

SAARC COPS' CONFERENCE ENDS

Nodal officer to coordinate matters of common interest

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The first conference of the heads of police training institutions of Saarc countries has decided to nominate a police official to act as a nodal officer for coordination on matters of common interest.

The decision was taken on the concluding day of the two-day conference in the southern city of Hyderabad on Tuesday, which discussed in detail police training programmes and decided to con-

tinue to share core competencies of police training programmes of member countries from time to time. It was also decided to hold such conference twice a year to be hosted by member countries on rotational basis, said GS Rajagopal, director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy.

He said it was decided to organise programmes for trainees from Saarc countries on themes and topics of mutual interest and concern.

The success of the conference would lead to new vistas being

opened in the area of police training and the sharing of common wisdom and resources, Rajagopal said in his concluding remarks.

He expressed the hope that the conference would go a long way in providing further impetus to closer and more meaningful cooperation among Saarc countries.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Md Mokhesur Rahman and Additional SP SM Mostaque Ahmed Khan from Bangladesh attended the conference.

German think-tank derides EU environment policy

AFP, Frankfurt

The president of Germany's respected Ifo research institute, Hans-Werner Sinn, said yesterday that the European Union's environmental policy would have "zero" effect on global greenhouse gas emissions.

"The effect is not only small, it is actually zero," Sinn told the Financial Times Deutschland in an interview.

If the EU curtailed demand for fossil fuels, as proposals currently seek to do, the prices for oil and coal would drop, Sinn explained.

At some point, the lower prices would result in decreased demand from Europe being compensated for by other countries such as the United States, China or India, he added.

Road accidents kill 4

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed in Gazipur, Thakurgaon, Satkhira and Magura yesterday.

Our correspondent from Gazipur reports: A young man was killed and five others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Signboard Area in Gazipur yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Deen Islam, 26, son of Eusuf Ali of Sribordi in Sherpur.

Witnesses said a Dhaka-bound human hauler from Gazipur that carried Deer Islam turned upside down near Signboard area, leaving Deen Islam dead on the spot.

OUR CORRESPONDENT from Dinajpur adds: A speeding truck crushed a minor girl on Thakurgaon-Panchagarh highway yesterday.

The dead was identified as Labony, 3, daughter of Labu of

village Telipara in Thakurgaon.

The locals said a Rangpur-bound truck crushed Labony while she was crossing the road at Telipara in Thakurgaon. Labony succumbed to her injuries on the way to Rangpur Medical College.

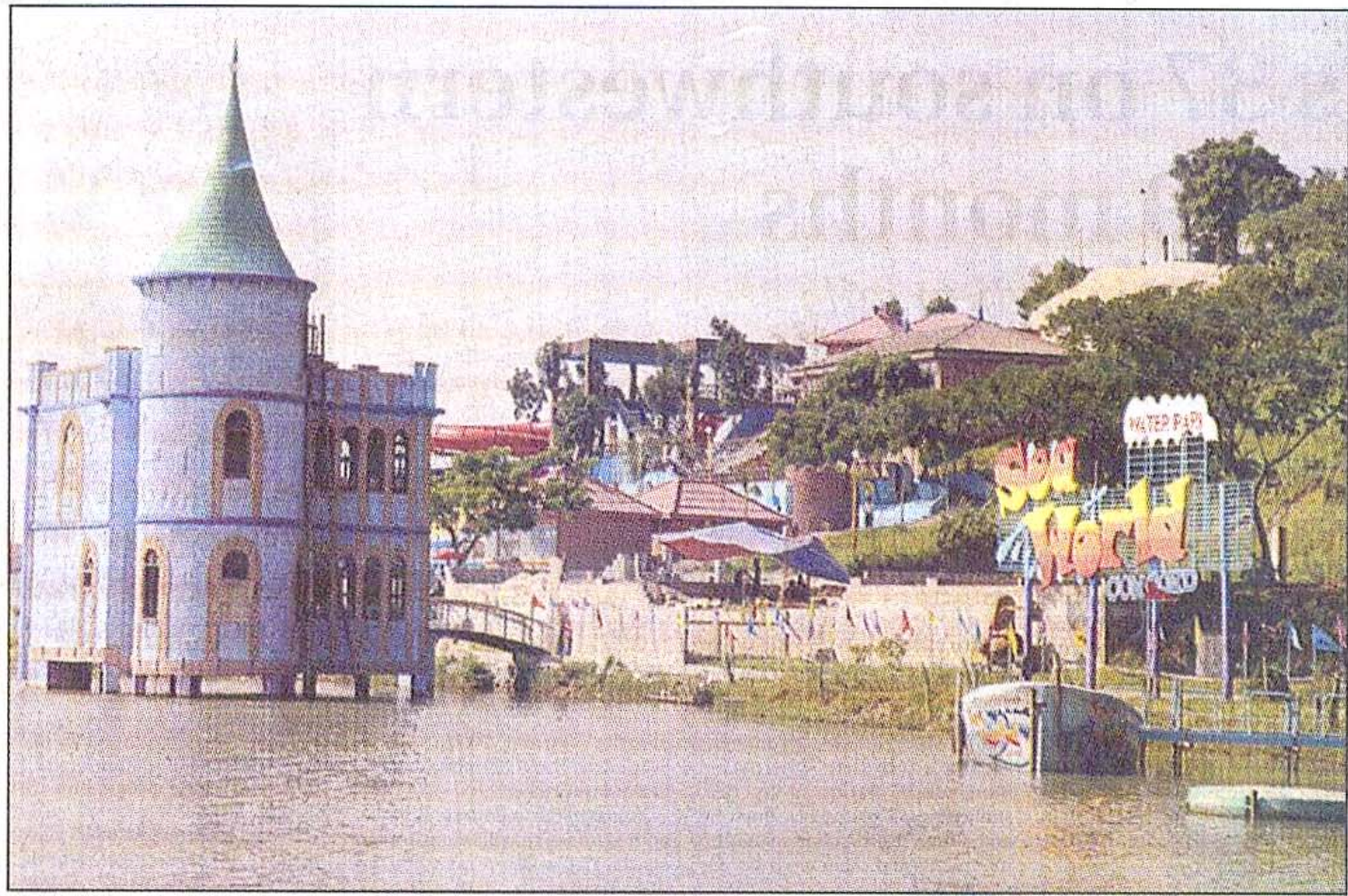
Police seized the truck and arrested its driver and helper.

UNB from Satkhira adds: A boy was killed in a road on Satkhira-Shyamnagar road at Nalta Bazar yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abdur Rahman, 9, son of Abdul Kuddus of Hizla village in Kaliganj upazila.

Police said Abdur Rahman was crushed under the wheels of a passenger bus at about 1.30pm, leaving him dead on the spot.

Another report from Magura adds: One Zulekha was run over by a microbus at Sheikhpara on Magura-Jessore road at about 3.00pm yesterday.



Concord Amusement World introduces Sea World at Foy's Lake in Chittagong on the occasion of Eid and Durga Puja.

PHOTO: STAR

India's communists renew threats over US nuclear deal

AFP, New Delhi

India's communists said yesterday they would follow through with a threat to withdraw support from the minority coalition government if it goes ahead with a contentious Indo-US nuclear pact.

A senior communist party leader said a four-party Left-wing bloc, which props up the Congress-led coalition in parliament, said it had made it clear it

Tibetan exiles storm Chinese embassy in New Delhi

AFP, New Delhi

Tibetan exiles yesterday stormed the Chinese embassy in the Indian capital in protest at new religious regulations in force since last month, witnesses said.

The group of between 30 and 50 Tibetans pushed open the front gate and entered the compound, surprising the small contingent of Indian police stationed near the sprawling embassy premises, witnesses said.

Some of the protesters, who included Tibetan monks in their trademark maroon robes, chained themselves to the flag pole inside before they were arrested, an AFP photographer witnessed.

Others sprayed "Free Tibet" in red paint on the embassy walls and the main gate before they were dragged away by police.

The Tibetans were protesting against new Chinese regulations, in effect since September 1, that state that Tibetan living Buddhas are no longer allowed to be reincarnated without permission from the atheist communist government.

Living Buddhas are an important element in Tibetan Buddhism, forming a clergy of influential religious figures who are believed to be continuously reincarnated to take up their positions anew.

China's ruling Communist party maintains strict controls over all religions.

China sent troops in to "liberate" Tibet in 1951. The Dalai Lama later fled to India in 1959 with his followers after a failed uprising and established a government-in-exile in the northern hill town of Dharamsala.

was "against the (nuclear) agreement" with Washington.

"We conveyed our sentiments to the government" during a meeting on Tuesday with Congress and its coalition allies, said the official, who asked not to be named.

"We told them clearly we are opposed to the deal and if the government still wanted to proceed they would have to face the consequences," he said.

The communists have repeatedly threatened to withdraw their support in parliament if the government pushes ahead with the pact which would allow energy-hungry India to buy civilian nuclear technology.

"We are against the agreement," Revolutionary Socialist Party Secretary and member of parliament Abani Roy told the Press Trust of India. "The political decisions we have taken is that if you go ahead, we have to withdraw."

The left-wing alliance is worried that traditionally non-aligned India is getting too close to Washington and that the deal may compromise the development of the country's nuclear weapons programme.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi, however, insist that the pact is crucial for future economic growth and to bring the country into the mainstream of global nuclear commerce.

But after several weeks of promoting the deal with Washington, the government promised further talks on the dispute with its Left-wing allies later this month -- effectively stalling steps to implement the agreement.

The senior unnamed communist party official said Congress now looked unwilling to run the risk of alienating its allies who appeared to be getting cold feet about early polls.

An election is not due until 2009. It seems that the other allies of Congress "are worried about going for elections. They do not feel that this (the Indo-US deal) is an issue worth sacrificing the government for, and I think, are pressuring the government."

The communist official was referring to media reports that Railways Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav and Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar, who head regional parties with a sizeable

number of MPs in parliament, are against early elections.

"The ball is now in Sonia Gandhi's court, she has the task of deciding which way to go -- back off from the deal and save the government or go ahead with the deal and sacrifice the government," said political analyst Rasheed Kidwai.

Going to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which needs to negotiate new safeguards with India for the deal with the US to go ahead meant the Left would immediately pull out, rendering any international negotiations "politically untenable" even if constitutionally valid, Kidwai said.

Another analyst Yashwant Deshmukh said if the government did not go to the IAEA, it would signal a complete surrender to the Left.

"Then the government would be at the mercy of the communists for the rest of its term," he said.

Political columnist Neeraj Chowdhury added both the Congress and the Left "are caught in a very difficult situation where whoever climbs down will risk losing face and credibility."

Concord Amusement World's new offers on Eid, puja

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Concord Amusement World comes up with exciting packages to celebrate the upcoming Eid and Durga Puja in the port city.

Nestled in the panoramic sight of Foy's Lake, Platinum, Gold and Honeymoon Chalets of the resort offer the opportunity to pass a pight amid the tranquility of nature.

The visitors renting the chalets would be offered complimentary breakfast, entry and all the rides free of cost. There would be arrangements of regular and acoustics guitar for the visitors at the resorts.

In the Adventure Land there are rides like Giant Ferris Wheel, Bumper Car, Pirate Ship, Family Roller Coster Yellow and Red Dry Slides, and for the kids Magic Swing, Baby Carsoul, Circus Train, Bug Bounce alongside many interesting and exciting boat rides.

Besides, there is an Observation Tower to enable the visitors a complete view of the whole city, including the Bay of Bengal, animal corner and aquatic corner.

There are rides like wave Pool, Slide World Family pool, Tube Slide, Multi Slide, Water Fall, Doom Slide, Play Zone and exiting Dance Zone.

There is also a Hill Top Restaurant with the Bay of Bengal in the front side.

There will be regular DJ shows from the Eid day at the Sea World-Concord for the visitors.

On the occasion of Eid and Durga Puja, the Concord would also be arranging different programmes for the guests at Ananda Bhuvan, which is also enriched with replicas of 14 different historical, religious and national heritages.

The main characteristic of Ananda Bhuvan is the Revolving Restaurant. The restaurant sits 250 feet above the ground and revolves its centre every one and a half hours.

An eye-catching hilly waterfall, tribal and traditional villages add to the beauty and riches of the park.

Husband kills wife for dowry in Narsingdi

UNB, Narsingdi

A housewife was strangled allegedly by her husband for dowry at Damer Bhaola village in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Police said Jewel Miah had been demanding Tk 50,000 in dowry from his in-laws. On the fateful night, Jewel and his wife Nasima Akter locked into altercation over the matter.

At one stage, the angry husband strangled Nasima Akter, 28. Later, he poured poison into the mouth of Nasima and said Nasima committed suicide.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Jewel went into hide soon after the killing.

HSBC comes to aid of flood-hit farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Ltd in Bangladesh has set a unique example.

This year, the bank did not distribute Eid greetings cards. Rather, they spent the money meant for this purpose on seeds and distributed them among flood-affected farmers in Manikganj. The bank staffs also contributed to the funds for the farmers.

HSBC officials yesterday distributed seeds to farmers of Shibrampur, Gobindabari, Basutepara and Kushtia villages under Ulaia union on the Shivalaya Central Primary School premises.

Head of Marketing and Public Relations Mustafiz Rahman Khan, Marketing Officers Mukammel Reza Chowdhury and Alamgir Kabir, and Chief Executive of Green World Hedayetul Islam were present at the seed distribution programme.

Earlier, the bank also distributed relief materials in Chandpur, Tangail, Sirajganj and Sylhet districts during floods.



Mustafiz R Khan, head of marketing and public relations of HSBC in Bangladesh, hands over winter vegetable seeds to flood-affected farmer of Ulaia union in Manikganj yesterday. HSBC distributed winter vegetable seeds among 285 flood-affected farmers there.

Israel to upgrade air defences

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel announced yesterday that it would install a new system to protect its airspace from terror attack and upgrade existing civilian aircraft missile defences.

At a meeting devoted to aviation security, ministers in the security cabinet were briefed about a soon-to-be installed system that will recognise planes flying in Israeli airspace, the prime minister's offices said.

The system would identify any plane "in a way that would significantly reduce the danger of unidentified or hijacked airplanes entering Israeli airspace in order to perpetrate terrorist attacks," it said.

Furthermore, the current anti-missile system on Israel's commercial airline fleet will be upgraded.

"At the start of 2008, development will commence on a new technological system to replace the system

presently being installed," it said, adding that Israel was "the first nation in the world to reinforce its commercial airline fleet against missile attacks."

On November 28, 2002, a jetliner from Israeli charter company Arkia came under attack from two missiles that narrowly missed the plane as it took off from Mombasa, Kenya with 261 passengers on board.

In December 2005, the transport ministry confirmed that Israel had begun to equip its national carrier El Al with an anti-missile system.

The so-called Flight Guard system, which was developed by the Israeli arms firm ELTA, costs a million dollars to install on each aircraft.

The system is equipped with thermal sensors which can deflect missiles in a similar fashion to those already installed on combat aircraft.

DeIPHE ANNOUNCEMENT
Call for Application: Round Three

The UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) is investing £3 million a year in Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DeIPHE), a links programme which started in June 2006 and will run until March 2013.

The DeIPHE programme has already passed through Round One and Round Two and is now inviting applications for Round Three.

The programme will provide funding for partnerships between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) working on collaborative activity linked to development goals. All partnerships must demonstrate a commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The overall goal of DeIPHE is to enable HEIs to act as catalysts for poverty reduction and sustainable development. DeIPHE aims to achieve this by building and strengthening the capacity of HEIs to contribute towards the MDGs and promote science and technology related knowledge and skills.

Applications are hereby invited from Higher Education Institutions in Bangladesh who are interested in the programme. Application forms, Guidance notes, Selection criteria (Score Cards), Funding guidelines and other necessary information are available at: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-delphe.html>

Please note that Private Universities are eligible, but the lead partner must be a Public University from one of the 25 DFID's bilateral focus countries.

Please also note that it would be an added advantage if proposals are consulted, during planning and writing-up, with Mr Fazle Rabbani, Education Adviser, DFID-Bangladesh, 10 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212. Email: F-Rabbani@dfid.gov.uk in order to ensure that the proposals meet DFID's Country Priorities for Asia (DeIPHE).

The deadline for submission of completed application, both hard/signed copy and electronic copy is 31st January 2008 to the following address:

Md Omar Faruque
Finance and Programme Manager
(Gender, Governance and Human Rights)
British Council Bangladesh
5 Fuller Road, Dhaka-1000
Bangladesh
Email: omar.faruque@bd.britishcouncil.org

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- for recharge of tk.50-tk.149, the subsequent bonus (15 minutes) will be given in 1 installment only
- for recharge of tk.150 or above, the bonus will be given in 2 equal installments
- the 1st installment of recharge bonus will be given within 48 hours of recharging; the 2nd installment will be given on the 30th day upon receiving the 1st installment. the validity period for each recharge bonus is 30 days
- subscribers will be given a recharge bonus only once during the whole campaign period
- bonus minutes given in each installment must be used within the validity period. unused bonus minutes can not be used outside the validity period
- this offer will last till 21 october 2007
- conditions apply
- for further details dial customer care on 121, 212 or 01911 310900

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