

People won't respond to call for anti-govt movement PM tells Sangsad

Some political parties and people are repeatedly issuing threats and ultimatums to wage a movement and overthrow the government but they do not have the people's support, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told parliament yesterday.

Abed honoured

Sir Abed was chosen from over 160 nominations received from more than 45 countries for the impact, scale and groundbreaking nature of Brac's operation under his leadership, says the press release issued yesterday.

Chairperson of Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission Dr Sima Samar, US Ambassador-at-large for Global Women's Issues Cathy Russell, lawyer and founder of Cherie Blair Foundation for Women Cherie Blair and Vice-president of Ashoka Global Iman Bibars are among the thirteen members of Trust Women Advisory Board that selected Sir Abed for the award.

57pc people have access to safe toilet

proved Sanitation: Challenges in Sludge Management" organised by Bangladesh Wash Alliance in the capital's Department of Public Health and Engineering Auditorium.



Three Biman officials and two others, arrested for their involvement in a gold smuggling syndicate, are produced before the press at the Dhaka Metropolitan Police media centre yesterday.

Biman men in gold smuggling racket

FROM PAGE 1 manager (flight services), and Tozammel Hossain, manager (scheduling). The other arrestees are Mahmudul Haque Palash, an influential Biman contractor close to many Biman high-ups, and Md Harunur Rashid, owner of "Farhan Money", a money exchange firm in Uttara.

November 12 with five gold bars weighing 2.6 kilograms. In a confessional statement to the magistrate on November 17, Russel gave names of 61 staff of Biman and Caab allegedly involved in gold and currency smuggling.

In its 523-page report to the NBR on October 26, the probe body recommended punitive measures against the 14 people. Asked whether the authorities took action against the 10 Biman staff, its acting managing director AM Mosaddique Ahmed yesterday said they didn't as they were yet to receive any compliant against them from the government.

They would be arrested if they are found involved in gold smuggling, said the official. In reply to a query about close ties between Palash and a member of Biman Board, Monirul said, "Legal steps would be taken against all the persons whose names come up in the investigation. It doesn't matter how powerful they are or what positions they hold."

Road, rail, waterways to link entire South Asia

PROPOSED RAILWAY ROUTES LINKING BANGLADESH. Lahore - Wagah (Pakistan) - Atari - Delhi - Kolkata - Gede/Petrapol (India) - Darshana/Benapol - Dhaka - Shahbazpur (Bangladesh) - Maishashan - Imphal (India).

FROM PAGE 1 countries have not yet been fixed either. Separate negotiations have to be held for this later, he said. The draft MoUs will be approved in the Saarc ministerial meeting first and then will be signed in the Summit, Musharraf said, adding that if any of the countries do not agree to the terms of a memorandum, it won't be signed.

and permits for this will have to be taken from proper authorities of the countries concerned, the draft states. The member countries will decide on traffic volume through mutual negotiations, and all sorts of fees and charges will be levied at the entry points.



- Lahore - Wagah (Pakistan) - Atari - Delhi - Kolkata - Gede/Petrapol (India) - Darshana/Benapol - Dhaka - Shahbazpur (Bangladesh) - Maishashan - Imphal (India)
Lahore - Wagah (Pakistan) - Atari - Delhi - Kolkata - Gede/Petrapol (India) - Darshana/Benapol - Dhaka - Akhaura/Gangasagar (Bangladesh) - Agartala (India)
Imphal - Agartala (India) - Akhaura/Gangasagar - Chittagong Port (Bangladesh)
Birgunj (Nepal) - Raxaul - Singhabad (India) - Rohanpur - Mongla Port/Chittagong Port (Bangladesh)
Biratnagar (Nepal) - Jogbani - Radhikapur (India) - Birol - Khulna - Mongla Port (Bangladesh)
Bardibas - Inarwa (Nepal) - Jaynagar - Radhikapur (India) - Birol - Khulna - Mongla Port (Bangladesh)
Mongla Port/Chittagong Port - Chilahati (Bangladesh) - Haldibari - Hasimara (India) - Bhutan

Increased connectivity will facilitate investment and trade activities, and ensure overall economic development in the region, the cabinet secretary hoped. RAILWAYS DEAL The Saarc Regional Railways Agreement will enable transportation of passengers and goods through railways across the region on certain terms and conditions.

The authorised officers of the country can inspect and search the transiting vehicles, according to the draft of the agreement. The member countries may not allow the movement of prohibited or restricted goods through its territory. The agreement will be reviewed every three years and can be amended or ratified then. ENERGY COOPERATION The Saarc countries may trade cross-border electricity voluntarily under the

Saarc Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity). The relevant firms of the countries will set the conditions for trade in energy through bargaining. As per the draft agreement, the cross-border electricity trading will enjoy tax waiver. The transmission planning agencies of the member countries will help to set up the Cross Border Grid Interconnection in their respective areas, and to Build, Own and Maintain (BOM) the Cross Border System. The member countries will jointly set up the Electricity Grid Protection System and the System Operation and Settlement Mechanism for cross-border electricity trade.

MATARBARI POWER PROJECT Cox's Bazar DC, 27 others sued for 'graft'

Ruhul Amin, deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar, and 27 others have been sued for allegedly embezzling Tk 23 crore of Matarbari coal-fired power plant project. AKM Kaisarul Islam Chowdhury, a resident of Matarbari, filed the case with Cox's Bazar Senior Special Judge's Court yesterday.

1975-81 COUPS MP unhappy as govt does not have info

The government had no information regarding how many coups had taken place in the army and how many servicemen were killed or hanged between 1975 and 1981, a minister told in the House yesterday. In response, ruling Awami League lawmaker AKM Jahangir Hossain, who made the question, expressed his dissatisfaction over the respective ministry's failure to provide the information.

The festival book launches taking place at multiple venues on the academy grounds. The first day's sessions will see a number of celebrated Bangladeshi authors engaged in different sessions with many internationally acclaimed authors, poets and historians. The Bangladeshi authors include Syed Shamsul Haque, Selina Hossain Fakrul Alam, Wasi Ahmed and Tahmima Anam while foreign authors include William Dalrymple, Patrick French, Rana Dasgupta, Aamer Hussein, Michael Puett and Fatema Hassan.