Emergency direct fund release suggested

BSS, Dhaka

The high-powered Independent UNDP Evaluation Mission in yesterday said that the UNDP audit teams did not find any irregularities or cases of misappropriations of SEMP fund so far disbursed and that all its sub-implementing agencies (SIAs) maintain good records of their accounts.

In a report it also said that it did not find any logic as to why this very important programme was suspended and recommended its resumption without any further damage to the cause of sustainable development.

The Mission described the 26 million dollar Sustainable Missionreport. Environment Management programme (SEMP) as the most unique and best green collaborative intervention in Asia and recommended emergency direct release of fund to all sub-implementing agencies (SIAs) for this highly successful programme.

The Mission led by Earling South Africa in 2003. Dessau, who was UNDP Resident Representative both in Bangladesh and India and was in-charge of the reconstruction of Somalia, commended the achievements of 21 SIAs of SEMP in first two years and expressed concerns that those achievements and gains could be lost if all activities of this innovative programme not resumed immedi-

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman, for her contribution to

training centre and a working

women's hostel has been built at a

cost of Tk 9.5 crore. The Prime

Minister had laid its foundation

Children Affairs Prof Zinnatunnesa

Talukder, Chairman of Jatiya Mohila

Sangstha Ivy Rahman, Women and

Children Affairs Secretary AKM

Ehsanul Hug and member of the

Sangstha Baby Maodud also

About the allegation of the oppo-

sition leader that the country would

be destroyed under Awami League

rule, Prime Minister questioned

whether attaining food autarky after

overcoming a food deficit of 40 lakh

in the examinations: A+ (80-100 per

cent, 5 points), A (60-79 per cent, 4

points), B (51-59 per cent, 3 points),

C (41-50 per cent, 2 points), D (33-40

per cent, 1 point) and F (0-32 per

ease credit transfer for enrolment or

transfer to foreign educational

institutions, the ministry officials

but an average over 33 per cent will

however get a special chance for

conditional enrolment in college

but s/he must have to reappear and

decided to implement the grading

Students with an Fin one subject

The grading system would help

cent, 0 points).

pass the next year.

Hasina mentioned the one- women.'

destruction of the country.

State Minister for Women and

stone on November 30, 1998.

The complex that includes a

FROM PAGE 1

women's development.

Dessau said this during a meeting at Economic Relations Division (ERD) with ERD Secretary Dr AKM Mashiur Rahman in the chair. UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner, ADAB Chairperson Khushi Kabir, FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, IUCN Country Representative Dr Ainun Nishat, Summunoy Chairman Dr Atiur Rahman, BIDS Director Dr M Asaduzzaman, PRISM Chairman Ikramullah and representatives of Planning Commission, World Bank, IMED, DLRS, DPHE, LGED, BELA, to pay directly to all SIAs for expedit-CAMPE, Caritas, BUP, Waste ingthe execution of SEMP. Concern, EGIS, Gano Chetona made their substantive comments on the

investigation, field visits and interviews of the beneficiary groups, said programme supported by UNDP. the achievements of the five-year SEMP will be a major success story for Bangladesh which can be presented at the United Nations Rio+10

removal of all stumbling blocks for smooth execution of this very vital programme to help arrest environ- SIAs. mental degradation in Bangladesh by involving all stakeholder groups including the government ministries and civil society bodies in a decision again regarding the imple collaborative way.

The Mission also suggested environmental programme.

house-one-firm, Asrayan and other

welfare projects of the government

where women were given priority.

She said all these enhanced the

economic condition of the women

for ensuring their rights in the soci-

her contribution to the nation.

ficed a lot for the nation. "My

also worked for the development of

Govt ready for polls

tons or increase of calorie intake is independence of the country and

several measures for improvement of the implementation of SEMP in the remaining three years.

The UNDP Resident Representative said he felt sorry for the traumatic experience and hardship that was inflicted on the SIAs for last seven months of stalemate period and that he could not make any direct payment of the SIAs before Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha.

Lissner called upon the ERD Secretary to help resume the activities of SEMP on an emergency basis and put his government's signature

The ERD Secretary also appreciated SEMP activities and said there are avenues of further improve-The Mission, after its rigorous ments and the government is committed to resume all activities of this

> Dr Mashiur assured all of its immediate resumption and fund disbursement.

The representatives of SIAs Conference scheduled to be held in blamed the NPD for unilateral suspension of this major environ-The report also recommended mental programme by violating the clauses of the letter of agreements signed between the government and

They also asked the government and UNDP to safeguard against any dictatorial, unilateral and whimsical mentation of this commendable

observe peaceful

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CIR

She said the government has The dawn-to-dusk hartal in greater also taken special measures for Chittagong called by Jamaat and a establishing equal rights of the faction of JP led by its vice-chairman women in the society and for the Ibrahim bin Khalil, was observed empowerment of women through peacefully yesterday. their education and economic

The Prime Minister thanked the Mohila Sangstha for naming the in protest against Saturday's killing building after her mother Begum

of one of its activists in Satkania. The hartal failed to draw much attention in the city as BNP and the She said her mother inspired other faction of JP opposed the call Bangabandhu in every movement considering the upcoming SSC from behind the scene and sacri-

In the city, vehicles plied the roads while shops and markets

Meanwhile, the city unit of fourparty opposition alliance held a rally at Laldighi maidan with city BNP president Meer Mohammad

immediate resignation of the govelections in May.

Shahed Latif

Latif was held at the Eskaton Gardens mosque after Asr prayers yesterday. He was buried at the Banani graveyard in the afternoon.

to Mrs. Latif and consoled her.

In a condolence message yesterday, the Prime Minister expressed her deep sympathy for the members of the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

The qulkhwani of the deceased will be held on March 16 (Friday) after Asr prayers at his 11 Eskaton Gardens residence.

8 dacoits held

FROM PAGE 12

Sensing police presence behind their vehicles, the dacoits started

Exchange of fire continued when the gangsters drove through Oxygen, Nasirabad, GEC square, Dhaka Trunk Road and Hathazari Road covering about 25 km.

the Golf Club of Bangladesh Military Academy at Bhatiary, they stopped. jumped from the vehicles and tried to flee to the nearby jungle. Police arrested eight of the gang while others managed to flee. The truck and the microbus they used were also seized.

The arrested are Mohammad Ali Hossain, Abdul Mannan, Alamgir Hossain, Babul Ahmed, Abul Bashar, Mohammadullah, Ahmed Hossain and Jahangir Alam.

Police took the arrested to Hathazari thana where they were being interrogated.

confessed their involvement in Chittagong port city, Raozan, Hathazari, Fatikchhari and other districts.



Committee for the Protection of the Rights of the Deaf and Dumb of Bangladesh formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club yesterday prior to submitting a memorandum to visiting UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Allies to press BNP for power

FROM PAGE 1 Khaleda Zia would become the

Prime Minister. So, BNP must agree to certain concessions.

"Khaleda would definitely concede to the JP demand for 80 seats, even if her senior party leaders opposes the idea to brighten her chances of becoming the prime minister." JP is also pressing the allies for a

consensus on the head of the next caretaker government. Also, it wants the others to support its opposition to the incumbent Chief Election Commissioner. JP has expressed reservation

against former immediate-past Chief Justice Latifur Rahman

1039 Mongla port

dock workers to

retire voluntarily

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulma

One thousand and thirty-nine dock

workers of the Mongla port will go

on voluntary retirement within one

month under 'Golden Handshake

been sanctioned for helping the

retired dock workers for getting jobs

The Dock Workers' Management

Board sources said the decision was

taken unanimously at a meeting

recently. The Stevedores

Association leaders attended the

elsewhere other than Mongla port.

The sum of taka two crore has

Scheme'

meeting.

against CECMA Sved.

JP Secretary General Naziur Rahman Manzur said, "BNP should allocate as many seats to JP as it He, however, declined to elabo-

rate on the number of seats his party is demanding. "The alliance should, above all, keep in mind that AL should by no way return to power for its position on seat sharing. successive terms."

BNP refused to give it more than 20 back," he said.

Jamaat is giving more focus on the languishing behind the bar. The post-election period when forma- alliance had to move for their release becoming the chief advisor of the tion of a coalition government before the election, he added.

caretaker government and also would be the crucial issue. From the 1991 and 1996 election experiences, Jamaat has resolved that neither BNP nor AL would share power with it although the party was with them during pre-polls movement on both

> 10) acting secretary general Ahmed Abdul Kader told The Daily Star that his party was yet to finalise "While resolving the seat sharing

According to source, Jamaat issue, our alliance should bear in would be comfortable, even if mindthatAL must not make a come

Kader also said IOJ could not go Issue of seat-sharing aside, for election with its main leaders

JP enforces hartal in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Local unit of the latiya Party (Ershad) enforced a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Rangpur yesterday demanding release of their party chairman HM Ershad.

Shops, business establishments and educational institutions remained closed and vehicles were

off the roads. Pro-hartal activists set fire to motorbike at Shapla crossing in the town during hartal hours.

Outlaws

FROM PAGE 1

committing murders and for toll collection.

The activists of the two outlawed parties are moving in the guise of rickshawpullers, van drivers, boatmen, day labourers and vendors making it difficult to identify them, said a top ranking intelligence

Jalal's wife

said Halima, suspecting involvement of relatives of the killers behind this. Relatives of the killers were expecting that she would bend and accept the offer of money as her son became unemployed, she said.

"I am even ready to work as a maid and accept all the sufferings of my children. But I will not do any justice".

Halima, who is now living in a two room tin-shed house at Mohammadpur in the city, said she can not think of a better accommodation for her children as no landlord wants to rent house to the family of a murdered police

writing for help.

Kofi Annan in city

the troops of Bangladesh now working in Sierra Leone." A new battalion would be added soon.

Bangladesh will shortly become the largest UN peacekeeper when some 2,500 soldiers from its Army join peacekeeping operations in Sierra Leone within this month. Currently it has 3,409 peacekeepers abroad, only next to Poland. Responding to a question, Annan

appreciated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's peace mission in South Asia following the nuclear explosions by Pakistan and India in May, 1998. "I value the role she (Hasina)

The UN Secretary General arrived by a special aircraft from Kathmandu on the third leg of his four-nation South Asia tour. He was accompanied by his wife Nane Annan and some senior officials of the world body whose membership nowstands at 188.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad received the distinguished guest at the airport. Forest and Environment Minister Sajeda Chowdhury was also present.

Besides, Foreign Secretary Syed Muazzem Ali, Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to UN Anwarul Karim Chowdhury and UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner were present. Samad Azad said Annan's visit is

a recognition of Bangladesh's AP, Kathmandu growing international profile".

Annan and Samad Azad will hold official talks today. He will then deliver a lecture on "Sustainable Development: Humanity's biggest challenge in the new Century" at the International Conference Centre, organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS).

His itinerary includes a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed and a meeting with Prime

Ershad Sikder's brother arrested in Barisal

BSS, Barisal

Police have recently arrested one of the brothers of Ershad Sikder, from Taltala Bazar under Nalchhity Upazila.

of his brother in various crimes took shelter in his village home at Madarghona of Nalchhity Upazila following the arrest of Ershad Sikder in Khulna. He was sent to jail.

Minister Shiekh Hasina.

Annan will place wreath at the National Memorial at Savar, lay foundation stone of the International Mother Language Institute at Segunbagicha in the city and visit Choto Kalampur Ashrayan

He will also go to Rajendrapur Peacekeeping Training Centre of Bangladesh Army and witness a training demonstration.

Prime Minister Shiekh Hasina will host a dinner in honour of Mr and Mrs Annan at the Ganabhaban.

Annan who began his term on January 1, 1997, hails from the African country of Ghana, formerly known as Gold Coast. He is the seventh UN Secretary General and the first to be elected from the ranks of the world body. He joined the UN system in 1962 as an administrative and budget officer of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in

The Secretary General will address a press conference prior to his departure for Delhi tomorrow

Senior minister of Nepal quits over TV channel

A senior minister and close aide of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala resigned from the government Tuesday, protesting the Cabinet's plans to establish private television channels. In his letter of resignation,

Minister for Agriculture Jayaprakash Gupta said it would be immoral for him to remain in the Cabinet after the decision.

As minister of communication before receiving the agriculture post, Gupta had blocked proposals for private TV. His successor, Shivraj Joshi, reversed the decision and the rest of the government agreed.

Bahaddarhat

FROM PAGE 12 Atahar Ali to review the chargesheet and report to him.

CMM Mohammad Abdul Malek in his order yesterday acquitted 34 Naoshad Sikder, an accomplice accused including 16 named in FIR and 18 outside the FIR of the charge on the basis of the report of the magistrate Atahar Ali. Hearing of the case will resume

on March 17.

Don't misinterpret

FROM PAGE 1

by mid-April so that the caretaker government can hold elections before the rainy season sets in, the AL leaders indicated. Monsoon this year is expected to begin in mid-

Hasina is scheduled to address two public functions in the city on March 30 and 31. Speculations are rife that she would spell out her resignation plans at these meetings. In context of ongoing develop-

ment towards an early elections, the AL leadership expects that the opposition would not misread the government's good intention and thwart its "good move" by giving an ultimatum from the March 21 rally in the city.

The leaders were also critical of BNP's claim that the government has not realised any of its suggestions to ensure free and fair elections over the years. While unveiling its plans to submit a seven-point

demand to the next caretaker government, the principal opposition

party made the claim.

BNP's charter of demands includes among others cancellation of licences for weapons given to terrorists and 'branded' cadres by the AL government and release of all

political leaders in jail and police custody. The AL leaders claimed that the government had conducted combing operations to recover illegal arms, particularly from the country's south-western region. On the question of release of political lead-

ers from jail, they said whether

elected or caretaker, a government

cannot release people from jail who are implicated in specific cases. The leaders hoped that all parties would participate in the ongoing exchange-of-views programme undertaken by the Election Commission to make their inputs

towards electoral reforms.

ভালোবাসার অনেক রঙ। চাওয়া ও পাওয়ার সহজ হিসাব যেমন, তেমনি আছে আবিষ্কারের বাসনা। প্রেমের সাতকাহনই ২০০০ -এর এবারের প্রচ্ছদ কাহিনী



অবৈধ অস্ত্র পৃথিবীতে প্রতিবছর সংহার করছে ৭ লাখ মানুষ ...

२००० क्रम्य जानानाय जाननात क्रम्यात कथा वन्न। প্রবাস জীবনের কথা পড়ন প্রবাসীদের কাছ থেকে ..

২০০০ সজীব সচল বাংলাদেশের স্থির প্রতিকৃতি

৯৬/৯৭ নিউ ইম্বাটন, ঢাকা-১০০০ ফোনঃ পিএবিএক্সঃ ৯৩৫০৯৫১-৩ সার্কুলেশনঃ ৯৩৪৯৪৫৯

Opposition vows

FROM PAGE 1

mon issues to "free the country from misrule of Awami League government".

Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the movement launched against the "misrule" of

now reached its final stage. He said Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia demanded general election in May, but there has been no response from

FROM PAGE 12

He said the company would appeal against the order.

Telephone Board (BTTB) as input tax and demanded exemption of the

SSC examinations Government (BG) Press. "We have already sent the question paper and scrips to the respective boards," one official told The Daily Star yes-

Among the total examines, some 273,620 are appearing at the examinations from Rajshahi Board, 235,048 from Dhaka Board, 112,563 from Comilla, 102,242 from Jessore, 74,240 from Chittagong, 56,533 from Barisal and 29,105 from

Sylhet. Dakhil examinations under the Madrassah Education Board will begin simultaneously from Thursday and some 151, 850 examines are scheduled to sit at 350 cen-

The Education Ministry has tres. Stern action will be taken against teachers and students if found guilty for adopting unfair means in the public examination or try to help the students to doing so, board officials

system for Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations also from year 2003, sources said. Question and answer papers have been printed at the Bangladesh

parties have united on some com-

APAC Convenor and City BNP President Sadeque Hossain Khoka MP presided over the meeting. Speaking at the meeting, BNP after forming a nationalist govern-

AL government four years ago has

Proshika

the company were new. Even we did not know how to fill up the forms and other papers," he said. The authorities gave the order on the basis of those mistakes and did not consider our arguments,' he added.

But the authorities rejected its claim as documents submitted by it did not comply with the provisions _ofVAT Act, sources pointed out.

During the hearing, the company

claimed that they paid Tk 25.44 lakh

to Bangladesh Telegraph and

the Prime Minister in last 24 hours. Bhuiyan asked the government to hand over power to a caretaker

government without delay. He said the current movement will turn into an "election movement" after "fall of Sheikh Hasina's government". "We will stop our movement

ment," he said and called upon all to make the March 21 public meeting a firing police also returned fire. He said BNP chief Khaleda Zia on return from China will finalise the action programme to be announced

at March 21 public meeting. Jatiya Party Secretary General Naziur Rahman Manzur said unity of the alliance will be maintained at any cost. He said the CPM-led alliance in West Bengal is in power for 25 years and hoped that the 4-party alliance would remain in power for at least 50 years.

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mujahid and Acting Secretary General of Islami Oikya Jote Ahmed Abdul Qader called for intensifying the on-going movement to force the government step down immediately.

The meeting was also addressed by, among others, BNP leaders Selima Rahman, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Amanullah Aman, Abdus Salam, Zainal Abedin Faruque and Nazimuddin Alam, JP leaders Saifur Rahman and Taibur Rahman, Jamaat leader ATM Azharul Islam and IOJ leader Abdur RabYusufi.

hartal in Ctg

IP faction called the hartal demanding release of their party chairman H M Trshad while Jamaat

examinations.

mother had taken bold steps for the remained open.

Nasiruddin in the chair. Speakers at the rally demanded ernment to pave the way for general

FROM PAGE 1 WASA, Shahed Latif left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives, friends and admir-

ers to mourn his death. The namaj-e-janaza for Shahed

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accompanied by her sister Sheikh Rehana visited the Eskaton residence of Shahed Latif yesterday morning. The Prime Minister talked

chasing the gang.

When the dacoits reached near

During interrogation the dacoits some other incidents of dacoity in

Rab Murder Case FROM PAGE 12 Khashrul said the investigation

would have been better with one more month in hand for submitting the charge sheet. "I was never influenced by any political leader for twisting the fact," he He said hands of godfathers of

the accused are stronger. Because, they get information in advance of what is being done by IO with this Two godfathers of the accused

have already left the country. They not only masterminded the murder, but also financed the alleged killers,

Direct talks with abductors

FROM PAGE 1 Asked about the absence of Diponker from the briefing and CHT Affairs Minister Kalparanjan Chakma from the scene Islam said, "All are present and doing their respective work".

Meanwhile, there has been a wide-spread rumor in Rangamati since Monday evening that Nils was set free by the abductors. It prompted security personnel to conduct a search for the elderly foreigner at different points of

Chittagong-Rangamati road. BSS adds: Tribal abductors yesterday sent five representatives to hold talks with the government side, officials said.

"The five representatives (intermediaries) held talks with our representatives," a senior official told The official declined to elaborate on the talks and disclose the venue but added that the two groups of

"go-betweens" would meet again

Meanwhile, Dipankar Talukdar

MP and the officials and security

personnel spent a hectic day hold-

ing several closed-door meetings

between themselves and with tribal

Meanwhile, security sources said they suspected that the abductors were frequently changing their hideout taking with them the three captives. According to latest reports, the abductors were staying in Thandachhari forests under

Kaukhali in Rangamati. They said they had received a report that the tribal kidnapers had brought a doctor to their hideout for treatment of ailing Danish national Nils Hulgaard. Army troops and police waited in

Hulgaard might be freed in that area, as he was feeling sick. UNB adds: Terms and conditions are being settled now through the mediators so that the formal meet-

and they also want to get rid of the staggering holdup. Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Mobaidul Islam said at the press briefing that medicines and other necessaries were sent for the hostages through the go-

betweens.

vain for the whole Monday night in Betbunia area as earlier reports said

ing does not flop, an official source told the news agency. Another source said the abductors could not change their position

FROM PAGE 12

thing which will let the killers escape

informer. In April last year, Halima appealed to the Prime Minister in



Traffic in Muradpur area of Chittagong during the hartal hours in the port city yesterday.