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BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of Tejogajog Sramik Karmachari Union in the city yesterday. — Star photo

21 foreign oil cos

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Bangladesh.

The committee has no representative from the Petroleum Concession Division (PCD) of Petrobangla, which had conducted the vital part of negotiations with foreign oil companies in the past.

However there is a provision to include two more resource persons from the Petrobangla in the committee.

It was speculated earlier that the committee — whose successful negotiation will ensure signing of "healthy" Production Sharing Contracts with the foreign companies — will comprise experts and experienced resource persons from both the government and private institutions. But non-inclusion of any expert from the private sector has surprised many people.

Talking to The Daily Star, some experts clearly expressed their dissatisfaction at the structure of the negotiation committee saying that it should have had representatives from the Planning Ministry, the National Board of Revenue, different chambers and BUT.

Once negotiations are successful, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) will be signed between the government and the companies on per block per company basis. The Energy Ministry has already informed the time schedule to the 21 companies including BAPEX

Nobel Prize

From Page 1

formula for the valuation of stock options that thousands of traders and investors now use, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

"If you ask what idea in the last 50 or 60 years coming from economic research has had the biggest impact on the world, this is it," said Avinash Dixit, an economics professor at Princeton. "It's changed the way the financial markets ... allocate risks among different types of investors."

Meton's wife answered the phone at their Brookline, Massachusetts, home and said her husband was aware he had won but was out of town. Nobody answered at Scholes' home in Greenwich, Connecticut.

BNP

From Page 1

The BNP Chairperson escaped unhurt, but five policemen were injured as the truck knocked the police car escorting Begum Zia's jeep.

Another report from Pabna adds: A court will hear today the truck driver arrested on charge of dashing Khaleda Zia's car with his speedy vehicle on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway on Monday.

Shahjahan, son of Tofajal Sukonol of Rajapur village in Sadar thana, was yesterday prosecuted before the First Class Magistrate's Court and Magistrate Alkama Siddiqui fixed today for hearing the case.

The court rejected a police prayer for three-day remand for Shahjahan and he was sent to jail.

Conspiracy

From Page 1

hill tracts region, enriched with natural beauty and resources, should not be kept undeveloped. "We want to make proper utilisation of the resources."

She said, "The tribal people living in the hill tracts are our national resources. We've to ensure that their unique cultural traditions flourish."

The Prime Minister called upon the Buddhist leaders to create public opinion about the proposed peace agreement on the CHT.

Led by President of Bangladesh Buddhist Association Rakhal Chandra Barua, the delegation included, among others, Kamal Kanti Barua, Dr Sukomal Barua, Kishore Kumar Barua, Dharmarakkhit Mahasthabir and Swapan Kanti Barua.

The delegation submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister containing some problems facing the Buddhist community. The PM assured them of looking into the problems.

2 boys killed in grenade explosion

JESSORE, Oct 14: Two children were killed and another was seriously injured when an abandoned grenade exploded in Jessore cantonment area on Monday, reports UNB.

Police sources said three children of Ghatadia village adjacent to Jessore cantonment went to the Army Grenade Training Centre area to collect steel and brass sheet.

They found a grenade in the sand and started playing with it. At one stage, it exploded with a big bang.

Monirul, 12, son of Anwar Hossain, died on the spot while Mobarak, 11, son of Jahan Ali, succumbed to his wounds at the Combined Military Hospital.

Imran, 8, son of Abdullah, is undergoing treatment in the CMH.

Wolfensohn

From Page 1

Hossain Khan briefed the WB President on various aspects of government's liberalisation policy for foreign investment.

Local and foreign investors also participated in the discussion which was attended by city Mayor ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury, Mosharraf Hossain MP, Abul Kashem Master MP, Bangladesh Ambassador to South Korea Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, commissioner of Chittagong Division Shakawat Hossain, WB resident mission chief Pierre Landell-Mills and other officials of international finance corporation.

Speaking on the occasion, James D Wolfensohn said the World Bank attached highest priority to its lending activities for private investment which had increased five times in the recent years.

He said he came here to listen to the people of Bangladesh and he had plans to see the progress of various development activities in the country.

Wolfensohn showed interest to know about the existing banking system, industrial environment and government policy on trade and investment.

Wolfensohn, later, visited two factories at the EPZ. He talked to the factory workers and saw the quality of goods produced there.

UNB adds: Earlier, the World Bank President visited two Bank-aided human development programmes at Kachua thana in Chandpur district.

He was impressed seeing that the rural people are being benefited from the Female Secondary School Assistance Project (FSSAP) and the community level satellite clinic.

Khaleda

From Page 1

classes.

"Those in power are inefficient, inexperienced, and corrupt. Now they are realising that running the affairs of the government is not an easy task."

On her corruption charges, she alleged, "The country is now gripped with corruption. We're aware how kickbacks are being taken. These will be revealed in due course. They will be accountable to the people in course of time."

Turning to the new pay scale for the government employees, the Opposition Leader said, "It's nothing but a bluff. Implementation of pay scale in three years 'is ridiculous and unprecedented'."

She refuted the government's criticism of BNP for calling hartals saying "We're just following you and we do so occasionally only to protect the national interests."

Chaired by the newly-elected president of the Tejogajog Sramik Karmachari Union, Firoz Mia, the function was also addressed by former Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam and other BNP leaders including Abdullah Al Noman, Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, Amanullah Aman, MP, Barqatullah Bhulu, MP, Nazrul Islam Khan, Goyeshwar Roy, MA Quayyum, Quazi Kamaluddin and MA Majid.

Public Admin

From Page 1

Minister said they would have to be developed as the real servant of the republic through trainings.

The government officials will have to be directly involved in the nation building and economic activities," she said.

The meeting called for taking up a timely, dynamic and effective training system for developing the skills of government officials with a view to accelerating the national development.

About the promotion of government officials, the Prime Minister said promotion and posting of the officials would also be considered on the basis of their performance in the training programme.

She said the promotion criteria should also include the performance of the officials in their working areas, their involvement in economic activities and efficiency.

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam suggested formation of a monitoring cell to supervise the effectiveness of the training programmes.

Nawaz Sharif

From Page 1

During his stay in the Indian capital, the Foreign Minister also handed over an invitation letter to Prime Minister I K Gujral to attend the summit.

The heads of the government of the sub-continent are likely to hold a meeting in Dhaka on November 23. Bangladesh hosts the summit in a move to usher in a new era of cooperation among the three countries.

Dist judges

From Page 1

Jatiya Sangsad for amendment of the law. The Sangsad is scheduled to meet on November 2.

Replying to a question, the Law Secretary told The Daily Star that the High Court would continue to exercise the power to hear the revision cases. "Once the necessary amendment to the law is made, the district judges will also enjoy the jurisdiction to hear those. People would then be able to file revision petitions also to the courts of the district judges, he said."

A top official of the ministry pointed out that the district judges had earlier enjoyed the power to try revision cases over a period between 1978 and 1983.

The Law Ministry will also seek another amendment to a certain provision of a law to enable people having property worth not more than Tk 10 thousand to file a case without paying court fees.

Presently, persons having property worth not more than Tk 100 are entitled to file cases without paying court fees.

Reform of local govt bodies

Consensus of political parties suggested

Speakers at an open discussion in the city yesterday suggested consensus of all political parties for reforming the local government bodies in the country, reports UNB.

Otherwise, the successor of the present government may dissolve the elected bodies, they pointed out recalling the dissolution of Upazila Parishad in 1991.

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, a centre for research and action on environment and development, organised the discussion on 'Local Government' at its conference room in the afternoon.

Addressing the session, participants also stressed proper funding and empowerment for a people-based local government system to ensure balanced development for the poor nation.

Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon and Jatiya Party MP Abul Lais, A Mobin Chowdhury categorically criticised the planned 'Gram Parishad' system.

Menon termed the 'Gram Parishad' as anti-constitutional while Mobin Chowdhury said the Bill passed in Parliament in this regard was defective.

Both Menon and BUP Chairman Kazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad laid emphasis on considering Union Parishad as the focal point of the local government system.

Kholiquzzaman, in this regard, criticised the Local Government Commission (LGC) report which, in proposing a four-tier system, opined that no stage should be identified as focal point.

On the issue, a LGC member and former Secretary, ATM Shamsul Hoq, stressed the need for proper coordination and said that no elected body should run under another one.

Another LGC member and also a former Secretary, Kazi Azhar Ali, admitted some limitations they experienced and said they had to follow the tradition.

Regarding indirect election for 'Gram Parishad', he said they didn't prefer a formal voting for thousands of villages considering a massive expenditure.

In his presidential speech, former minister AMA Muhiht stressed the need for own income of the Local Government bodies. Police, he felt, should be brought under district council.

PM to visit Sylhet Oct 19-20

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 14: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit the Sylhet region on October 19-20, said an official of the district administration today.

She is scheduled to reach Sylhet on 19:15 am on October 19 by helicopter and formally open the newly-built Bailey bridge on the river Khowa and later address a public meeting there. The Prime Minister will visit the house and family members of late Sharif Uddin Ahmed, MP at Baniachang at 12:30 pm after addressing a public meeting at the thana headquarters of Baniachang later on the same day, the official said.

Sheikh Hasina will reach Moulibazar district headquarters at 1:20 pm by helicopter and address a public meeting arranged by the district AL. She is expected to stay the night at the Moulibazar Circuit House.

The Prime Minister is also scheduled to attend a meeting on law and order situation of Sylhet division at 8:30 am October 20 at Sylhet. She will address a public meeting arranged by the Sylhet district Awami League at 10 am at the Sylhet Government Alia Madrasah Maidan.

The Prime Minister will fly and address another public meeting at Sunamganj town in the afternoon.

Armed gang loot gold, gun from a house in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 14: An armed gang stormed into the house of a businessman and looted 20 tolas of gold ornaments and a double-barrel gun at Bandel Road under Kotwali thana last evening, police said.

Police said four terrorists had entered the house of the businessman Nesar Ahmed on the second floor of three storied building at 6 pm yesterday.

At first, one of the gang members pressed the calling bell and when the youngest son of Ahmed opened the door four armed men entered the house, police added.

The terrorists took the key of almirah at gun-point and confined the housewife and children in another room, police said.

After that the terrorists looted the gold ornaments and gun from inside the almirah and fled hurriedly, police added.

In this connection a case was filed with Kotwali thana but none was arrested so far.

FFYP: Overly ambitious

From Page 1

above the historical trend rate of growth of investment in the economy, it said.

The FFYP largely relies on increase in the national saving/GDP ratio — from 14 per cent in 1996-97 to about 19 per cent by the end of the plan — to keep projected increase in investment/GDP ratio of seven per cent target.

But the reviewers noted that all the Draft Plan has to say on the problems of private savings is, "Information will be collected and appropriate savings mobilisation strategy will be devised" which they said, "is not very convincing."

The FFYP envisages a sharp swing in private sector investment — an annual uniform growth rate of about 15 per cent in real terms from the estimated level of private investment in the base year. Saying that the proposal thrust on private sector-led growth is laudable and even possible, one would need to have a 'solid set of arguments' in the prevailing situation to convince that an enabling market environment can be created to make the private sector feel comfortable for big involvement, the report noted.

Extortion by terrorists is an important factor responsible for a feeble response of private sector investment, while political agitation is another in addition to weaknesses in financial institutions, poor infrastructure, corrupt and inefficient bureaucracy and an inadequate legal system, it pointed out.

But the Draft Plan does not provide a clear perspective on how the government will perform its facilitatory role in promoting market-based investment," the review report said.

In contrast with high targets in other sectors, export growth of the plan has been kept so modest that the reviewers doubted whether with such modest export growth the external balance can be maintained without very large real devaluation.

Although the FFYP has favoured further economic liberalisation, its policy signals are found to be ambiguous, the reviewers said. For instance, they said, the plan should have commitment not to set up new industries in the state sector when privatisation is in focus.

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Kabi Nazrul University to be established

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said that a Kabi Nazrul University would be established at Trishal in memory of the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking at a meeting of the Kabi Nazrul University Project Steering Committee of the Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum at a local community centre in Dhaka.

He said father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman brought rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam to Bangladesh and adorned him with the state honour of national poet. He said people of all walks of life would extend moral support to the establishment of a university after the name of the national poet at Trishal.

Former MP Abdur Rashid has already donated 30 bighas of land for the establishment of the varsity. The meeting was apprised that khas lands could be made available for the purpose.

Fresh remand of Ilias, Ratan, Manik sought

By Court Correspondent

The Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate will give his decision today on the police petition for fresh remand of the arrested BNP leaders Ilias Ali, Kamruzzaman Ratan and Manik yesterday.

A B M Sultan Ahmed, investigating officer of DB, prayed before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate for granting some more days remand of the three BNP leaders who were arrested by police on October 5, during the half-day barricade called by their party.

The IO prayed that the accused should be granted some more days remand for the interest of the investigation as it was required to take them outside Dhaka.

Earlier, they were placed on remand for three days in two separate cases lodged with the Tejgaon thana alleging illegal possession of arms and obstructing police from performing their duties.

CU reopens Oct 18: More police deployed

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 14: Several hundreds of additional police force have been deployed on the Chittagong University campus today ahead of reopening of dormitories on October 16.

Police force have been posted around each residential hall, official sources said.

The classes will resume on October 18.

The Chittagong University was closed since die following a bloody clash between rival student organisations that left a student dead on September 3.

Tanks rolled

From Page 1

informed us that a 'night training' was scheduled for the night.

After the 'night training' we started cleaning the ten tanks of the B Squadron under instructions from Lt Kismet Hashim. Clearing of the tanks continued till about 12:00 midnight.

At one stage the acting commanding officer of the Regiment Maj Farook came to our tank garage. Maj Farook called Lt Kismet and Risader Shamsul Huq and ordered for a fall-in of the squadron.

"When troops of my squadron had assembled for fall-in, Maj Farook, Lt Kismet and Risader Shamsul Huq came."

"Maj Farook then said, there will a tank exercise and the tanks will move out. Raise your hands whose tanks can be started. From among the troops, six raised their hands."

It was about 3:30 am when the officers and forces boarded the six tanks under instructions from Maj Farook. The tanks were brought out of the garage and kept in line on the road facing the signal gate. Maj Farook then left.

Maj Farook, accompanied by Maj Ahmed Sharful Hossain, Lt Nazmul Hossain Ansar and two other soldiers came there at around 4:00 am or 4:30 am. Maj Farook boarded the first tank, Lt Kismet Hashim boarded the next one and Maj Sharful Hossain and two others boarded the last tank.

The proceedings of the case which began at around 10:00 am yesterday continued till about 1:30 pm. The hearing will resume again at 9:30 am. Henceforth, the trial court will sit for half-day sessions on five days a week, as per an order passed by the Judge on Monday.

Earlier in the day's proceedings, cross-examination of PW-22 by the lawyers of the defence was also completed. Yesterday's proceedings were adjourned when cross-examination of PW-23 by the defence lawyers was in progress.

Union Parishad polls

From Page 1

UPs have already expired and that of the rest will expire by May next year.

District election officials along with district administration officials will decide when to hold the elections in their respective districts. To ensure effective security, on one day, elections will be held in one thana only in a district. Therefore, elections in some districts with less number of thanas will be completed earlier than in others.

CEC Mohammad Abu Hena, briefing newsmen after the meeting, said that a wide range of UP election-related matters were discussed in the meeting.

For the first time each union will have nine wards and nine general members will be elected from there. Then these nine wards would be regrouped into three wards and three female general members would be elected from these three. Previously, each union had only three wards. Delimitation of wards for the female members have already been completed, Abu Hena said.

Giving details of the arrangements for the elections, the CEC said these were still in a 'planning stage' but the EC had roughly decided what measures would be taken during the month-long polls.

Road accident

From Page 1

dents in Narsingdi and Chittagong yesterday.

Our correspondent from Narsingdi reports: A speeding bus collided head-on with a microbus at Karachar village under Shippur thana on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, killing two persons and 32 others injured.

The dead were identified as Abdur Rahim, 25, a bus staff, and Reazuddin, 27, a bus passenger.

Police said the accident occurred at around 9 am when the Dhaka-bound bus hit the Srimongol-bound microbus, and fell 15-foot into a roadside ditch while the microbus hit a tree near Velanagar bridge.

UNB adds: A road accident on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sitakundo thana left two people killed and two others seriously injured.

Police said the accident occurred as a Chittagong-bound truck rammed an autorickshaw at Madanbibrhat in the morning. Driver Abdul Malek Biswas, 40, and an unidentified passenger died on the spot.

President shocked

President Shahabuddin Ahmed has expressed deep shock at the deaths of 58 persons in a tragic road accident at Bagotia under Kalihati on Tangail-Mymensingh highway yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

In a message of condolence, President conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved families and prayed for the peace of the departed souls.

PCJSS

From Page 1

one-tenth of the land area of Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the authorities are preparing to welcome thousands of refugees from Tripura back to their homes in CHT.

The first group is expected to return on November 21 which was announced by chief of the refugees welfare committee Upendra Lal Chakma in Agartala on Sunday.

SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE AL-HAJ JAHURUL ISLAM

ON THE OCCASION OF SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE AL-HAJ JAHURUL ISLAM, CHAIRMAN, ISLAM GROUP, A MILAD MAHIL WILL BE HELD AT HIS RESIDENCE HOUSE NO. 8, ROAD NO. 72, GULSHAN-2, DHAKA ON FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER, 1997 AT 4 P. M.

ALL RELATIVES, EMPLOYEES, FRIENDS AND WELL-WISHERS OF LATE AL-HAJ JAHURUL ISLAM ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND AND PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY ALLAH FOR THE SALVATION AND ETERNAL PEACE OF THE DEPARTED SOUL.

MRS. JAHURUL ISLAM & FAMILY.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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