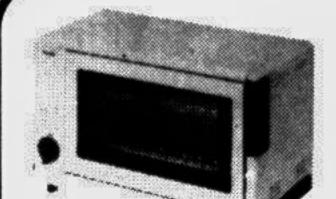
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Fed 致.

The World on Time



Mannan Bhuiyan

blasts govt for

importing rice

seeds from India

BNP Secretary General Ab-dul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday

criticised the government for importing hybrid rice seeds without considering its adverse

effect in the country's agricul-ture system, reports UNB.

"The government has im-ported rice seeds to satisfy In-

dian exporters and some local

traders," Bhuiyan said.
He was addressing a seminar

on "Wisdom of Importing Hy-brid Rice Seeds: Bangladesh

Scenario" at the National Press

Club in the afternoon. The sem-

inar was organised by Agricul-turists Association of Bangla-

Former Vice-chancellor of

Khulna University Prof Mo-

hammed Golam Ali Fakir and

Dr Mohammed Ayebur Rahman

presented key note papers at the

cessity to import seeds. But the

merits and the demerits of the

hybrid seeds in our soil and

climate should be examined

Bhuiyan said "The govern-

ment has no responsibility to

the people of the country. That

is why they have imported the

hybrid varieties which gave a

poor yield making the farmers

rice can be increased 15 to 20

times by improving further the

seeds in our Rice Research Insti-

Dr Fakir said that the price of

hybrid seeds is 15 to 20 times

higher than that of local devel-

oped UFSHI variety. The price

of per kg hybrid seed is Tk 200

to Tk 300 while the local vari-

Indo-Bangla talks

Both sides agree

to resolve

outstanding issues

terday agreed to take appropri-

ate steps to resolve outstanding

bilateral issues between the two

Home Secretary level meeting

held at the State Guest House

Rahman led the seven-member

home side while Indian Home

Secretary BP Singh led his

country's seven member team at

the two sides discussed in de-

tails "effective and appropriate"

steps to solve various problems

specify the issues, but the two

neighbours have problems like

border demarcation, cross-bor-

der insurgency, smuggling,

push-in, illegal trafficking etc.

The press release did not

between the two countries.

An official press release said

The agreement came at the

Home Secretary Safiur

neighbours, reports UNB.

Padma.

the talks.

Bangladesh and India yes-

ety cost Tk 10 to Tk 15.

He said the production of

The renowned agriculturist

before the import," he said.

"There might have been ne-

desh (AAB).

seminar.

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PHILIPS

Armed Forces Day observed The Armed Forces Day was

observed in the country yesterday, reports UNB.

In view of the post-flood situation, no display of military hardware has been arranged in Dhaka or elsewhere in the country.

The day's programme began with offering of Munajat after the Fazr prayers in all mosques at army Garrisons, naval ships and establishments as well as airforce bases throughout the country.

In Dhaka, President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placed floral wreaths at the 'Shikha Anirban' (the Eternal Flame) at

The President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister stood in solemn silence to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces who had embraced martyrdom in the War of Liberation in 1971. They also signed the visitors' book.

Army Chief Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, Bir Bikram, Navy Chief Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam, Airforce Chief Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Defence Secretary Sved Yusuf Hossain, Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Major General Imamuz Zaman, Bir Bikram, other Principal Staff Officers, Formation Commanders, Officers, JCOs and all ranks of the three services were present during the wreath-laying ceremony by the President and the Prime Minister.

Later, the chiefs of three services placed floral wreaths at the "Shikha Anirban" separately.

Principal Staff Officers and other senior officers of the three services were present during the wreath laying by the three chiefs while smart contingents of the respective services presented arms salute.

Later, the three chiefs paid courtesy call on the President and Supreme Commander of the Arms Forces of the President Shahabuddin Ahmed at the Bangabhaban and stayed with them for some time.

They also paid courtesy call on Prime Minister Hasina at the Armed Forces Division. Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina met with the family members of Bir Shresthos and a number of other gallantry awardees.



ARMED FORCES DAY: President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stand in silence at the altar of Shikha Anirban in the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday after -ISPR photo placing wreaths.

to build modern armed forces'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that the government was determined to build modern and efficient armed forces along with the development of other sections of the society, reports UNB.

"Besides protecting the sovereignty and independence of the country, the members of the armed forces stand beside the people during natural calamities," she said while addressing a reception organised on the Armed Forces Day. at Senakunja in the Cantonment.

Referring to the warning of a cyclone today, Hasina urged all to remain alert and pray to the Almighty to save the country from any disaster.

She also called upon all irrespective of party and opinion to work unitedly to build up the country with the spirit of the Liberation War.

"Let us work together to build a happy and prosperous Sonar Bangla as dreamt by the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," she

The prime minister said the 21st November occupies a glorious place in the history of the Liberation War.

that it would bring peace.

strongly pleaded for fully im-

plementing the agreement im-

mediately."We have confidence

on the Prime Minister in this

regard, he said. He also said

that the first anniversary of the

accord is coming on December

But what is there for us to cel-

ebrate it? "Members of the

PCJSS who surrendered arms

and refugees including myself

are yet to be rehabilitated".He

also accused the government of

being partisan in its actions

there was an "unwritten part"

of the CHT accord with the gov-

ernment. "We agreed that

PCJSS would nominate the 22

members of the Regional Coun-

cil (RC) and name a retired Jus-

tice to head the Land Commi-

son", he said replying to a ques-

of PCJSS chief Shantu Larma.

said that they are demanding

"corrections" in the CHT acts

on hill districts and the RC.He

also accused the government

and a section of the administra-

tion of delaying implementa-

"take responsibility of the non-

tribals", saying they should be

resettled. There are land avail-

able outside CHT in Chittagong

and in char areas.Land Com-

misison would give its verdict

on land ownership to decide the

issue of settlers.International

funds could be sought for their

resettlement, he observed about

tion to the nomination of three

members from settlers' quota

in the 22-member proposed RC,

Rupayan Dewan said, * They are

On the issue of their objec-

the the fate of Bangalees.

outsiders".

But Rupayan declined to

Rupayan Dewan, a close aide

tion from a newsman.

tion of the accord

Gautam Chakma said that

which is creating distrust.

On this day in 1971, the united forces of army, navy and airforce had launched an integrated offensive against Pak-

istani occupation forces.

people living there and a voter Hansadhajj Chakma list, resettlement of Bangalees living in the cluster villages, ending acquisition of land in the name of afforestation. withdrawal of temporary army camps and ending what it called 'operational activities' under 'unwritten' orders from the army command.

Senior leaders of PCJSS Gautam Kumar Chakma and Rupayan Dewan, Convenor of Laision Committee Hansadhajj Chakma, Ananta Bihari Khisa, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Porf. Maniruzzaman Mia, former Brigade Comamnder at Khagrachari Major General (rtd) S.M.Ibrahim, Bangalaee Krishak Sramik Kalayan Parishad Convenor Mohammad Awal, Parbattya Adibasi Banagalee Kalyan Parishad General Secretary Gafur Ahmed Talukder, Jiten Chakma and Biplob Chakma of Pahari Chhatra Parishad, Chaitali Chakma of Hill Women's Feeration and Shaktipada Tripura of Pahari Gano Parishad were among the participants.

The workshop on "One Year of the CHT Accord : Progress, Problems and Prospects" had three sessions. Prof. C.R.Abrar of Dhaka University, Advocate Hasan Arif and Prof. Tasnima Arefa Siddiky of Dhaka University conducetd the sessiosns Abdullahil Kayyum read out a keynote paper.

The paper, among other issues, noted that law and order should be improved in the CHT and illegal arms recovered.

Participating in the discussions, Major General (rtd) Ibrahim recalled his command at Khagrachari and the peace process that was initiated a decade ago.

He observed that if the Shantibahini had gone for a settlement with late president Ziaur Rahman in 1979-80, there would not have been settlers in the hills. Even if they had accepted the district councils in 1989, things would have been much easier to settle, he said.

He said if those living in the CHT can be taken as one entity, it will be easier to settle things. He emphasised consensus to resolve the problems in the hills.

Prf. Maniruzzaman Mia observed that the CHT accord sacrificed settlers' interests who constitute almost half of the population in the hills.It violated their constitutional and human rights by making provisions that those who have ownership of land and addresses only will be voters, he

Mohamamd Awal said that as citizens of the country, Bangalees have right to settle anywhere in Bangladesh. He cited different problems in land ownership by the non-tribals since the flare up of violence in the hills in 1986 when land

records were burnt. He pleaded for amendments in the accord to preserve rights of the Bangalees saying that they also welcomed the accord

'Govt determined | US-Bangladesh confce on investment in Dec likely

A high-profile conference between the United States and Bangladesh is likely to be held in Washington in the middle of December in a bid to woo American entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh, reports

The US Chamber and Commerce is going to organise the meeting in which the US team is expected to be led by Energy Secretary Bill Richardson. A high-level delegation will represent Bangladesh at the meet-

The conference was planned in Washington recently when the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and In-

Gold worth Tk 27 lakh seized at ZIA

Airport customs seized over three kilograms of gold ornaments and gold bar worth Tk 7 lakh from a Biman's car here in the early hours of yesterday, a press release issued by the airport customs house said, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, a customs surveillance team caught a catering high-lift car of Biman on its way to BFCC office and searched out a tray of leftout food with three paper packets containing 3,067 grams of gold ornaments and one 10-tola gold bar. These packets were wrapped up by scotch tape and hidden inside a meal cart of the vehicle, the press release said.

The team caught the vehicle at 1.00 am when Biman's Hight catering staff were returning to the BFCC office after ending their arrival-handling catering activities. The delayed Biman flight, BG 028, which came from Dubai and Abu Dhabi via Chittagong, landed at the airport at 00.:09 hours.

The team also seized the vehicle of Biman and its other belongings and a departmental case was filed in this connection, the press release added.

dustry (FBCCI) President Abdul Awal Mintoo met US Chamber of Commerce Vice-President Williard A Workman.

An FBCCI press release also said the US Chamber of Commerce was trying its best to encourage American entrepreneurs to come in a bigger way to invest in Bangladesh in different sectors like energy. power and telecommunications.

The US Chamber also urged the Department of Commerce and Energy to institute a bilateral commission for regular high-level consultations with Bangladesh on trade and com-

The meeting, held at the head office of US Chamber in Washington, was attended by Dr Herbert J Davis, Executive Director of US-Bangladesh Business Council, which is also a part of the US Chamber of Commerce, and Cooper L Kinney, Assistant Director of International Division of US Chamber.

Dr Herbert told the FBCCI President that they had formally invited Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to address the forum during her upcoming visit to the United States.

5 truckers held with smuggled sugar, placed on remand

By Staff Correspondent The five truckers who were

arrested at Jatrabari crossing in the city on Friday night for allegedly carrying smuggled sugar were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Mgistrate's court yesterday. The court placed them on a

day's remand, police said. The trucks were carrying sugar illegally brought from India, police said...

Constable held on charge of raping maid By Staff Correspondent

A police constable was arrested in the city yesterday on charge of raping a minor girl at his rented house at Purba Rasulbagh, in Kamrangirchar area, Lalbagh police said.

Abdul Wahab Khan, 48. baten no 15503, was caught red handed by Tahmina Begum. landlady of the house, when he was forcibly involved in sex with 12-year old Rahela (not her real name). The owner of the house later handed the culprit over to Lalbagh police.

Rahela, 12, of Kishorganj was a maid at the house of accused constable Abdul Wahab. He brought the girl to Dhaka to deploy her in his daughter's house, sources said.

The family members of the accused rapist were away from the house during the incident.

women in politics. Dr Imtiaz Ahmed, Executive Director of CA who presided over the second session of the dialogue said, "The existing ratio of women to men in the parliament is not satisfactory. Our target should

Another speaker while discussing role of the state regarding security of women accused for all offenders. She added that the media does little to help the situation adding that only one per cent of all incidents of violence ever makes it to the news-

papers. Economist Professor Rehman Sobhan reiterated the need for proper representation of women in parliament as he said that women's interests must be supported by democ-

Others who spoke on the occasion pointed out to the lack of political commitment on the issue. Some of the discussants also suggested change in curriculum of school and colleges

A number of women's rights activists, development workers, academics, feminists, writers, students, housewives and people from all segments of life attended the dialogue.

Mother's kidney may save Asma

By Staff Correspondent Asma Begum will soon undergo surgery for kidney trans-plantation, a doctor said.

"A kidney from her mother would be implanted by this December. Tissue matching examination showed positive results and Asma is now ready to undergo the surgery," said Professor Harun-ur-Rashid, head of nephrology department, who re-turned from abroad day before

yesterday. Speaking to the Daily Star yesterday afternoon at the Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital where Asma is admitted, the professor however said, "Asma is now suffering from chest infection. We cannot operate when she is sick. But we hope Asma would soon recover from her infec-

Asma's mother, Zahura Begum has agreed to give one kidney for the sake of her daughter's life. "I am very scared. Would the surgery involve a lot of pain?" she asked the visiting

The professor assured Asma's mother that she could lead

at Dhaka Medical College Hos-

ing out gas structures or blocks

to foreign companies, the

sources said. The government's

current policy allows only so-

licited bidding to choose in-

vestors in different blocks or

one-year Letter of Intend (LOI)

given by the government to UN-

OCAL in January 1997 to study

and submit plans for the Shah-

bazpur gas field. This violated

the government's policy guide-

line, the sources said. At that

time, the LOI was severely criti-

cised by other foreign compa-

nies who were waiting for the

Second Round Block Bidding

for Oil and Gas exploration.

They had said that it violated

the policy and the principle of

equal opportunity for them to

the government on the basis of

was discovered by Bangladesh

exploration company BAPEX in

The WRIP was submitted to

The Shahbazpur gas field

Hurricane

From Page 1

Red Crescent sources said it

Four control rooms have

had deployed 33,000 volunteers

in 30 coastal thana areas of the

country where 60 lakh people

been opened at Chittagong port

to work round the clock while

police and port security people

were kept on high alert at port

chored at port jetties were taken

outside in addition to other pro-

tective measures, port officials

and small vessels were ordered

to move to the upstream of Kar-

naphuli river from around the

port jetties for safety reason,

were called back to remain pre-

sent at the office round the

clock, official sources said

adding that all the trucks from

inside the jetties were forced

Port authorities took all

these measures after holding an

emergency meeting at port of-

fice, officials said. Chittagong

district administration also

held a meeting of disaster man-

agement with all concerned de-

partmental heads at Chittagong

circuit house at noon today and

alerted all to take required

measures for tackling the situ-

The port officers on leave

All the coasters, trawlers

At least 10 ships already an-

The PSC is the result of a

gas structures.

participate.

sources said.

live in risky zone.

area, they informed.

they said.



a normal life with one kidney. After dialysis on Friday night, Asma's condition was stated to be "better but not out of

Doctors during an operation

pital "mistakenly" removed Asma's only functioning kidney about two and a half months ago. A case was filed accusing the concerned DMCH doctors and health ministry of-

Dacoity in

Unocal's WRIP

From Page 1 now been almost confined in

However, the energy ministry negotiators also raised questions about various aspects of WRIP; specially Unocal's

of a 24 inch diameter pipeline. Energy Ministry says, the Shahbazpur gas field does not have enough gas to justify such a pipeline. It suggested that the pipeline could be at best 16 inches in diameter.

about the pipeline diameter. Sources said, although this pipeline scheme is apparently for the Shahbazpur gas field, Unocal has a long term vision about setting up an international pipeline beginning from Central Asia, passing through Bangladesh and ending in the ASEAN countries.

has now been decided that a The consultant will also

scrutinise and evaluate tender documents and give advice on the issue of tariff and legislative matters relating to the pro-

Besides, the government has decided to float a tender to match Unocal's proposals. If no other foreign company can match Unocal's proposal, the government will go for signing the final agreement with the American company.

power projects likely

NEW DELHI, Nov 21: The Indian union government plans to extend a 10-year tax holiday to mega-power projects in a bid to enhance power development in the country, official sources said here today, reports Xinhua Promoters of all mega-power

CAL to reconfigure its proposal to match that. If UNOCAL fails

the Energy Ministry.

proposal on the pipeline. Unocal proposed setting up

Unocal has been insistent

To end this disagreement, it

foreign consultant would be appointed to see whether Unocal's proposal to set up a 24 inch diameter pipeline is justified.

The government will also float a tender to select contractors for pipeline construction and horizontal drilling under the WRIP.

If any other company can match UNOCAL's proposal or give a better project outline, the government will first ask UNO-

Extension of tax holiday to Indian

projects would be given the same tax holiday. Under the new mega-power policy, promoters are allowed a 10-year tax holiday which can be availed of during the first 15 years after the project is commissioned. At present, independent

power producers can avail of a total tax holiday of five years and a 70-per cent tax holiday for another five years.

Jayantika Express to compete with the new proposal in terms of price and From Staff Correspondent

technical issues, only then the A dacoity was committed in government will start negotiathe Inter-city Jayantika Extion with the better bidder. press at a place in between Sat-The government initialled a gaon and Rashidpur stations on Production Sharing Contract Sylhet-Akhaura section to-(PSC) with UNOCAL in the first quarter of this year violating Passengers and GRP sources its' own policy regarding leas-

said, the train which was on its way to Sylhet suddenly stopped its journey sometime after it left Rashidpur Station at about 6-50 pm. About 40 to 50 miscreants armed with lethal weapons

swooped on the passengers.

They beat up the passengers and

took away gold ornaments and

money, other valuables worth about several lakh taka during the half an hour operation. About 50 passengers received Of the injured, eight were

admitted to the Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital and four to the Srimangal Hospital. The driver of the train, Ab-

dul Baset, said that the miscreants pulled chain to stop the train. However, a number of passengers alleged that the miscreants committed the dacoity in collaboration with the driver and the conductor guard. A case has been filed with the Srimangal GRP.

Degree exams 183 expelled in Rajshahi on 2nd day

RAJSHAHI, Nov 21: Some 183 examinees were expelled on the second day today of ongoing degree examinations from 20 centres in the district, reports UNB.

Some unruly students damaged the car of a Magistrate as they failed to adopt unfairmeans in the examination at Premtali Degree College centre, police said.

Satellite

From Page 1

service in disaster management during emergency period. It can also be useful to boost rural telecommunication. Iridium, which operates 66

low-earth-satellites with landbased wireless system for telecommunication, has also proposed services in some Southeast Asia countries including India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives, the Motorola official said. Already, it has signed

agreements with 21 cellular operators in these countries to market its services, the Motorola official said.

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Women leaders at Star dialogue look. It judges and prescribes

-Star photo

From Page 1 Sex scandal only a personal matter to Clinton

SEOUL, Nov 21: US President Bill Clinton said today the sex and perjury scandal that sparked an impeachment proceeding was no longer a political or legal issue for him but a personal matter in which "there has been a lot of suffering".

At a joint news conference with South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung, Clinton was asked whether he should face some kind of punishment or apology to bring the matter to closure, reports Reuters.

"There has been a lot of suffering — that is different from punishment, although it's hard to see the difference sometimes as you're going through it, Clinton responded. "For me, this long ago ceased to be a political issue or a legal issue and became a personal one. And every day I do my best to put it right, personally."

He said it would not be appropriate to comment on what Congress should do.

Women's rights activist Shaheen Anam called for breaking the silence over violence at home. "Violence at home is committed by people we trust. Marriage cannot ensure security of women even though that has been the traditional concept for generations," she

Sonia Nishat Amin of Dhaka University said the stigma of "losing chastity" must be driven out from the minds of women and that they must move with confidence to establish their rights. Rehnuma Ahmed of Ja-

hangirnagar University commented that from what had been said by others it appeared that the western world was a heaven for women, free from sexual exploitation and it is only the so called 'traditional and backward' societies as ours where women are oppressed. "It is far from the truth", she

"The absence of standard

analysis of family and of sexu-

ality, in women's movement in

our country is compounded by

the fact that the movement it-

self is very middle-class in its

leadership, morals and out-

institution, far removed from political realities, is illusory. If that is the case then those who attacked me, would have been punished by JU authorities". Women's rights activist Maleka Begum said the law of

violence.

emancipatory solutions for

women from working class and

campus rapes, she said, "to treat

the university as an enlightened

Turning to the issue of JU

poor backgrounds," she said.

GURDIAN OF THE LAW? The owner and tenants of a

house at Islam Nagar at Asrafabad under Kamrangir Char

caught Police Constable Abdul Wahab red handed when

he raped Marjina a 13 year old girl in the building and

handed him over to the police of Lalbagh Thana.

of their deprivation. She stressed on the need to amend the existing family rules which are discriminatory. Sadeka Halim of Dhaka University said that even as a teacher at the university she was a victim of psychological

the land does not advocate for

women's rights but talks only

that the shelter centres made for women are virtually jails. Development worker Nibedita Das Purakayastha said the sense of security has been destroyed in the country because of negative politics. "Our politics has given birth to

discrimination among

mankind, unfaithfulness and

insecurity," she said.

Prof Salma Sobhan observed

Among others JU teacher Anu Mohammad, Manas Kumar Chowdhury, Advocate Khaleda Khatun, Mirza Taslima Sultana, Dr T Hossain, Nasreen Annie, Belayet Hossain, Sadia Sharmin, Aminuzzaman, Ehsan-e-Khanam also spoke in the morning session. In the second phase of the

dialogue (Women and Security) speakers stressed that people's power should be considered as a focal point for all campaigns against violence on women. Citing the example of Yasmin murder in Dinajpur, one of

the speakers on the panel said, "It was the people who ruled the city in absence of law enforcers during their seven day protest against rape of Yasmin and her subsequent murder. During the protest there were no reports of criminal offences.' Professor Salma Sobhan of Ain-O-Shalish blamed the sys-

tem for underplaying women's

role in the society. "Law makers have overlooked proper enforcement of existing laws. It is the duty of the state, police and local government to see that the laws are enforced properly," she The speakers also talked

about proper representation of

be to bring it to par."

the state of being a sanctuary

to educate the masses.