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PM calls on President

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday evening, reports UNB.

She apprised him of the outcome of her visit to Iranian capital Tehran this week to attend the 8th Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The Prime Minister said a good number of proposals put forward by Bangladesh were incorporated in the Tehran declaration which include formation of an Islamic common market.

The proposals also included UN-sponsored conference for the least developed countries by the year 2001, micro-credit facilities for the poor by 2005 and women empowerment for their socio-economic development.

Sheikh Hasina informed President Shahabuddin of her fruitful talks with the leaders of Islamic countries who attended the Summit.

Lest we forget



Govt official assaulted in city

A group of local *mastans* assaulted a government official in the city's Sabujbagh area, allegedly put a pistol in his pocket and handed him over to police.

Police kept Md Imran, a Senior Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, under custody at Sabujbagh thana for about eight hours.

Police said they held Imran and two of the attackers until they were satisfied at about 9 pm that he was not the owner of the seized firearm with two bullets.

According to police, the official faced the trouble because of a land dispute with one 'Japani' Babu, allegedly a muselman of Maddhya Bashi area.

Babu, 35, along with about 15 accomplices attacked Imran and his father, Ruhul Quddus, when they went to survey their 3.5 *katha* land in Bashabo at noon yesterday. Imran resides at the T&T Colony at Motijheel. They attacked them then forced Imran to carry a pistol and took him to the police station to show that he possessed illegal firearm.

Sabujbagh police later arrested Babu and Millat Hossain, 26. Imran's father was also injured in the head in the attack. He was taken to a local clinic.

Police last night said they were preparing to file a case in connection with the incident.

Gas: Local needs

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chooses the companies which will stay for a longer period of time, it would optimally benefit the country.

"Good companies just don't make profit and leave. Their long term presence can result in social benefits both environmentally and by technology transfer as they are much more responsible than others. Besides they also train local human resources," he said.

Turning to the debate over government's consideration for gas export when the reserve is still poor, Matzke said, "It is not a question of national security. You should first consider the economic factors of gas export. If it is profitable for the country, why not export gas?"

"For instance, USA has huge gas and oil reserves but it exports and imports oil. It does so because that is profitable for the country. The oil produced in Alaska would be costlier in Chicago than Canadian oil because of the transportation cost. That is why Alaskan oil is now allowed to be exported (there was an embargo on oil export from Alaska 12 years ago.)"

Soyabean oil

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Of his Tk 122.51 cr defaulting loan, Sonali Bank's portion is Tk 46.55 cr against Dhaka Vegetable Oil Industries. Mohammad Ali has another Tk 50.37 cr defaulting loan with Al-Baraka Bank against AB Vegetable Oil Industry, Ripon Traders and Fatullah Steel Rolling Mills, Tk 20.32 cr defaulting loan with IFIC Bank against his own name, Tk 1.29 cr defaulting loan with AB Bank against Fatullah Steel Rolling Mills and Tk three crore with Rupali Bank against Shen Fashion Exports Ltd.

Following is the bank by bank account of defaulting loan of Mohammad Ali:

Sonali Bank

Mohammad Ali had imported 5000 metric tons of crude degummed Soyabean oil from Argentina and Brazil by opening letters of credit (LCs) through Sonali Bank (SB) in 1994-95. He stored the oil at his See Page 5

Martyred Intellectuals' Day

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and blindfolded, were identified later by their kith and kin two days later when the freedom fighters and the people were celebrating the victory on December 16.

The long list of martyred intellectuals who had made the supreme sacrifice for liberating the motherland included Prof. Munir Chowdhury, Prof. G.C. Dev, Mofazzal Haidar Chowdhury, Dr. Jyotirmay Guhathakura, Santosh Bhattacharya, Shaheedullah Kaiser, Sirajuddin Hossain, Abul Khair, Giasuddin Ahmed, Dr. Maniruzzaman, Anwar Pasha, Nizamuddin, Golam Mostafa, Ladu Bhai, Rashidul Hasan, Sirajul Huq Khan, Dr. Alim Chowdhury, Dr. Fazole Rabbi, Nazmul Haque, Abul Bashar, Khandaker Abu Taleb, Dr. Muktedir, Faizul Mohi, Dr. Sadique, Dr. Aminuddin, Saidul Hasan, Zahir Raihan and Selina Parveen.

On the evening of the Day, President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages paying glowing tributes to the martyrs and recalled their supreme sacrifice with deep gratitude.

The President hoped that the sacrifice made by martyred intellectuals would inspire all in building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh. "The brutal killing of our venerable scholars at the lag end of the 1971 Liberation War by the Pakistan occupying army is a heart-rendering incident," he said.

The nation would never forget the limitless barbarism of the occupation forces and their collaborators, he added.

In her message, the Prime Minister called upon the people

to remain alert against any attempt to repeat such heinous acts as the cold-blooded murder of the intellectuals. The creativity, talent and far-sightedness of the intellectuals will take the nation along the path of civilisation and modernisation year to year.

Sheikh Hasina said, "We saw a repetition of 1971 incident in August 75 in the murder of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and four leaders in the central jail the same year."

The Prime Minister paid glowing tributes to the martyred intellectuals for their contribution and conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved families. "I feel the pain of losing the kith and kin from my heart," she said.

In observance of the Day, various socio-cultural and political organisations have taken up elaborate programmes. These include bringing out processions, placing of wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur and their graves.

Sheikh Hasina will place wreath at the Memorial at 7:30 am and at the mass grave at Rayerbazar at 8 am. Earlier, she would inaugurate the Day's programme by placing wreath at the portrait of Father of the Nation at Bangabandhu Museum at 6:34 am.

She will address a gathering of freedom fighters at Paltan Maidan at three in the afternoon.

Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will place wreaths at the Memorial at 9 am. Prayers will also be offered seeking divine blessings for the departed souls.

The fulling Awami League

will begin its programme on the day at 6am by hoisting the National Flag at half-mast and black flags at the party's central office in the city and offices of party units across the country.

AL leaders and workers will garland the portrait of Father of the Nation at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 6 am and place wreaths at the memorial at 7:30 am and at Rayerbazar at 8 am.

BNP will hoist the National Flag and party flags at half-mast at party offices this morning as part of its Day's programme. The party men will also wear black badges.

BNP will organise a discussion meeting at the venue of 'Bijoy Mela' at the city's Ramna Park at four in the afternoon.

Jatiya Party (Ershad) will lay wreaths at the Memorial at 8 am.

Jatiya Party (Z-M) will place wreaths at 8 am and hold a discussion meeting at 4 pm at its Banani office.

Bangla Academy will hold a discussion on 'Significance of the Martyred Intellectuals Day' at 4 pm on the Academy premises.

The National Museum will arrange a display of the personal effects of martyred intellectuals at its gallery from 9:30 am to 5 pm today.

A discussion on December 14 will be held at the Jatiya Press Club at 11 am, jointly organised by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ).

Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) will lay wreaths at the Memorial at six am.

Biman Officers' Association (BOA) will place wreaths at the Memorial at 6 am and hold a discussion meeting at BATC auditorium at 5 pm.

US investors

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said her government is interested to meet the demands of the people first.

She emphasised on the establishment of gas-based industries, particularly the petrochemicals and on related industrial developments.

Only 15 per cent of the country's population are getting power at present, the Prime Minister said adding that "in view of our growing needs, the government is keen to set up small industries at the thana and district levels."

Later talking to the reporters at Zia International Airport prior to his departure Frank G Wisner said they were leaving Bangladesh with a "very positive impression" about the future of the country's economy.

"There has been a considerable promise and scope for American investment and co-operation," said Wisner.

Wisner, a former US ambassador to India, led the team comprising some large American companies from Calcutta where they attended an investment conference, focusing economic opportunities in the eastern part of the sub-continent.

Khaleda: CHT accord

From Page 1

immediate launching of an anti-government agitation unrealistic, the Opposition leader said. "To resist the CHT accord is not the duty of BNP alone but of each and every patriotic citizen. Before that we need to make all understand that implementation of the accord will make the country non-existent."

The BNP chief said the CHT accord can be an issue for toppling the government. It did not get people's mandate for signing the agreement. "They will have to take fresh mandate for this," she said reiterating her demand for scrapping the "anti-national" accord and going for a fresh one involving all concerned.

Begum Zia said there cannot be any accord with the "terrorists in the hill tracts who never wanted peace and who had been creating disturbances since long."

In this context, she said her government also held a lot of discussions to end the CHT insurgency and many of those who had crossed the border returned home. She said her government offered maximum benefits to the returnees but the process stopped due to "sabotage" by those who are now in power.

"Those in power have become deaf and dumb on the so-called peace accord as they are well aware of the injustice they've committed. They're happy for having their foreign masters' blueprint implemented.... They're expecting to remain in power for ever by serving their masters. But time

Scrap 'black accord' by Dec 21 or face tough agitation: BNP

Opposition BNP yesterday asked the government to scrap the 'black accord' on Chittagong Hill Tracts by December 21 and stop repression in the hill tracts or else face a countrywide tough action programme, reports UNB.

In a statement, party's secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan alleged that the government and the 'Awami terrorists' have launched repressive measures against the people who are agitating against the accord in the CHT.

He said the people have already rejected the so-called peace accord which threatened the country's sovereignty, integrity and Constitution.

"The so-called peace accord has turned into an accord of misery... but the government is trying to implement it by force" without paying any heed to the widespread protests by Bengali speaking people and different tribes, excluding the Chakma, Bhuiyan, said.

Art show in Calcutta begins

From Ziaul Karim

CALCUTTA, Dec 13: The biggest art extravaganza of Calcutta kicked off today at the Victoria Memorial Hall.

Front-ranking painters of West Bengal — Ganesh Pyne, Jogen Chowdhury, Sunil Das — and Kallidas Karmakar from Bangladesh joined hands to point out a 12-feet long white canvas embodying the art-sans-frontier spirit.

Calcutta Metropolitan Festival of Art '97 is being organised as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of Indian's independence.

"This festival provides a unique platform to understand Bengal's contribution to visual art and will contribute to the creation of a new visual vocabulary," Sunil Das told this correspondent.

The 12-day carnival involves exhibitions, seminar, artists' workshop, cultural programmes.

Meanwhile, a group of artists from Bangladesh is now in the city to organize an artists' camp tomorrow at the Bangladesh High Commission premises. They will be joined by top artists from West Bengal.

Victory Day

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perform dances in the function. Meanwhile, Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote organized a discussion meeting on 'The Place of Children in the People's Uprising of 1969 and the War of Liberation' at the Ramna Batamul yesterday, the 13th day of its victory programmes.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury addressed the meeting as chief guest, presided over by the president of the Jote Salauddin Badal, the meeting was also addressed by among others, Sheikh Abdul Kader and Afzal Hossain.

Mahila Muktiyoddha Sangsad organized a discussion meeting at the children's auditorium of the National Museum in the afternoon. Syeda Zohra Tajuddin was present there as chief guest.

A Bijoy Mela, organized by Sammlito Shishu Sangathon Jote, was inaugurated yesterday. Poet Shamsur Rahman opened the mela at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy.

5 killed in polls violence

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clashes between the two rival groups of chairman candidates. Both the victims are the leaders of Feni Zilla Chhatra League, police said. After the killing one group set ablaze the house of Thana Chhatra League president Didiarul Kabir Ratan. Feroq died on the spot while Jaker died on way to hospital.

Our Gopalganj Correspondent reports: One person was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between the supporters of rival candidates at Sonashoor village of Pafkandi union under Sadar thana yesterday.

According to witnesses, the clash took place between the supporters of two member candidates — Iqbal Hossain and Hasnat Ali Sikder — during an election campaign in the morning.

Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash. The dead was identified as Mofizur Rahman, 25. The injured were admitted to Gopalganj hospital.

Consensus needed to overcome 'crisis'
CHT accord has curtailed power of JS, PM: Oli

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged all concerned to help reach a consensus among politicians to resolve the problem arising out of the CHT agreement, reports UNB.

The day-long discussion on "CHT Peace Accord: Political and Constitutional Perspective" organised by National Democratic Foundation was held at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium in the morning.

BNP leader Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed MP, who led the team at the talks with tribal leaders during the BNP regime, said the BNP government did not agree on the question of any autonomy or regional council as envisaged in the December 2 accord.

Oli admitted that he had several discussions with Shantu Larma whom he called "terrorist" and other tribal leaders in Tripura to rehabilitate tribal refugees and armed cadres of the PCJSS.

The BNP leader said during the meetings, the PCJSS submitted five-point charter of demands which included 47 demands meant for separate state or independence of the CHT.

Oli said out a 13 meetings held during the BNP rule, he only attended three meetings as he felt that it was a mere wastage of time to talk to the PCJSS on their demands.

He said during the meetings the CHT national committee had agreed to return to the tribals their lands and home-

steads which were illegally occupied by others and to withdraw cases against the Shantibahini.

Oli disagreed with the point that the tribals are disadvantaged group. Rather they are in a great advantageous position enjoying special facilities in the society, he added.

The BNP leader expressed apprehension about the solution of the CHT problem after the accord, saying that the accord curtailed the power of parliament and the Prime Minister.

Former MP Rashed Khan Memon, who was also a member of national committee for CHT during BNP regime, said the recently signed peace accord on CHT created unrest in the

country as the government had formulated it without political consensus.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Mia said any privilege — like sovereignty and autonomy — could be given to the tribals after seeking public opinion.

Chakmas are not being deprived of their rights as their literacy rate is about 72 per cent and their aspirations can only be met within the Constitutional framework.

Former DU VC Prof Emajuddin Ahmed said a 'treaty' can be made only between two sovereign countries, not within a country. The accord will become illegal if the Constitution is not amended, he said, adding a consensus must be reached on the accord, otherwise it will create chaos in the country.

Chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad Dr Khalequzzaman said it is essential to discuss CHT issue in the parliament. He said the political leaders should respect each other's opinion otherwise common people will suffer for their mistakes.

Supreme Court Bar Association president and BNP leader Nazmul Huda MP said that a referendum would be needed to implement the agreement.

BNP leader Col (Rtd) Akber Hossain MP said equal rights should be ensured among the people in the three hill districts to reach an amicable settlement on the CHT issue.

Home Minister

But the students refused to do so.

Besides, the students yesterday barricaded Ashulia road to stop diversion of vehicles to and from Dhaka to that roads.

In another development, a group of activists of the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday asked the general students to withdraw the barricade and tried to prevent them from organising processions on the campus.

At around 9:30 pm yesterday, Savar police arrested three persons from in front of the Public Administration Training Centre for allegedly damaging the stranded vehicles.

Ex-IMF executive director says
'Govt should continue to invest in public sector'

By Staff Correspondent

A leading economist from India has said the government should continue to invest in the public sector aimed at reducing poverty and narrowing down the income gap, along with pursuing economic reforms and market liberalisation.

Economic reforms and market liberalisation are not the end in themselves but are means to achieve the goals of development," said Dr Arjun K Sengupta, a former Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund.

He was speaking at a dialogue on "India's Experience with Economic Reforms," organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city.

The discussion was also participated in by four former Finance Ministers, M Saifur Rahman, AMA Muhiht, M Syeduzzaman and Wahiduddin Mahmood.

Chief economist Rehman Sobhan chaired the discussion which was also attended by senior government officials from the Planning Commission and Finance Ministry, and researchers from university and the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

In his hour-long deliberation, Sengupta, a former Special Advisor to the Indian Prime Minister, also mentioned about the pace of economic reforms, policy changes, trade liberalisation, foreign direct investment and trends in poverty alleviation in India.

He said reforms should be aimed at reducing poverty, increasing per-capita income and achieving allocative efficiency. Sengupta, currently a member of India Planning Commission, reckoned that equity and poverty alleviation might not be achieved by market reforms alone.

"Supplementary positive action must be adopted, and their financing must be provided for in any plan allocation of investible resources," said Sengupta, also a former Special



Dr Arjun Sengupta

Advisor to the Managing Director of IMF. He observed that the government in a developing country should not only be a facilitator but also a participant in policy reforms programmes.

A former Lecturer of London School of Economics, Sengupta warned against dependence on foreign financing to attain a high growth path. "We should not depend on external aid," he said adding, domestic resource mobilisation and domestic savings should be scaled up for economic emancipation.

Former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman also expressed the similar view but criticised India for its conservative policy on import liberalisation. "After significant tariff reduction, you are now introducing restrictions on our exports saying those items must use 40 per cent domestic inputs."

Saifur seconded Sengupta's suggestion for an increased fund for rural and agricultural development and poverty alleviation activities.

Later, MM Akash, a Dhaka University teacher told this correspondent that India had never been a blind follower of World Bank or IMF reform package. "Also, they have been going slow at import liberalisation process which could be a lesson for us," he said.

Probe complete

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in the early hours of December 14, 1971 from their respective residences on the Dhaka University campus. Later, their mutilated bodies were found.

The CID investigators talked to the victims' families, the then students and teachers of Dhaka University and some journalists. They were learnt to have found that two persons were directly involved in the gruesome killings. Both reportedly belonged to Al-Badr.

Of them, Chowdhury Motinuddin is now staying in London and reportedly heads an Islamic group there, which is connected with Jamaat-e-Islami. The other is Ashrafuzzaman.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) began digging into the killings after 26 years as a sister of Shaheed Prof Giasuddin Ahmed filed a case with Ramna thana few months back.

At the same time, the CID personnel also probed the killings of seven other intellectuals as all of them were kidnapped from their residences the same morning and later killed.

They were: Dr M Murtaza, Dr Fayeul Mohi, Dr Abul Khayer, Prof Rashidul Hasan, Prof Anwar Pasha, Prof Sirajul Haq and Dr Santosh Bhattacharya.

CID officials said: It is obvious that Chowdhury Motinuddin and Ashrafuzzaman are going to be named in the chargesheet as accused.

The investigators also said that some other people might be accused in the chargesheet if any new names come out after talking to some other witnesses.

ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman is investigating the case under the supervision of Special Super Abdul Hannan Khan and Additional SP Subodh Chandra Chanda.

Bijoy Utsab

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about the suicidal opposition against the peace.

"Why are they launching movements to create unrest when the people are striving for peace? Will these bring peace in people's mind?"

Turning to the cultural aspect, the Prime Minister said the government has taken all possible steps for preservation and nourishment of culture. "We'll do whatever is needed for upholding, brightening and flourishing our culture."

At the beginning of her speech, the Prime Minister paid homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War, to father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the martyrs of the great Language Movement to all democratic movements.

Hasina inaugurated the 'Bijoy Utsab' releasing a bunch of colourful balloons. The cultural activists of the Jote also released balloons simultaneously as the popular song 'Joi Bangla, Bangla Jot' was sung in chorus.

The function began through the placing of wreath by Prime Minister at the altar of the Shaheed Minar and by observing one minute's silence. Then followed the national anthem.

Presided over by Jote president Ramendu Majumdar, the function was also addressed by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, Samannay Committee convener Syed Hasan Imam, Jote adviser Poet Shamsur Rahman, vice president Nasir Uddin Yusuf.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net