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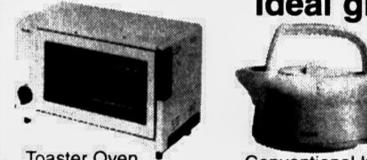
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**Gujral calls on Shahabuddin**

Visiting Indian Prime Minister I.K. Gujral made a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday evening, reports UNB.

Welcoming the Indian Prime Minister, President Shahabuddin said Bangladesh attaches great importance to the development of friendly relations with India.

Referring to the Ganges water-sharing agreement and the discussion on sharing of waters of major common rivers, he said these are, no doubt, a sign of positive development on bilateral relations.

"As neighbours, we need multi-dimensional cooperation in this world of immense competition for economic development," the President said.



Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina presiding over a meeting of AL Parliamentary Party at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. —PID photo

**3-nation business summit**

From page 1

want Bangladesh should develop its productive capacity so that it could produce goods to increase trade with India. In this regard, we are willing to provide all sorts of concessions to Bangladesh."

The Indian premier said, "We treat Bangladesh with a great deal of understanding and sympathy. India has extended its hand of cooperation to Bangladesh in all matters."

Asked if there were any outstanding problems with Bangladesh and whether he would seek transit facilities, Gujral replied, "The relations between Bangladesh and India are such that there are no real issues. Both countries are having a cooperative spirit."

India, he said, has also unilaterally allowed transit to Nepal for using Chittagong Port.

When told that certain stiff conditions were imposed relating to Nepal's transit and whether it was a reflection of the mindset, Gujral said, "We have made a beginning. Slowly things are bound to change."

About the three-nation Business Summit, President Shahabuddin said the summit will contribute a lot in expanding economic relations among the three countries of the sub-continent.

Indian Prime Minister I.K. Gujral referred to the initiative of Bangladesh for holding such a trilateral Business Summit in Dhaka and said this will go a long way in improving the quality of life of the peoples of the sub-continent.

**Hasina, Gujral hold exclusive talks**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had an exclusive meeting with Indian Prime Minister I.K. Gujral at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Before hosting the banquet at Bangabhaban, the Bangladesh Prime Minister held a formal meeting with her Indian counterpart.

Hasina received the Indian Premier at Bangabhaban and later they had discussions on various bilateral issues.

**India outplay**

From page 1

an attainable target.

Although Pakistan got off to a sound yet sleepy start with their openers Saad Anwar and Shahid Afridi putting on 45 runs in 11.2 overs, the disciplined Indian bowlers hardly allowed their opponents to break the shackles spread around the 30-yard circle.

New ball bowlers Jagavali Srinath and Debashish Mohanty maintained a tight line and length, and very rarely allowed the Pakistan openers to exploit the field-rest position in the first 14 overs. But it was medium pacer Robin Singh who was at his miserly best, giving away only 26 runs in his nine overs.

Afridi scored 29 runs off 41 balls before falling to an outstanding effort by Saurav Ganguly, who ran fifteen yards towards deep extra-cover to stretch his safe hands under the steeper.

After Afridi's departure, Pakistan lost wickets at regular intervals while trying to go for lofted shots. Left-handed Saad Anwar scored highest 38 runs before holing out leggie Siraj Bahutule to Ganguly.

Azhar Mahmood scored a quick-fire 30 off 32 balls, which included a massive sixer off Srinath, and Mushtaq Ahmed smote Tendulkar over long-on in the final over to ensure Pakistan cross the 200-mark.

But the Pak relief turned into a nightmare when Tendulkar and Ganguly began the Indian chase in a marauding mood. And the wicket, which only a couple of hours ago appeared a bit slow, suddenly turned into a batsman's paradise with the Indian opening pair in full cry.

Although Tendulkar destroyed the Pakistan bowling, it was Ganguly who initiated the assault with some exquisite cover drives. Started playing in the shadow of the West Bengal hero, Tendulkar came out of his shell blasting a massive sixer off Aaqib Javed.

He then went on to hammer a couple of sixes in successive overs of Saqlain Mushtaq forcing Latif to remove the off-spinner from the attack. Saqlain conceded 21 runs in those two prodigious overs.

Tendulkar then took leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed for a ride with a couple of luscious blows over the rope. He completed his 39th half-century in one-day cricket playing only 43 balls.

With Tendulkar on song, India reached their 50 in 7.5 overs, 100 in 16 overs, and 150 came in only 22.3 overs. The former Indian captain was adjudged the most-valuable player of the final by the World later.

Ganguly, who scored 11 and 13 in two matches earlier, revived his old touch with an enviering 87-ball 68 inclusive of eight fours. Ganguly was adjudged leg before off Mushtaq.

After the departure of Ganguly in the 31st over with the scoreboard reading at 182 for two, Azhar, who scored an unbeaten 30, guided India to victory without further damage, milking the required runs along with vice-captain Ajay Jadedja who remained not out on 11.

The second final of the three-match mandatory series will be held on January 16 at the same venue.

**Delhi HC orders repatriation of 10 Bangladeshi children**

NEW DELHI, Jan 14: The Delhi High Court has permitted the Indian government to repatriate 10 Bangladeshi children lodged in "Prayas" juvenile home in the city, reports BSS.

A division bench comprising Justice YK Sabharwal and Justice MK Sharma on Tuesday gave the direction while allowing the urgent application moved by the union government seeking a direction to Prayas to hand over the children and order their repatriation to Bangladesh.

A total of 16 children were rescued by the Delhi police while they were being taken "illegally" to Dubai. The police also arrested some people, alleged to be the parents of the children, who were later remanded to judicial custody and sent to Tihar jail.

While ten children, aged over six years, were lodged in Prayas, the rest of the six were allowed to stay with their "parents."

**Media centre at Sonargaon Hotel**

A media center has been set up at Sonargaon Hotel on the occasion of the three-nation Business Summit to be held today, reports UNB.

Telephone numbers of the media centre are: 9129807-9 (T&T) and 9129800-3 (PID), said an official handout yesterday.

**SAARC economic community**

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nessmen of the three countries are expected to voice the problems they face in matters of regional trade, particularly inter-country trade. Problems of economic liberalisation, tariff policies, trade regime, customs barriers and bureaucracy are some of the issues likely to be addressed at the Summit.

The problem of economic barriers in their home countries and the infrastructure in the region for movement of goods will come up for review. Officials and businessmen concerned said that ways and means of increasing trade and investment would certainly dominate the agenda of the Business Summit.

The Summit will strive for closer interaction between the private sector and government in the three countries. The viewpoints expressed by the men in business will enable the government leaders to review economic policies of the three countries and work out ways and means of increasing trade, promoting joint venture and setting up institutional linkages.

The concluding session will be held after lunch, attended by the prime ministers. A joint declaration, to be known as the Dhaka declaration, is likely to be adopted at the session.

**Tight security for summit leaders**

Security has been beefed up for the three South Asian leaders attending the first ever Business Summit to be held in the city today, reports UNB.

The law enforcing agencies have taken special measures to ensure tight security for the Indian and Pakistani Premiers as well as the host Prime Minister.

Over 2,000 members of law enforcing agencies have already been deployed in the city's different strategic points, police officials said yesterday.

The security arrangements will remain in force till conclusion of the summit and departure of the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan.

The advanced security teams from Pakistan and India had been in Dhaka ahead of the arrival of Indian PM I.K. Gujral and Pakistani PM Nawaz Sharif.

The teams discussed the security measures with the local authorities and visited the venue of the summit and the places where the dignitaries will stay, the sources said.

**Goods train derails**

LALMONIRHAT, Jan 14: Several bogies of a goods train derailed near Naldanga station in between Bonarpura and Syedpur stations this morning, reports UNB.

**Lahore HC summons Benazir**

LAHORE, Jan 14: A Pakistani High Court today summoned former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to appear before it next month in connection with her alleged bank accounts in Switzerland, court officials said, reports AFP.

Justice Ehsanul Haq Chaudhury of the Lahore High Court issued the summons on a writ filed by a local advocate, Javed Iqbal Jafari.

**Rangamati**

From page 1

(PCP), died in a hospital from injuries he suffered in clashes with police who used batons and tear gas to disperse a group of tribals attacking Bengalee shops at about mid-night on Wednesday.

The attack followed clashes between police and PCP activists who attacked a Bengalee-owned shop on the campus of the Rangamati University College earlier in the day in a bid to evict him. The clashes ensued when police intervened. Four policemen were also injured.

When the news about the death of Rantu Chakma spread, some tribesmen attacked the Bengalee settlers at Kathalchhar next, and attacked Ali Akbar, a trader, to death with machettes. Tension was prevailing in the town and its adjoining areas. Police stepped up security to prevent escalation of violence, correspondents from Rangamati reported quoting police.

**BNP has dishonoured President by boycotting JS speech: ALPP**

Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) has condemned the main opposition BNP's boycott of the House during the speech of President Shahabuddin Ahmed, reports UNB.

The meeting, held at Sangsad Bhaban with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, said President Shahabuddin is a respectable and neutral person.

By boycotting his speech, the opposition party dishonoured the President and undermined the Parliament, the meeting remarked while criticising BNP for its continuous boycott of parliament.

Addressing party members, Leader of the House reiterated her call to opposition BNP to return to the House which, she claimed, "has been turned into the centre of all activities."

"We have made the Parliament the centre point of all activities and the opposition party should join the House in the greater interest of the nation," she added.

Hasina said it is not clear on what issue opposition BNP is boycotting the Parliament. She mentioned that the Awami League, when it was in the opposition, staged a walkout as it was not allowed to take part in discussion on torture of Hebron Muslims.

Later, the party started movement for establishing voting rights of the people and boycotted the parliament to protect people's rights, she said.

The ALPP meeting thanked the Election Commission, all concerned with the election and the people for their cooperation in holding free and fair Union Parishad elections in the country.

It also hailed the signing of the peace accord on Chittagong Hill Tracts.

**KNM resumes production**

By Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 14: Khulna Newsprint Mills resumed production today.

The production was suspended since December 27 due to fund and fuel crisis.

A reliable source of the mills said that it would go for production of white print by the end of the current month.

Meanwhile, the Power Development Board, Khulna has issued a notice asking the mill authorities to pay the outstanding electricity bills of Taka 3.71 crore by February 5, otherwise, the PDB was threatened to snap power connection.

**Speaker**

From page 1

"I am always ready to facilitate discussions with each other (Treasury and Opposition benches) to resolve any parliamentary problem," the Speaker said.

Claiming that he had always tried to run the affairs of the House neutrally under the country's Constitution and Sangsad Rules of Procedure, the Speaker said: "I will try to conduct the House with the same neutrality in future."

He also categorically assured that his door was always open for all, irrespective of political parties and opinions. Anyone at anytime can discuss anything with me to resolve any parliamentary problem."

The major opposition party in parliament Bangladesh Nationalist Party has been boycotting the Sangsad proceedings since August last year to press home a 14-point charter of demands, including what it says, adequate scope for voicing people's problem in the House. On the other hand, the Jamaat-e-Islami, has recently announced that it would not return to the House until the government scraps the recently signed CHT Accord.

The House was adjourned with the completion of Presidential address at 1:00 pm. It will resume again at 11:00 a.m. on January 19.

**Make parliament effective**

From page 1

sition views and restraint are essential for national integration and economic development. The political leaders, irrespective of party affiliation, should strive for creating awareness among the people on these issues."

The President said, since assumption of power, the present government has been making untiring efforts to achieve the desired goal of improving the lot of the people. But the government has been facing adverse situations although, he said without elaborating.

"Democracy is gaining ground in Bangladesh and is gradually heading towards a success. We should prepare ourselves to face the challenges of the 21st century, bringing in progress and prosperity for the nation," he said.

He said, "We should remain ever vigilant so that the lives that were sacrificed in the War of Independence and in the movement for re-establishing democracy does not go in vain. Let it be our mission to assure our future generation a happy, prosperous and improved life through fruitful realisation of the immense prospects and courage to face the challenges of the next century."

In his address, President highlighted achievements of the government over the last one and a half years and also some of its future plans. He zoomed in on a wide spectrum of crucial aspects of the national life ranging from judiciary to the CHT peace accord, national economy to economic diplomacy.

President Shahabuddin said, an efficient legal system and court administration is a precondition for establishing social discipline and ensuring sound economic development. In the absence of required reforms, the judicial system is facing stagnation, he observed.

The present government has undertaken a number of reform programmes, he said mentioned the Tk 200 crore Judicial and

**5-member panel of chairmen**

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury yesterday nominated a five-member panel of chairmen to preside over the 8th session of Parliament in the absence of Speaker and Deputy Speaker, reports UNB.

The panel members are Advocate Rahmat Ali, Dr TIM Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury, Imran Ahmed, Prof Rezaul Karim and Prof Panna Kaiser.

Legal Capacity Building Project. He also mentioned metropolitan sessions courts and bankruptcy courts, Law Commission, Judicial Training Institute.

Sincerity, firm commitment and relentless efforts of the government for a permanent resolution of the problems in Chittagong Hill Tracts resulted in successful conclusion of the prolonged dialogue and signing of the peace accord with the Parbatya Chattagram Jansanghati Samity on December 2 last year, he said.

"The peace accord is the confirmation of this government's commitment to democracy, rights of citizens and socio-economic well-being of the people. Everyone, irrespective of party or opinion, must come forward to ensure peace in the CHT."

He said development partners have responded favourably to government's plans for development of CHT Development works have already begun. For speedy processing of development projects, a separate cell has been created in the Planning Commission.

Turning to law and order, the President gave a resume of special efforts by law enforcing agencies.

Lauding role of Armed Forces in the UN peace missions, President Shahabuddin expressed the hope that the patriotic Armed Forces would keep themselves above any controversy and contribute to national reconstruction.

**No obituary reference in JS**

By Staff Correspondent

In a departure from usual practice, there was no obituary reference on the opening day of the Jatiya Sangsad's eighth session yesterday.

Usually, the opening day of every session of the Sangsad witnesses obituary reference on eminent personalities including members of parliament.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury admitted before the House that they were aware of the death of some important people during the period between the last session and the present one.

The Speaker told the House that they received information about the deaths just before the beginning of the session. This is why they could not collect details about the deceased.

He, however, assured that necessary steps would be taken in this regard.

**2 killed, 10 hurt in B'baria bridge collapse**

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 14: At least two people were killed and 10 others injured in a bridge collapse in Sadar thana of the district today.

According to eyewitnesses, the incident took place when some labourers were breaking the abandoned Uzanisher Bridge at around 3 pm. Suddenly the south portion of the bridge collapsed to the ground, resulting in deaths of two labourers on the spot and injuring 10 others.

The bodies were sent to Sadar hospital where the injured admitted to the same hospital.

**BNP EC meets Sunday**

A meeting of the national executive committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be held at 29 Minto Road at 10 am on Sunday, reports UNB.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday urged all members and standing committee members, district presidents, conveners and parliament members of the party to attend the meeting.

**NCCHT, PCJSS**

From page 1

ened security around the Circuit House and its surrounding areas.

PCJSS leaders have already arrived at their temporary headquarters in Dudukchhara, a tiny frontier hamlet under Panchhari thana.

They will be brought to Circuit House by a military helicopter from there, our Khagrachhari correspondent added.

**Khagrachhari**

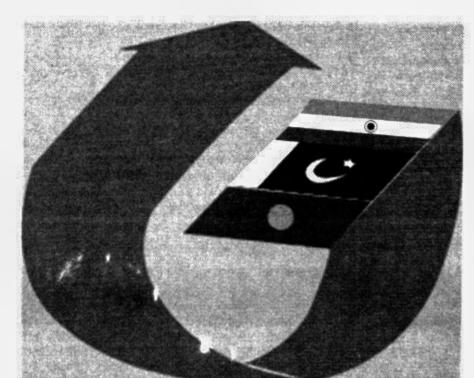
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CHT and PCJSS will sit tomorrow at the local circuit house to discuss the arms surrender and others related issues.

PSOP announced the programme from a rally held at Muslimpara Primary School in Matiranga thana today.

Our Khagrachhari Correspondent adds: Authorities clamped section 144 in Matiranga Natunpara college area to prevent the Awami League led Nagorik Committee and the BNP led Oikkyo Parishad from holding rallies there today as both sides convened rallies at the same venue and same time.

**WE WISH THE THREE-NATION BUSINESS SUMMIT**



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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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