

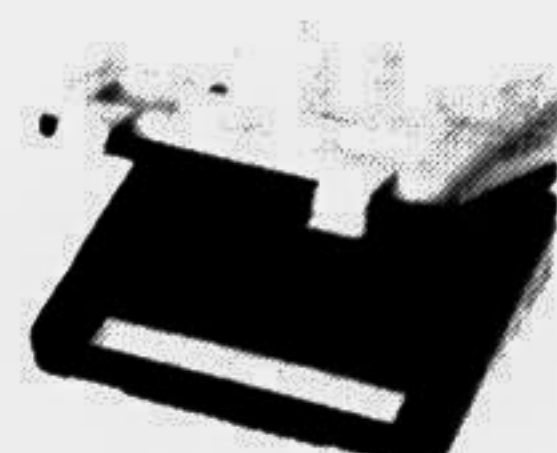
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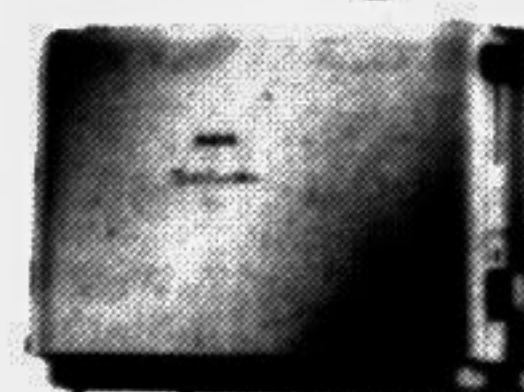
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PHILIPS

Hasina attends luncheon by Khatami

TEHRAN, Dec 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today attended a luncheon hosted by President Seyyed Mohammad Khatami in honour of the visiting heads of government and state at a city hotel, reports BSS.

Meanwhile, Crown Prince of Jordan Hassan Bin Tallal made a courtesy call on Sheikh Hasina at the conference centre this afternoon.

Sheikh Hasina referred to the excellent investment climate in Bangladesh and said Jordan could avail the opportunity to the common benefit of the two peoples.

Hasina also pointed out that Jordan could employ skilled and semi-skilled people from Bangladesh in his country. She invited the Prince to visit Bangladesh.

The Crown Prince accepted the invitation and said he would pay a visit to Bangladesh sometime next year.

'Sink differences for country's development'

TEHRAN, Dec 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the people to sink their differences and contribute to the development of the country, reports BSS.

Speaking at a reception hosted in her honour by the Bangladesh ambassador to Tehran, Syed Muazzem Ali last night, Sheikh Hasina said "we all have our views on various issues, but we should sink all differences for the sake of development, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh."

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and ambassador Syed Muazzem Ali also spoke.

The Prime Minister said that the objective of her government is to establish hunger and poverty-free society.

Sheikh Hasina said in the past 17 months her government has solved a number of problems including historic water agreement with India and the peace accord on Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Turning to terrorism, she said "I cannot claim to have contained terrorism 100 per cent," but it has been significantly reduced. She said the opposition BNP was causing hindrances to curbing terrorism in the country.

Sangskritik Jote

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tural Affairs Obaidul Kader, poet Shamsur Rahman and Syed Hasan Imam will be present as special guests.

Gulam Qudus, the coordinator of the programmes will deliver the address of welcome and Hasan Arif will read out the declaration. Asaduzzaman Noor and Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu will address the opening function.

Programmes will also be held at the Bakultala of the Fine Arts Institute. Poet Nasima Sultana Abruti Munch, Sarat Deep, Ranesh Dasgupta, Lokoja Munch, northern corner of the mazar of three leaders, Shams Irani Film Munch, playground of the Dhaka University and Shambhu Mitra Natya Munch.

Besides, patriotic songs, dances, poetry recitation, and performances by the artists of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra will take place at the central Shaheed Minar.

Display of the documents on Liberation War and a photography exhibition will be held at the TSC. A folk fair and book exhibition will also be organised on the footpath in front of the Bangla Academy.

Share scam

From Page 1
and Barrister Rafiqul Huq had argued that the proceedings against them were drawn without proper authorisation of Section 25 of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969. The arrest warrants were issued instead of summons, without applying the judicial mind of the Magistrate, they argued.

The HC held that there was substantial compliance of Section 25 of the Ordinance and cognizance was properly taken. Moreover, the enquiry committee report, pursuant to Section 21 of the Ordinance, satisfied the requirement of Section 25 of the Ordinance and ruled that the proceedings should continue against the accused.

Attorney General K S Nabi, appearing for the state argued that the reference was incompetent under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Dr M Zahir assisted by Dr A K M Ali and Barrister Khaled Hamid Chowdhury appeared on behalf of the SEC. Advocate Serajul Huq and Barrister Rafiqul Huq appeared for the accused.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on former Iranian President Akbar Hashmi Rafsanjani in Tehran on Monday. — PID photo

OIC summit opens in Tehran Khamenei blasts US, calls to liberate Palestine

TEHRAN, Dec 9: Iran's paramount leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei opened the eighth Islamic Summit here today with a rallying call for the liberation of Palestine and a fiery blast at the United States, reports AFP.

"Until now it is the enemy which has the initiative and we have only ourselves to blame," Khamenei told representatives of the 55 members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"The enemy has set itself up on the land of Palestine armed settlers, divided Arab land and annexed territory from Jordan, Egypt and Syria," said Khamenei.

"Only the youth of Palestine and Lebanon have been fighting with all their power," he told the largest international gathering in Iran in the 18-year history of the Islamic Republic.

Khamenei, who replaced the founder of the 1979 Iranian Revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as leader in 1989, labelled the Middle East peace process "unjust, humiliating and illogical".

And he fired an angry broadside at the United States — blaming Washington for blackening the international reputation of Iran and working in cahoots with Israel.

"Peace in return for land that is a surprise. That means that the Zionists will give back

the occupied land to keep Palestine," he said.

"Is there anything more unjust than this? It is a joke," Khamenei said referring to the principle of land-for-peace which underpins the US-backed Arab-Israeli peace process.

"The enemy propaganda is trying to tarnish the image of Islam...the Zionists and above all, the United States are behind this campaign, the ones who have suffered the biggest losses from our revolution," he said.

Throughout he stressed the summit's theme of Islamic unity, saying the Muslim World should coordinate to shape the future of the planet and defeat the corrupt culture of the West.

"The culture of the civilisation of the West is pushing the world towards materialism, money, gluttony and lust are become the highest values," he said.

But Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, who addressed delegates shortly afterwards, struck a much more conciliatory tone towards the West.

"It is necessary to know the West, there are so many positive achievements by the Western world that non-westerners can learn from," said Khatami, a moderate who won a surprise landslide victory in May elections.

"There is a difference be-

tween Islamic civilisation and Greco-Roman, but no conflict...we should be open to other points of view."

But on Israel he echoed the tough tone of Khamenei.

"Israel has a bellicose, racist and terrorist nature, and its search for weapons of mass destruction is a threat to regional stability," he said.

Mobile courts to check plying of illegal rickshaws

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka City Corporation and DMP jointly introduced mobile courts yesterday to check the movement of illegal rickshaws and rickshaw vans in the city for easing traffic jam.

Headed by first class magistrates, the courts would be conducted every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. The illegal rickshaws will be seized and confiscated, said a DCC press release.

Meanwhile, the DCC has requested all concerned to stop plying of non-motorised vehicles, including rickshaws, in the Motijheel, Dilkusha and DIT Avenue areas from 8 am to 6 pm.

Classes at Ideal School begin

By Staff Correspondent

Classes and other activities of the city's Ideal School and College are going well under the direction of its governing body chairman Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, says a press release issued by Md Mizanur Rahman, the institution's caretaker, yesterday.

The press release adds: a meeting of the teachers and employees of the institution yesterday condemned violent activities by some people under the banner of 'Avibhavak Forum' and urged the forum leaders to be restrained from such activities.

The meeting, attended by 149 teachers, welcomed the recent decision of abolishing donation system, the release added.

JASSAS pandal

From Page 1

them the right hold the programme.

"We strongly protest and condemn such activities," he said and regretted their inability to organise the victory festival due to non-cooperation from the government.

He, however, hoped that the government would reconsider the decision to clear the way for holding the JASSAS programme.

Bhuiyan said the government, which claims the sole credit of the liberation war, is not allowing people to celebrate the Victory Day festival.

JASSAS President Rezabuddin Chowdhury said they got the permission from the PWD on December 4 to hold the programme at the 'Satayur Angan'.

After getting the permission, he said, they had completed all preparations, including decoration and setting up of pandal with space for more than 100 stalls.

But the PWD yesterday sent a letter to the JASSAS cancelling its earlier permission following a decision of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police not to allow holding of the festival on grounds of law and order.

In the evening, a police team from Ramna thana, led by the OC, came to the festival venue at Ramna Park and dismantled the pandal. Rezabuddin Chowdhury told the press briefing.

Newsman's income tax: SC stays HC judgement

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court stayed the operation of the impugned judgement and the orders of the High Court passed on August 14 in a writ petition till January 20, 1998 net declaring payment of income tax liable on the wages in the different groups of journalists and newspaper employees as awarded by the Wage Board to have been made without lawful authority, reports BSS.

The writ petition was filed by Barrister Moinul Hossain and others.

The Appellate Division passed the order on December 2 on the prayer made by the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) represented by its president, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury by filing civil misc petition.

The Supreme Court also fixed the hearing of the petition on the same date.

Boy hurt while making bombs

By DMC Correspondent

A teenage boy was injured while making bombs at Mohajpur Lane under Sutrapur thana in the city yesterday morning.

On receiving information, police reached the spot and arrested Sumon aged about 16.

They took him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Oil giants

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Unocal on Dec 18, French company Total and US company Niko Resources on Dec 19.

Meanwhile, donors and diplomats continued to express their deep concern on the transparency of the bidding process, the sources said. It was alleged that the process was unfavourable to some big US oil and gas companies like Mobil or Chevron-Texaco, the source added.

It was further learnt that the Investment Committee which guides the Negotiation Committee is divided over the policy so far followed in the negotiations.

Sources said that the Energy Secretary, a member of the four members Investment Committee, was criticised by the other members at a meeting last week. As a result, convenor of the committee, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, sought advice from the Prime Minister last week on the guidelines for negotiation. The Prime Minister then asked the committee to invite all the companies to the negotiation table.

Twenty foreign companies and the local BAPEX are participating in the second round block bidding for oil and gas exploration in Bangladesh.

World HR Day

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to observe the day.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion.

In observance of the day, Sammitilo Manobadhikar Parishad has drawn up a day-long programme.

The programme includes poster exhibition, video show at Central Shaheed Minar and candle-light procession from in front of the National Museum at 6 pm. The procession will go to Central Shaheed Minar via Press Club.

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonoy Parishad will bring out a procession from Central Shaheed Minar to the National Press Club at 8:30 am. The parishad will also hold a seminar at 3:30 pm at the Children's auditorium of National Museum.

CEDAW Forum, Bangladesh will hold a discussion at 3 pm at UNIC conference room at House No 60, Road No 11a, Dhanmondi.

DSE broker

From Page 1

sion of the broker's trade licence followed an investigation. The decision was communicated to the DSE yesterday.

"There is a provision for appeal to the SEC. If the decision of the appellate board goes against him, the temporary ban may become a permanent one," the source said.

According to DSE officials, the bourse is bound to comply with SEC's decision and cannot allow the suspended broker to trade on the floor.

"The member will not be allowed to trade on the floor from tomorrow (Wednesday) until further notice from SEC," a DSE councillor said yesterday.

Hemayet Uddin Ahmed could not be reached for his comment.

A source close to him claimed that the investor had been informed of the purchase but did not turn up to receive the share certificates on the appointed date. When the prices fell, he refused to accept the purchases and went to the SEC, according to the source.

In two such cases earlier, the SEC only imposed monetary fines on brokers found guilty.

Ban on new power connections goes

Facing severe criticism from different quarters, the government has lifted a restriction on new connections of electricity, imposed last month to ease the loadshedding situation, reports UNB.

Official sources said the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has asked the authorities concerned to withdraw the restriction on new power connection across the country.

Earlier, the PMO in a letter on November 9 requested the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources to ask the agencies concerned to postpone new electricity connections barring three categories from November 20.

The three categories, out of some one dozen types of electricity subscribers, exempted from the restriction were new industrial units, irrigation and government offices, the officials said.

The PMO also suggested

some measures along with the restriction to ease the loadshedding which often goes as high as 500 megawatt, about one-fourth of the country's total requirement of electricity.

However, a potential slump in the housing industry, resulting from the sudden control of new power connection, prompted the PMO to rethink over its earlier decision aimed at tackling the nagging power crisis.

The PMO issued another letter on December 7 announcing that the restriction on new electricity connections has been withdrawn with immediate effect, the officials, seeking anonymity, told UNB yesterday.

"We had nothing to do with the restriction. It was the Prime Minister's Office who imposed the restriction. And again it was the same office who lifted it," said one official of the Energy Ministry.



Police dispersed Zaker Party activists demonstrating against the CHT accord in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Zaker Party supporters clash with police: 30 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

At least 30 people were injured when supporters of Zaker Party clashed with police near the Zero Point in the city yesterday afternoon.

Zaker Party in a press release last night, however, claimed that one of its activists, Moazzem Hossain, who was injured in the incident later died in hospital.

Moazzem, general secretary of the Party's Savar Thana unit was fatally injured in a bomb blast. He died at Enam Clinic at Savar, the press release said.

The Zaker Party press release alleged that the trouble began when some people came from Awami League's Bangladesh Avenue office and attacked a Zaker Party procession when it was proceeding towards the Golap Shah Mazar.

The procession was on its way to the Bangabhaban to submit a memorandum to the President protesting the peace accord on Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Police said the trouble began as some processionist started damaging vehicles.

Police lobbed tear gas shells and used batons to disperse the processionists.

At least ten vehicles were damaged.

New 10-taka note from tomorrow

Bangladesh Bank will issue a new 10-take note from its head office tomorrow on the occasion of the Victory Day, says UNB.

The note will subsequently be released from other branches of the central bank, said a press release yesterday.

PM: Vote of thanks

From Page 1

illuminating address, she said. The Prime Minister said the Asian member states of the OIC are in complete support of President Khatami's call for the urgent need of unified action for solving the problems faced by the member states.

Sheikh Hasina supported President Khatami's call for establishing the OIC as a strong, vibrant and dynamic organisation geared to confront the challenges of the coming century.

Paying rich tributes to the leadership of the OIC Chairman Khatami, Sheikh Hasina said, "We have appreciated Iran's positive and generous contributions in strengthening the role of the OIC since its inception."

She expressed thanks to the friendly people of Iran for their warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the members.

President Hafez Al-Asad of Syria and President, Abdou

Shop owner stabbed to death

By Staff Correspondent

A shop owner was stabbed to death by a gang of extortionists on Mazar Road in the city's Mirpur area on Monday night.

The dead was identified as Motaieb Kazi, 50.

A resident of Shah Alibagh, Motaieb ran a grocery shop on Mazar Road.

Police said at about 10 pm, a gang of about ten youths demanded money from Motaieb. As he refused to pay them money, the gang stabbed him in his abdomen.

25 hurt as JCD, BCL clash at Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Dec 9: Rival Chhatra League (S-P) and Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal activists clashed here today, leaving 25 people injured and ransacking the local press club and five houses, reports UNB.

BDR personnel were deployed in the town this evening to fend off further trouble.

The clash took place throughout the hill town after Abdul Mannan, Rangamati College unit general secretary of JCD, was manhandled on Sunday.

Polls violence

From Page 1

police. In Feni, at least 20 people, including two policemen were injured in polls-related clashes at eight centres in Sonagazi thana of the district today.

The injured policemen were identified as SI Abdul Rahim and constable Abu Bakar Siddique.

Witnesses said the supporters of rival candidates locked in clashes at the centres in Chardabesh, Charnajishpur and Matigaon unions during the elections.

They exploded crackers, snatched ballot boxes at one of the centres.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports, at least 10 persons were injured in polls-related clashes under Trishal thana of the district today. Voting in two polling centres in two union parishads out of 13 was postponed due to clashes.

EC orders

From Page 1

viewed law and order in the UP constituencies.

Chaired by the CEC, the meeting was attended by, among others, two Election Commissioners, Secretary of the Election Commission, Home Secretary, Inspector General of Police, Chief of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Chief of the Ansar and Village Defence Force (VDF) and the Director General of Defence Forces Intelligence.

At least 8 persons have so far been killed and elections in 204 centres cancelled due to incidents of violence involving supporters of rival candidates.

The meeting was informed that more than one thousand illegal firearms and 1264 rounds of bullet were recovered since November 1.

Meanwhile, polling in 21 centres out of 1609 in 175 unions were cancelled yesterday due to electoral violence.

Polling centres

From Page 1

The Election Commission managed to summon a wide range of government officials — bank manager to headmaster — to act as polling officials.

"The polling materials are of very low quality," said a polling official showing broken marking seals, knives (cutters), sealing wax and the official seal.

Officials at all the centres visited by this correspondent complained of the poor quality of the materials.

Near the madrassah, a large number of female voters queued up under the eyes of armed policemen. Mobile teams of security men arrived at frequent intervals. By 11 am, 500 out of 1,863 voters of the centre had already cast their votes.

At Upashahar Club centre, under Upashahar Union, BNP-backed candidate for chairmanship Mizanur Rahman Khan stood with the voters with an umbrella — his election symbol — in drizzles experienced by this border district town all day.

Dressed in a black suit, Khan said he was very hopeful of victory. Asked how much money he had spent for campaigning, he replied, "I paid up Tk 30,000 bank liability, more spent roughly Tk 30,000 on leaflets and other things."

A substantial percentage of the 1.77 lakh voters in 11 unions under Sadar thana cast their votes in the elections.

The District Election Officer said in the evening that voting at a centre for women in Ramnagar Union was suspended following intrusion by outsiders. "Otherwise there is no report of any disturbance." By the time we receive the results it will be late," he added.