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Partners in Population & Development urged Develop effective mechanism for South to share experiences

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon the members of Partners in Population and Development to work together for the common future that ensures betterment of the present as well as the future generations, report agencies. He was inaugurating in the city the third annual board meeting of the Partners in Population and Development, an alliance of 10 countries including Bangladesh. The President said it was the common responsibility of all nations of the world, to work for a better and brighter future, to work for the better appreciation of the magnitude of the problem of population and development and work together towards the solution. 'Unless we do so, the 21st century will face the devastating consequences of population growth and human deprivation', he warned. The Partners in Population, he said, should work to create a more effective mechanism through which South-countries can share the wide range and depth of their experiences in the field of population and development. The partnership can promote the exchange of expertise

Gram Parishad Act '97

From Page 1 concerned. Article 59, he said, directs that local government in every administrative unit of the Republic shall be entrusted to bodies, composed of persons elected in accordance with law. The Gram Parishad Act's election procedure cannot be said as election but a new process of selecting partymen of any government as the members of the Gram Parishad, he submitted. Dr Kamal said Gram Parishad is an administrative unit within the meaning of Article 59 of the Constitution. Reading out the structure of Gram Parishad, he said to the court that the elected members of the ward in the union parishad election will be the executive chairman of Gram Parishad and nine men and three women shall be elected for the Gram Parishad seating in a general meeting by the voters of the ward under the supervision of the government authorised and empowered person. Dr Kamal said this law has not given any guideline as to how the election will be held. And in absence of any such guideline, it is deemed that the government's authorised person will select the said 12 members of the Gram Parishad at his own choice which can lead to an arbitrary selection being biased by a party government, he submitted. He said to the court that since the Election Commission is empowered by the Constitution to hold election in every tiers of the administrative unit,

Khaleda

From Page 1 the party workers on her way from Natakholia to Aricha by a ferry. She returned to Dhaka in the evening ending her 5-day tour in the northwestern region. The BNP Chairperson said the ongoing movement of her party was not to oust the government. 'It is only an issue-based movement against the anti-people, anti-sovereignty and undemocratic activities of the government.'

Referring to the Chittagong Hill Tracts issue, she alleged that the government was planning to lease out the area, rich in huge natural resources, to a neighbouring country in the name of signing a peace agreement.

Begum Zia said, 'We also want peace, we also want agreement. But it must be done within the framework of the Constitution. It must be in favour of the interests of the country and its people. They will not accept any agreement against the constitution.'

Economist

From Page 1 The advisors felt that the foreign exchange reserve position, now equivalent to 2.9 months' merchandise import, should be improved. Despite the recent devaluation of the Taka by upto 50 paise, the reserve level is still at 1.6 billion dollars. There should be a minimum reserve target although it is difficult to set a definite level because there is no direct control on imports, the meeting observed. The meeting also pointed out that there is a big gap between the export figure provided by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and the actual receipt and observed that this should be addressed for getting the exact level of foreign exchange reserves at any time.

Bid for Baghabari plant

From Page 1 day. It did not even submit any withdrawal letter. 'This is clearly a no-confidence signal from the private power companies to the on-going bidding processes in the country's energy sector,' said a source. 'In fact, we are now not sure if new private power companies would come here if we called a fresh bid.' These withdrawals have put the whole bidding process for the Baghabari project in limbo. Without participation of at least three companies, the bidding requires to be postponed on the ground of 'lack of competition.' However, there was no decision yesterday to cancel the current bidding. Moreover, the technical officers of the remaining two companies - Unocal and Midland - were not 'complete,' the sources said. The two participants also expressed their surprise at the sudden withdrawal of their competitors, they added. Officials of the Power Cell were depressed yesterday following the sudden development. The Power Cell was created two years ago to deal with private power generation in the country. The sources said that these withdrawals were consequences of 'illogical' delay by the Energy Ministry and the Bangladesh Power Development Board in finalising the bidding for the 350 mw Haripur plant and the 300 mw to 450 mw Meghnaghat Power Plant.

Nasaka kidnaps 6 Bangladeshis

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 17: Myanmar border security force 'Nasaka' abducted six Bangladeshi woodcutters from 39 number border pillar area in Naikkhongchhari of the district yesterday, reports UNB. The abducted were identified as Ali Ahmed, 35, Kashed Ali, 50, Hosen Ali, 16, Mohammad Kalu, 40, Amir Ali, 18, and Jafar Alam, 41. They hail from Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts.

Zero-tariff

From Page 1 nomic benefit from mutual cooperation. 'In fact that is going to be focal point of discussion during the summit,' he said. Tofael was addressing a press conference at the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh at the end of his week-long visit here. He said Bangladesh wished to integrate its economy with the global economy and has started the process of globalisation. 'The economy is being liberalised and we are giving top-most priority to foreign and domestic investment in infrastructure sectors.'

He noted that all the major political parties in his country, including the main opposition party, were in agreement on liberalisation. 'In fact,' he said, 'if we can separate economy and politics, which we are trying to achieve, Bangladesh can double its exports and become one of the most economically powerful country in the region.'

Students attack NU employees

GAZIPUR, Nov 17: Four people, including two employees of the National University, were injured when a group of students attacked them in the administrative building of the university today, reports UNB. Police said a group of students of Tongi College attacked the employees as they prevented them from entering a room of the building this noon. Three of the injured were identified as Towhid and Malek, employees of the university, and Jasim, a member of Ansar.

Ctg BCU leader tortured by Shibir activists

CHITTAGONG, Nov 17: A local leader of Bangladesh Chhatra Union was critically injured as he was tortured allegedly by Chhatra Shibir activists in the city today, reports UNB. Police said a group of Shibir men picked up Shagota Dhar Titu, the district unit general secretary of BCU, at gun point from Sholahshahar in the morning. They confined him in a building at Chakbazar and beat him up severely. As he cried out for help, local people rushed to spot and rescued Shagota. He was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

FM: Business Summit

From Page 1 visit to Bangladesh and leave in the evening of November 25. The foreign minister did not specify the agenda for bilateral discussions with the Pakistan premier but said 'it could cover normal bilateral relations.' Newsz Sharif, he said, will also visit the Sundarbans on November 25. The prime ministers of Pakistan and India will separately call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The one-day Summit will be divided into three sessions. The summit will propose to achieve. 'These are: a) Close interaction among the private sectors and the governments of the three countries which would enable mutual understanding of the view points and challenges faced by each as the region tries to integrate along a multitude of dimensions. b) The Summit will provide an opportunity to review economic policies of the three countries, to discuss ways and means of increasing trade, promoting joint ventures and investment and setting up institutional and other linkages among the three countries to increase economic cooperation. c) The interaction between the business communities and governments will send a clear and unconditional signal to the international community about the strength and resolve of the governments of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan to match investment opportunities and incentives offered to foreign investors.'

Samad Azad said that the idea of the Three-Nation Business Summit was put forward by Sheikh Hasina during the Male Summit of SAARC heads of state and government. She extended an invitation to the prime ministers of India and Pakistan to join her in launching 'this initiative to encourage business, trade and investment in the region.'

400 taking part in confce on mental retardation

The week-long 13th Asian Conference on Mental Retardation, which was inaugurated in the city by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday, is being attended by 400 delegates, including 150 from Asia-Pacific and Europe, reports UNB. The delegates in the conference are leaders of their respective institutions, eminent scholars, professors, doctors and lawyers, conference organisers said yesterday. It was erroneously reported that the conference is being held for the first time in the country with representation on the 400 disabled persons, including 150 from different Asian countries. The foreign minister out-

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Bangabandhu Murder Case

I turned down Maj Rashid's request, PW-41 tells court

Major Khandaker Abdur Rashid tried to involve the 16 East Bengal Regiment posted at Joydevpur in the August 15 incident, said a prosecution witness in Bangabandhu Murder Case yesterday, reports UNB. The 41st prosecution witness of the case, Brig Shahjahan, told the court that Major Rashid requested and even insisted him to go to New Airport with his troops by road march for night training. 'We were in training at Joydevpur, but we didn't have any permission for road march so I turned down his request,' said the PW who was then a Major and the acting Commanding Officer of the 16 East Bengal Regiment in the absence of CO Lt Col Chowdhury Khalequzaman. He said Major Rashid, during the ambush demonstration of 16 East Bengal at Joydevpur, requested him first at 11 am on August 14 to go to New Airport by road march for night training. 'Dost (friend), you have insulted me. I made a request and without keeping that you informed the senior officers of it,' the witness quoted Major Rashid as saying in his office room. 'Major Rashid again made the same request and I turned it down. He then left my office ignoring my offer for a cup of tea.' Shahjahan said Major Rashid, who was his course mate, rang him up at his Joydevpur residence before Magreb prayers on the same day (August 14) and made the same request. 'In reply, I said I am sorry, I can't join a programme for which I don't have the permission.' He said after sometime Col Shafat Jamil telephoned him and wanted to know whether he could come back dismantling his troops who joined the ambush demonstration. 'The PW said he told Jamil that he could come back with one third of his troops and materials (arms, vehicles etc.) and another day would be needed to bring back the rest of the troops and materials. 'As I again spoke of Rashid's request the 46 Brigade Commander asked me not to go and to continue the training programme as far as possible.' Jamil further directed him to continue dismantling his troops till 10 pm and do the remaining the next morning, the witness said. At about 8 am on August 15, the witness said, Lt Rouf came to Joydevpur from Dhaka carrying a chit from 46 Brigade headquarters. In that chit, the witness said, Col Shafat Jamil wrote to him that as CO Lt Col Chowdhury Khalequzaman was on leave Lt Col Amin Ahmed Chowdhury was given the charge of the CO of 16 East Bengal regiment and this was done with the concurrence of the Chief of Army Staff.

Govt, staff of Trust newspapers discuss problems

By Staff Correspondent A meeting between a government team, headed by the Communication Minister, and the journalists and employees of the Dainik Bangla and the Bangladesh Times yesterday discussed the problems of the two newspapers, closed down recently. According to a press release issued by Nirmal Sen, an assistant editor of the Dainik Bangla and former president of BFUJ, the government side was represented by Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju, State Minister for Jute Faezul Huq, State Minister for Information Abu Sayeed and Chairman of the parliamentary committee on the Information Ministry Abul Kalam Azad. Besides Nirmal Sen, Zahurul Huq and Mojammel Huq represented the journalists and employees of the two newspapers. The discussions took place in an 'atmosphere of understanding'. The meeting was adjourned till 3 pm Wednesday, the release added. It said in the interest of the discussions and on request from all, the 'fast unto death' by Nirmal Sen beginning today has been postponed.

BNP stand unfortunate, says Hasina

JHIKARGACHHA (Jessore), Nov 17: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here today accused the opposition of pushing the country towards unrest by opposing the CHT peace process and continuously boycotting the parliament, reports UNB. 'Do not spread any more falsehood... people want peace, don't push the country towards unrest,' she urged the opposition while addressing a huge public meeting at the local BM High School ground. The Prime Minister said a peace agreement on the Chittagong Hill Tracts is going to be signed shortly with the tribal leaders to establish permanent peace in the troubled region. 'But it is unfortunate that the opposition party are opposing the peace.'

BCL leader

From Page 1 killing could not be known immediately. However, Ripon's friends and local people alleged that the young man was killed as he was protesting the unlawful activities of a local gang of extortionists. Meanwhile, Khulna city and district units of the BCL jointly called a day-long strike in Daulatpur town to protest the killing tomorrow. Besides, the agitated students and BCL activists put up barricade on the Khulna-Jessore highway at Daulatpur following the murder. Police and witnesses said the gunman shot Ripon when he and about five of his friends were taking tea at the stall. The unidentified gunman came in an engine boat from the other side of the river. The gang of about six people jumped off the boat and encircled the stall. Within seconds they opened fire on Ripon's head and he fell down on the ground. The attackers fled away with the engine boat. Ripon's body was sent to Khulna General Hospital morgue for autopsy. Son of Harun-ur-Rashid Bhuiyan of Gopalganj, Ripon was a resident of a BL College hostel. Police said none was arrested in connection with the killing till late tonight.

Albright in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Nov 17: US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrived here late today on a visit delayed about 24 hours by escalating tensions between Iraq and the United States, reports AFP.

Two shot dead in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent CHUADANGA, Nov 17: Two brothers were shot dead and another person was critically injured by some unidentified persons in Dauki village in Chuadanga thana last night, police said. The gunmen called the two brothers, Ayef Ali (60) and Rabul (55) and Jakir out of their houses and shot them. The two brothers died on the spot. The injured person was admitted to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital and the bodies were taken there for autopsy. A case was filed with Alamdanga thana but none was arrested.

Armed forces

From Page 1 the life of Bangabandhu on the black night of August 15, 1975. Earlier, at the Shaheed Captain Abdul Hamid Khan parade ground of the Signal Training Centre and School, the Prime Minister reviewed a smartly turned-out parade, conducted by Lt Col Mohammad Khurshid Alam and took salute at the impressive march past. On her arrival at the parade ground, Hasina was received by Chief of Army Staff Lt General Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, the new Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Signals Maj General Abu Kaisar Fazlul Kabir and the STSC Commandant Brig Manzurul Alam. The Prime Minister then addressed the 'Darbar' at the Cantonment, attended by the serving and retired officers and other ranks and members of the Corps, and the members of the Shaheed families of the Signal Corps. She said discipline has been restored and chain of command established in the armed forces during the rule of this government. 'We do not want any bloodshed in the army, nor to sack any innocent armyman as had happened before during the post-75 periods,' Hasina said. The Prime Minister said a vested quarter has spread a lot of propaganda against her government to create confusion and called upon the armymen to remain alert against such evil designs.

Sharif

From Page 1 Sharif, their heads covered in traditional scarf, read verses from the Koran, invoking divine assistance. At the end of the three-hour hearing, Sharif's supporters threw stones at police, who beat back the crowd with their sticks. Several policemen were hurt from flying stones. Sharif sat in the packed courtroom, while his lawyer read his statement apologizing to the Supreme Court if his remarks offended the judiciary, but adding that it was his job as prime minister to keep the country informed. The charge followed Sharif's public condemnation several weeks ago of Pakistan's Chief Justice after the two men fought over appointments to the Supreme Court. In the end the Chief Justice won and Sharif appointed five new judges to the Supreme Court expanding the bench from 12 to 17. Sharif wanted only three additional judges appointed to the bench. Along with Sharif several senior politicians and newspaper editors who carried the prime minister's remarks also will answer contempt charges. They too contested the charge. Sharif has accused his enemies of trying to destabilize his nine-month-old government, although he didn't name them.



Abdus Samad Azad Inaugural session will start at 11 am, chaired by Sheikh Hasina. All the three prime ministers will address the session. Leaders of the business delegations will also make presentations at the session. The inaugural will be followed by a luncheon and two working sessions. Samad Azad will preside over these sessions. The Foreign Affairs, Finance and Commerce ministers of the three countries, who would also attend the Summit, will address the working sessions. Leaders of business and industry will also speak. Participating ministers from the three countries may also respond to suggestions and queries from the business delegations, Samad said. There would be a closing session where the Joint Declaration of the Summit will be adopted. The draft of the declaration was earlier discussed at a three-nation official meeting held earlier in Islamabad. A press conference will be held after the Summit and a dinner will be hosted by the FBCCI. Samad said, 'We hope to decide on follow-up mechanisms so that we can really benefit from the initiative we have taken.'

বিদ্যুৎ ঘাটতি মোকাবিলায় সহযোগিতা করুন
সরকার পিক আওয়ারে আবাসিক গ্রাহকদের সুবিধার্থে সাময়িকভাবে কিছু সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করেছেন।
বর্তমান বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবস্থায় অতিরিক্ত পরিমাণ বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন সংযোজিত না হওয়া পর্যন্ত এসব সিদ্ধান্ত কার্যকর থাকবে। এ ব্যাপারে সহযোগিতা প্রদানের জন্য সম্মানিত বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকদের অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
● সেচ কাজ এবং নবনির্মিত শিল্প-কারখানা, সরকারী অফিস ও ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠান ব্যতীত অন্য কোন স্থানে বিদ্যুতের নতুন সংযোগ দেয়া স্থগিত থাকবে।
● মার্গরিবের আযানের সময় থেকে রাত ১১ টা পর্যন্ত সেচ পাম্পে বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ বন্ধ রাখুন।
● মার্গরিবের আযানের সময় থেকে রাত ১১টা পর্যন্ত সকল প্রকার ওয়েল্ডিংয়ের কাজ এবং আবাসিক পানির পাম্প বন্ধ রাখুন।
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