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Sharif to join
three-nation
summit if
convened

TEHRAN, Dec 10: Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the conference centre yesterday evening, reports BSS.

Sharif, now attending the summit, thanked the Prime Minister Hasina for her thoughtful vote of thanks at the summit on behalf of the Asian group.

Sharif expressed regret for not being able to attend the three-nation summit in Bangladesh due to his country's internal problems. He said he would join the summit when it is convened.

Sharif said that the three-nation economic summit would help develop the socio-economic condition of the people living in the Sub-continent.

Hasina's meetings
with Kuwaiti
Emir, Arafat

TEHRAN, Dec 10: Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Sabah, now attending the OIC summit, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Hafezi Conference Centre here yesterday, reports BSS.

The two leaders called for strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries. They also resolved to work for further developing the fraternity of the Islamic Ummah.

Sheikh Hasina referred to the presence of Bangladesh Army personnel in the peace-keeping forces in Kuwait and said Bangladesh was ready to send more troops, if needed.

The Emir praised the role of the Bangladesh Army in maintaining peace and in sweeping mines in Kuwait.

The Amir extended an invitation to Sheikh Hasina to visit Kuwait. The Prime Minister also invited Sheikh Jaber Al-Sabah to pay a visit to Bangladesh. The Emir accepted the invitation and said he was looking forward to visiting Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.

Also at the conference centre, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Palestine President Yasser Arafat had a meeting last night.

Arafat thanked Sheikh Hasina for her speech at the summit. He also referred to his visit to Dhaka during the silver jubilee celebrations of Independence. He wished every success of the Bangladesh people under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

Sheikh Hasina wished continuous peace for the people of Palestine and success in their struggle against all oppressions.

Three presiding
officers held

Three presiding officers have been arrested and suspended for two months from their services by the Election Commission, an EC press release said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

They were Habibur Rahman, family planning officer and presiding officer of Binnakuli Government Primary School polling centre, Khurshed Alam, assistant thana education officer and presiding officer of Sohala Primary School, polling centre of Tahirpur thana under Sunamganj district and Abdul Karim, Inspector of Krishibank, and presiding officer of Kurukpata polling centre of Alukdara under Bandarban district thana.

Pro-BNP, pro-Jamaat panels share posts in IUTA polls

KUSHTIA, Dec 10: The election of the Islamic University Teachers' Association (IUTA) was held today, reports BSS.

BNP-backed White Panel and pro-Jamaat-e-Islami Green Panel have shared the posts of the executive committee.

Dr Musharraf Hossain of white panel and M Sarwar Jahan of green panel were elected president and general secretary respectively.

Of the 15 executive posts, BNP-backed panel bagged 8, including vice-president, joint secretary and treasurer while pro-Jamaat got 7 posts with 6 executive members.

Shapla panel jointly backed by Bangabandhu Parishad and progressive minded teachers did not get any post in the election.

Some 143 voters out of 161 cast their votes from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Meanwhile, the University authorities have postponed all the examinations scheduled for tomorrow due to unavoidable circumstances.

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

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A BNP procession at Nayabazar in the city yesterday protesting the CHT accord.

—Star photo

Khatami offers help for economic cooperation

TEHRAN, Dec 10: Iranian President and Chairman of the 8th Islamic Summit Seyyed Mohammad Khatami met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the conference centre here this morning, reports BSS.

Khatami congratulated Khatami for holding such a big conference. She also thanked the President for his excellent speech which she found very encouraging and full of useful suggestions for the Islamic Ummah.

He said leader of Sarbadala Oikya Parishad Abdul Odud Bhuiyan has been missing since Tuesday night. He was either arrested or abducted, Bhuiyan alleged.

The BNP leader further alleged that at least 50 people were injured in attacks by police and terrorists while some seven people were arrested at Rangamati.

The press briefing was attended, among others, by K M Obaidur Rahman and Mir Shawkat Ali.

President Khatami agreed to consider this suggestion.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, foreign secretary Mostafizur Rahman and Bangladesh Ambassador to Iran Syed Muazzam Ali were present.

ALCWC meets today

An emergency meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will be held at its central office at the Bangabandhu Avenue at 6 pm today, reports BSS.

Acting president of the party, Amir Hossain Amu will preside over the meeting, a party press release said last night. Members of the ALCWC have been requested to attend the meeting on time.

A joint meeting of the front organisations of Bangladesh Awami League will be held at the party's central office tomorrow at 10 am.

Police said they were continuing a search to rescue the abducted man.

N'ganj Dist Jail

From Page 1
Superior of the district jail Nazmul Ahsan Majumdar said that the Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of the Narayanganj General Hospital, in addition to his duties at the hospital is responsible for treatment of all the prisoners. The RMO, when called in, only gives first aid to a patient no matter how serious he is. If needed, he is empowered to refer a patient to the Narayanganj Hospital.

Doctors at the Narayanganj Hospital have the authority to get a patient admitted or to transfer him to any specialised hospital. Transfer of a patient to a hospital in Dhaka also requires permission of the DIG (prison) of the Dhaka Central Jail and the local SP who provides police protection for the prisoner. Talking to the correspondents at his jail office, Majumdar also acknowledged lack of transports for carrying the sick prisoners.

Dr Mahbub Alam, who was on duty at the Narayanganj Hospital when under-trial prisoner Tuhin was rushed to the hospital on Saturday, told the probe-body on Tuhin's death that delay in transferring the prisoner to Dhaka Medical College Hospital caused serious deterioration of his condition. Alam said he had referred the patient to the DMCH.

Tuhin's room-mate in the jail, Azim Rahaman Pappu, talking to The Daily Star, alleged that police had tortured Tuhin while arresting him and that his fellow prisoner died due to lack of proper treatment.

The jail authorities have tightened security in the prison. Authorities have been given to improve medicare facilities for the inmates, officials said.

According to official sources, there were 779 prisoners at the Narayanganj District Jail yesterday against its capacity of 126. There are four tinshed cells spreading over 4774 sq feet.

Although officially upgraded to a district jail from a sub-jail more than a decade ago, no development work has been done to turn the Narayanganj jail into a district jail.

BNP programme

From Page 1
on Chittagong Hill Tracts and make a fresh accord acceptable to all, reports BSS.

At a press briefing at the party office, he expressed deep concern at the situation prevailing in Khagrachari and Rangamati hill districts.

Khatami praised the prime minister for steps taken to improve the lots of women in Bangladesh.

He also offered help and cooperation for economic development of Bangladesh.

Sheikh Hasina referred to the low volume of trade between the two countries and suggested that there was scope to enhance it.

She said that in addition to jute, Iran can buy a number of other products like garments, tea, vegetables and fruits. She said that Iran could also recruit large number of skilled and semi-skilled workers.

Sheikh Hasina agreed to consider this suggestion.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, foreign secretary Mostafizur Rahman and Bangladesh Ambassador to Iran Syed Muazzam Ali were present.

JRC team in city

By Staff Correspondent

A two-member team of the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) from India arrived in the city yesterday for a three-day meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Committee (JC) on water sharing.

The Indian team is led by JRC member SK Das. The other is AK Joshi, Director JRC. The Bangladeshi side, led by Khaillur Rahman, Member of the JRC, includes Touhidul Anwar Khan, Director JRC and two others.

The members of the Bangladesh and Indian teams left for Hardinge Bridge yesterday afternoon. They are likely to stay there for two days. The Joint Committee would find a suitable spot through mutual discussions for monitoring water flow during the lean season officially beginning on January 1. It is learnt that there was 'disagreement' over the monitoring points last year.

A Bangladeshi team will visit West Bengal shortly to fix up the monitoring points at three places — the Farakka bridge and upstream and downstream of Farakka point.

A wrap up meeting of the Joint Committee will be held in Dhaka on Friday.

Accord on CHT

JP to place Bill to amend certain provisions: Ershad

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad yesterday said his party would place a Bill in parliament to amend certain provisions of the peace accord on the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

"We also want peace in the Hill Tracts and an agreement is needed ... But we will not accept any accord which goes against the country's independence and sovereignty," he said.

The JP Chairman made the remarks while exchanging views with JP leaders, workers and former freedom fighters who came to meet him at his Gulshan residence under the leadership of renowned freedom fighter Golam Mostafa.

Meanwhile, security arrangements at the district jail suffered serious setback recently with one prisoner, accused in 17 cases, fleeing from the hospital. Another prisoner managed to address a public gathering at the jail gate recently.

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No casualty was reported in the incident till filing of this report last night.

20 shanties, 5 shops gutted in city

By Staff Correspondent

At least 20 shanties and five makeshift shops were gutted in a fire at Khilgaon Bagicha in the city early yesterday.

Police and fire brigade sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a slum at about 1:30 am. Two units of the fire brigade extinguished the blaze within half-an-hour.

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