

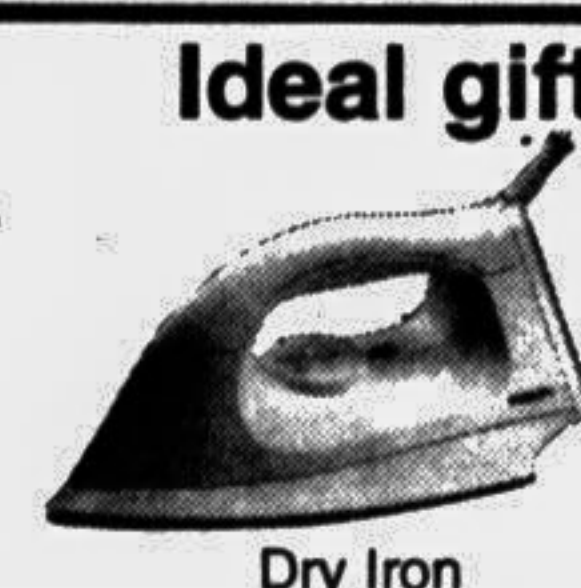
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Dacoity at city's Monipuripara

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits robbed about Tk 2.30 lakh in gold ornaments and cash from a residence at Monipuripara under Teajgaon thana in the city Monday night.

Police said a gang of about five armed men rang the calling bell of the first floor flat of Jyotimoy Haidar at about 9 pm.

As soon as the master of the house opened the door the gang stormed into the room. At gunpoint they tied up the inmates of the house and forcibly took the keys of almirahs from them.

The dacoits opened a number of almirahs and took gold ornaments worth about Tk 1.80 lakh and Tk 50 thousand in cash. They exploded a number of crackers and fired a number of blankshots while leaving, creating panic in the area.

ULFA leader

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over the Indian request in this particular case," he said.

Referring to the absence of extradition agreement, he said dealing with such cases always depend on the gravity of good relations between two neighbours.

The Foreign Minister would not say whether the issue of ULFA and its leader Anup Chetia will come up for discussion when Indian Prime Minister I K Gujral will hold talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here on January 15.

Asked about extradition of Major (Rtd) Mohiuddin Ahmed from America and Major (Rtd) Bazul Huda from Thailand who are accused in the Bangabandhu murder case, Azad said Bangladesh has requested these countries to hand over them to the government for facing the trial.

"And we've got positive response from these countries," he added.

In reply to a question, he said the issue of stranded Pakistanis along with other bilateral matters would figure in the official talks between Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on January 16.

JS session

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would be adjourned for four days. Resuming on 19th of this month, the session will continue until January 22.

The session will resume on February 8 after two weeks' Eid holiday.

During the Ramadan, the settings will begin at 11:00 in the morning and continue till 4 in the afternoon with half-an-hour break for Jhor prayers.

At least seven bills, including three on district level local governments in Chittagong Hill Tracts, are expected to be discussed during the session, sources in the JS advisory committee said.

Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the House and LGRD minister Zillur Rahman, Chief Whip of Parliament Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and Rahman Ali MP of the ruling Awami League and chief of the Jatiya party H M Ershad attended the meeting.

Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta and ruling party whip Abul Shaheed attended the meeting on special invitation by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury who chaired the meeting.

First final

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Stadium wickets as very sporting, Azhar, who regained the captaincy days before the Bangladesh tourney, said, "I think 270-plus will be a defendable score on this pitch."

"After a long time we are going to play in the final of a tournament. It is very important for us to do something to revive our flagging image," said Pakistan skipper Rasidul Latif before their practice session in the afternoon yesterday.

"I am not at all concerned about our bowling department. But I want my batsmen to live up to their potential. And if the top-order clicks, it will not be difficult to beat the Indians," added the soft-spoken stumper.

Pakistan are likely to retain the same side that played against Bangladesh on Monday. But India will wait till this morning before finalising their playing eleven.

TEAMS

INDIA (from J): Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Ajay Jadeja, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Robin Singh, Salraj Bahutule, Jagavallab Sinath, Debashish Mohanthy, Nayan Mongia, Harvinder Singh, Hrishikesh Kanitkar, Rahul Sanghvi

PAKISTAN: Rashid Latif (captain), Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Amir Sohail, Inzamam-ul-Haque, Ijaz Ahmed, Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Manzoor Akhter and Aaqib Javed.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the officials of BCS (Administration) cadre who called on her at her office yesterday.

14 killed, 100 hurt in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

Fourteen people were killed and 100 others injured in three road accidents in Narsingdi, Gazipur and Rangpur yesterday.

Of them, six were killed in Narsingdi, four in Gazipur and four in Rangpur.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent reports: Six persons including a six-year-old girl were killed when a truck smashed an autorickshaw at Borabo in Ruppaganj thana of Narsingdi district at around 9:30 am yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the agitated people damaged at least 10 vehicles soon after the accident and put up barricade on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway for two hours.

Five passengers of the autorickshaw and its driver died on the spot. Of the dead, four were identified as Anwara, 50, Rashida, 35, Rahmima Akhter, 31, and driver Delwar Hossain 30. The identity of other victim could not be known.

All the bodies were sent to Narayanganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, hospital sources said.

UNB adds: Four people were killed and 70 others injured in a collision between two buses in front of an air force camp near Rajendrapur in Gazipur on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway yesterday.

Witnesses said, a Mymensingh-bound bus from Dhaka collided head on with another coming from opposite direction at about 10:45 am. Both the buses were badly damaged.

Bangabandhu murder

From page 1

Now an MP from the ruling Awami League, Shafulah said he had revolted and joined the Independence War against the Pakistani occupation forces while posted at Joydebpur as the second in command of 2nd East Bengal Regiment as a major of Pakistan Army.

He said, "My friend, Ziaur Rahman, also revolted from Chittagong with his 8th Bengal Regiment and joined the Liberation War."

He said the exiled government initially gave him the command of Sylhet and Mymensingh region and later, as commander of sector 3.

Later, three brigades were raised and he was made commander of one brigade, named 'S Force', Shafulah said.

Ziaur Rahman and Khaled Mosharraf were made commanders of the two other brigades, named 'Z' and 'K' force respectively, he added.

The PW-45 said Zia was in command of Chittagong region and later he commanded a brigade (force), but did not command any sector like him (Shafulah).

Both he and Zia, the witness said, were promoted as Lt Col by the exiled government during the war in the month of August.

At the flag end of the war,

Shafulah said, he marched towards Dhaka.

After the war, the PW said, he was made the Dhaka Garrison Commander and Zia made the Comilla Garrison Commander and both promoted as full Colonel in March 1972. General MAG Osmany was then the Commander-in-Chief, he added.

Earlier, the court witnessed an unprecedented scene as the Judge suddenly adjourned the proceedings when interrupted by the prosecution lawyers during cross-examination of PW-44 Col (ret'd) Shaafat Jamil.

The prosecution side protested and urged the court to give protection to PW-44 as defence lawyer Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman posed a second question to Col Jamil while he was already replying to a question.

But Judge Golam Rasul, apparently annoyed with a prosecution lawyer, suddenly adjourned the court at 11 am.

The proceedings after about half an hour with the intervention of the senior lawyers.

The PW-45, Maj Gen (ret'd) Shafulah MP will continue his deposition when the court resumes today at 9:30 am.

Economy stable, says Kibria

From page 1

Despite the favourable export-import position, foreign exchange reserve was 1.674 billion dollars till January 8.

"The reserve is not increasing because of capital account repayments on SAF and ESAF loans," said the finance minister. Every year we have to repay about one hundred million dollars for these loans.

Dispelling reports that credit has been squeezed, Kibria said domestic credit growth was over the government's target of 12 per cent. Till October, domestic credit grew by 15.06 per cent. For public sector it grew by 13.49 per cent and 17.20 per cent for private sector.

Term lending in the last six months also increased by Tk 1386.67 crore at the rate of 13.80 per cent. Kibria said this amount is higher than the total term loan given in the previous year. At the same time, working capital disbursement increased by 17.20 per cent.

Kibria said the banks have a

comfortable liquidity position with Tk 2254.02 crore in excess till November 27 last year.

The minister also dispelled a news report that bank deposit was almost static last year, saying that it increased by 18.34 per cent during the period to Tk 54178 cr. He also defended the government's emphasis on selling savings instruments, saying it is a non-inflationary way of collecting money.

I do not want inflation," said the finance minister. "We want to balance the sharp increase in lending by taking money out of circulation through savings instruments. In fact, I will ask the authorities to develop some more attractive savings instruments."

He also said the Bangladesh taka had been the most stable currency in this region depreciating by only 3.96 per cent over the last six months. "Compared to this, the Indian rupee depreciated by 9.77 per cent, Indonesian rupiah by

PM: Admin

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mony" to run everything smoothly.

Responding to various demands of the Committee, the Prime Minister said her government will look into the problems and try to solve those soon.

Convenor of the BCS (Admin) Action Committee Dr Mojibur Rahman placed their demands at the meeting. Political adviser to the Prime Minister Dr S A Malek was present.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Leaders of the BCS (Administration) cadre action committee members said the Prime Minister assured the civil servants that she would look into their grievances.

After more than an hour-long meeting with some 40 members of the action committee, its convenor Dr Mujibur Rahman told The Daily Star that he was satisfied with the outcome of the meeting.

We have been able to explain our stand, negating what the Prokri-BCS action council had informed her, most of which are baseless, he said.

Action committee sources said the PM had assured them that she would see to it that the parliamentary committee, to look into the issue of 321 posts which had been upgraded, is formed by today.

Peregrine

From page 1

ilities. The company does not make loans to individuals, nor does it hold public deposits," she said.

Contradicting the official position, the source said the Bangladesh operations, part of Peregrine Capital Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Peregrine Investments Holdings Ltd which was facing liquidation, would also be liquidated.

"In all probability, the Peregrine Capital Ltd and Peregrine Securities Ltd will also be liquidated or taken over along with Peregrine Holdings which has petitioned for liquidation," the source said.

Meanwhile, the Group's collapse in Hong Kong had an adverse impact on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.

The panic created by the Peregrine's fate in Hong Kong propelled the DSE index to plunge by 2.41 per cent yesterday. A top DSE broker linked it to the demise of Peregrine, but added there was no reason for it. "Peregrine doesn't have enough holdings in the local market," said DSE chairman Md Rakibur Rahman.

In Hong Kong, the company bosses who created Asia's largest independent investment bank outside Japan in a few years, were blaming the crisis in Southeast Asia for Peregrine's demise.

ALPP meets today

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan at 10 am today, reports UNB.

JP to suggest amendments if CHT bill placed in JS

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party will suggest necessary amendments if a bill is tabled in the Jatiya Sangsad on the accord signed between the government and the Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity.

According to a press release, the decision in this regard was taken at a meeting of the JP Parliamentary Party held at the party offices in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan yesterday.

Of the 35 parties MPs, 20 had participated in the meeting presided over by the party chief H M Ershad and attended, among others, by Anwar Hossain Manju, communications minister and the secretary general of the party.

Sec 144 in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 13: The district administration today imposed Section 144 in the town for an indefinite period with effect from 6:00 am tomorrow.

Officials said the decision has been taken to avoid any untoward incident as two rival groups announced holding of separate public meetings at the same venue and same time.

On the other hand, total investment rose to 17.40 per cent of the GDP during the period under review. It was 17 per cent in the previous fiscal. Domestic savings increased to 7.7 per cent of the GDP from 7.5 per cent.

Agricultural growth was 6 per cent during the period as against 3.7 per cent in the previous fiscal. A favourable weather condition and timely distribution of fertiliser helped the growth in the sector.

The foreign currency reserve however showed a declining trend and went down to 1,719 million US dollars at the end of June 97 from 2,039 million dollars in June '96.

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BB report '96-97 says Power, gas crisis cut industrial growth

By Rafiq Hasan

Industrial growth rate in the country declined to 3.3 per cent during 1996-97 financial year from 5.3 per cent in the previous fiscal, mainly due to severe disruption in power and gas supply, according to a Bangladesh Bank report.

Despite huge deficit in power and gas production, the gross domestic product (GDP) rose to 5.7 per cent during the period under review from 5.4 per cent in the previous financial year because of a healthy contribution by the agriculture sector, said the BB annual report released yesterday.

The foreign currency reserve however showed a declining trend and went down to 1,719 million US dollars at the end of June 97 from 2,039 million dollars in June '96.

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