim Kumar Ukil and Mukul Bose.

Nepalese PM

From Page 1
handed his executive powers to Nepali Congress (NC) leader Krishna Prasad Bhattarai who became interim Prime Minister.

The NDP had split into two factions, one representing the



Lokendra Bahadur Chand democratic faction led by former Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa and the other by Chand, but Lawati said the 'differences' had 'fizzled out' as Chand has become Prime Minister and all the 19 NDP MPs will cooperate with him.

Hasina

From Page 1
members were being given the maximum time for discussion on the Bills against only two minutes during the past BNP government.

Regarding the Opposition allegations that there was a trend of adjourning the House abruptly and hurriedly, the Leader of the House said since there was a state function on Sunday night, the House was adjourned before the completion of the day's order.

In the meantime, Deputy Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid who was presiding over the sitting, informed the House that there was no lack of quorum. However, as the question of quorum was raised, ruling party lawmakers were found rushing to the House from lobbyists while some Opposition BN members were seen leaving the House.

Token strike

From Page 1
a protest rally which was addressed, among others, by Sad-eur Rahman, president of the association and Shamsur Alam Bhuiyan, secretary general.

"We will go for a greater action programme, which may include an indefinite strike, if our demands are not met by March 25," said the BCDA President at the rally.

2 apex chambers

From Page 1
private sectors of both the countries and will help develop and strengthen economic and commercial relations.

The agreement consists of 12 articles in which both the parties agree to encourage, promote and facilitate effective cooperation in relation to trade, economic and industrial activities and establish effective means of communication between the companies, business organisations and members of both the parties.

Both the parties will exchange visits of delegations, trade and economic missions for the purpose of activating relationship and expanding trade and cooperation between their members, the agreement said and added that both the parties will encourage the participation of their members in international fairs and exhibitions, held in both the countries.

The agreement came into effect from yesterday, the day of signing and will remain in force for a period of two years and will be automatically extended unless revoked by either party with a six months' prior notice. Both the parties will meet at least biennially on alternate basis in Dhaka and Hanoi to review the application of the agreement.

Except 1989-90, the two-way trade since 1988-89, though still very negligible, has been always heavily in favour of Bangladesh. From 2.20 million US dollars in 1988-89, the two-way trade rose to 30.46 million dollars resulting in a balance of 23.10 million dollars in favour of Bangladesh. However, the two-way trade drastically fell to just 2.50 million dollars last year.

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Shato Nagorik Committee brought out a silent procession in the city yesterday protesting 'harassment' of educationists, professionals and service holders. — Star photo

Silent procession protesting 'govt attitude'

A large number of intellectuals and professionals yesterday brought out a silent procession in the city protesting the unethical, "undemocratic and inhuman" attitude of the government towards them, reports UNB.

Shato Nagorik Committee, a forum of one hundred citizens led by former Dhaka University VC Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, organised the procession which began from the Jatiya Press Club and culminated at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The processionists, including educationists, artists, cultural activists, journalists and lawyers, carried placards condemning the "humiliation of the noted personalities and the government's activities against the country's independence and sovereignty."

Prof Mohammad Shahjahan, Barrister Motiud Ahmed, Khandaker Mahub Uddin, Sadeq Khan, AZM Enayetullah Khan, Rezauddin Ahmed, Prof Eussuf Ali, Abu Hena, Ashkar Ibne Shaikh, Prof Tahmida Begum, Advocate Abdul Wadud Khandaker, Chashi Nazrul Islam, Amanullah Kabir, Syed Zafar, Anjumana Ara Begum, Mozammel Huq, Zahurul Huq, Dr Saïdur Rahman, Dr Jasim Uddin, Ujjal, Jubaida Gulshan Ara, Abu Saleh, Mobaidur Rahman, Dr Rezwana Siddiqui and Dr Gazi Abdul Huq joined the procession.

Trader robbed of Tk 1 lakh in city

A businessman was injured and robbed of Taka one lakh near a policebox in Mirpur of the city last night, reports UNB.

Rice trader Mobarak Hossain, 45, came under attack near the police box at Mirpur Section 14 at about 9.30 pm. He was on a motorbike, returning to his Mirpur residence from his shop at Kachukhet in Cantonment thana.

The attackers struck Mobarak on his right chest with sharp weapons and took away Taka one lakh from him. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, 'dacoits looted about Taka one lakh in cash and gold ornaments of 34 tolas worth more than Taka two lakh from a house at Humayun Road in Mohammadpur thana yesterday.

Garments worker commits suicide

From Page 1
A teenage girl allegedly committed suicide in her house at Tejgunipara in the city early yesterday.

Shikha Begum, 18, a garments worker, took poison Sunday night reportedly following a feud with her husband Kajal. She died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in the early hours of yesterday, hospital sources said quoting family members.

Shikha got married with Kajal only two months ago. But Kajal, following pressure from his parents, married another girl a few days ago.

Tejgun police said they did not have any information in this regard till last night.

Embarrassing

From Page 1
long after the arrival of the distinguished guests.

In a clear deviation from tradition, the last row tables of the Sonargaon Ball Room were reserved for some of the Vietnamese delegates.

A few days back, the FBCCI also hosted a lunch for President Ramos of the Philippines. At that time, the entire Ball Room was hired while it was squeezed yesterday for reasons best known to the hosts.

Transport strike continues in Feni

Feni, Mar 10: The indefinite transport strike passed second day today hampering the movement of motor-transport in the district, reports UNB.

Heavy transports like buses and trucks, excepting rickshaw and auto-rickshaw, were off the roads till late this afternoon. However, there was no report of untoward incident.

On Sunday, transport owners and workers gave the strike call to realise their seven-point demand, including release of some transport workers arrested from a rally of Begum Khaleda Zia at Feni on February 26.

Jurain killings

From Page 1
grand daughter Mina Khatun, 14, were killed during a violent clash between two groups of terrorists at Muradpur in Jurain under Demra thana. The rival groups known as "Sanaullah group" and "Lallu group" were fighting reportedly over gaining control of the locality.

The three arrested persons were identified as Masud, Titu and Ripon, aged between 24 and 26. Police said they were raiding different parts of Demra thana to nab the other accused.

BSS adds: Home Minister Rafiqul Islam Sunday night visited the house at Muradpur where Kanchan Bibi and Meena were killed in a crossfire.

INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF BANGLADESH

Investors' Department
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Sub: Right Share

This is for information of the respectable investors of ICB Head Office and Branch Offices that Monospool Paper Mfg Co Ltd has decided to issue Right Shares on 1:2 basis at Face Value to the share holders of the Company whose name appeared in the Company's share register on 19 December 1996. The last date for application for Right Share is 20 March 1997.

Investors interested to buy Right Shares of Bangladesh Monospool Paper Mfg Co Ltd through their accounts are requested to contact ICB Offices and submit their written purchase instructions along with required deposits by 20 March, 1997.

Assistant General Manager
Investors' Department

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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