

Foreign buyers to be discouraged : traders

Raw jute prices fall further due to Export Price Check

A government decision to reimpose Export Price Check (EPC) on raw jute, which came into effect from today, is likely to leave an adverse impact on already shrinking jute industry.

Private traders' sources told UNB raw jute prices to have already fallen by Tk 20 to 30 per bale in the local market with the reimposition of EPC regime.

The authorities had withdrawn EPC on August 27 to facilitate free export which has mostly been dominated by the private sectors.

But at a review meeting Tuesday, EPC was again made compulsory because the government felt the easing of restriction had failed to achieve desired result.

Available statistics suggest that jute exports without EPC fetched larger foreign exchange than the earnings with EPC regime. EPC sale for

1991-92 season was registered at 4.75 lakh metric tons till November 5 compared to 3.25 lakh metric tons during the same period in 1990-91.

Reimposition of EPC is likely to discourage foreign buyers as the prices have been fixed higher compared to other neighbouring countries, private traders pointed out.

The BWD B grade raw jute which was being sold at 340-380 US dollars per metric ton has been fixed at 425 USD. Similarly prices of BWD C, D and E grades which were being sold at 290-330, 275-320 and 250-300 US dollars respectively have now been fixed at 395, 365 and 335 US dollars respectively.

Three private jute mills in Pakistan, namely Alipur Jute Mills, Khalil Jute Mills and Sunshine Jute Mills which bought large amount of raw jute from Bangladesh, have reported

edly been searching for new import market, sources said.

The reimposition of EPC is likely to affect the country's small and medium jute exporters making a heyday for the monopoly quarters, the sources said adding it also defied the World Bank recommendation which suggested for freeing the jute sector from bureaucratic tangle.

Bangladesh Jute Association sources said they strongly oppose reintroduction of EPC because it will have harmful effect on the country's economy. Jute Ministry officials said, the EPC committee will review the situation at a meeting scheduled for Sunday.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Pat Sangram Committee which led the movement for lifting of EPC, in a statement today condemned the decision to reimpose EPC and urged the authorities to withdraw it.

More concessions to workers will ruin industry, say jute spinners

Star Economic Report

Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association (BJS) Wednesday said any further concessions to the jute mills workers would have an adverse effect on the jute industry.

In a statement the BJS said the jute industry is already burdened with a 2000 crore taka loss and is on the verge of ruin due to low productivity, high production cost and competition from synthetics.

It said Bangladesh Patkal Sramik Karmachari Parishad (BPSKP) is pressurizing the government on different demands and threatening strike which is contrary to Labour Laws of the country and also to ILO conventions. It said this organisation is not registered and has therefore, no right to represent the labour's demands.

It said the government had, in the past, granted several concessions to different unregistered organisations like SKOP. Workers demands could be settled in talks between the owners and the workers and the government could hold tripartite negotiations only if such talks failed, the BJS said.

Ex-Pak Minister barred from holding public office for 7 years

ISLAMABAD, Nov 6 : A former Pakistani Cabinet Minister was disqualified Wednesday from holding public office for seven years for abusing his powers, reports Reuter.

A special court in Lahore convicted Ghulam Ahmad Khan Maneka of misconduct while he was Minister for Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis in the government of former Premier Benazir Bhutto, the official APP news agency reported.

Maneka is the third member of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party to be disqualified since her government was ousted by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in August last year.

Weavers gherao UP office

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 6 : About 1200 handloom weavers today gheraoed Belkuchi Upazila Parishad office in the district demanding food, work and boycott of foreign goods, reports UNB.

BDR-BSF confce concludes

RAJSHAHI, Nov 6 : A sector commander level border conference between Bangladesh Rifles and Border Security Force (BSF) was held at Mahdipur of Malda, India on November 4, reports BSS.

BDR Sector Commander Rajshahi Col MM Jahangir led the Bangladesh side while Sector Commander (DIG) Malda (India) GC Panth led the Indian side.

The conference held in a cordial atmosphere discussed bilateral problems particularly on border crimes and smuggling.

The sector commander of Malda assured at the conference that he would "instruct his forces that no untoward incident happens in the Indo-Bangladesh border areas in future."

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Merit list

By Staff Correspondent
Mohammad Golam Sarwar
Talukder of the Comilla Cadet College secured the first position in the combined merit list of general science and social science groups in the SSC examinations of 1991 under the Comilla Board.

Talukder obtained 841 marks out of 1000 with distinction in five subjects — mathematics, geography, Islam dharma (religion), general science and higher mathematics.

Mohammad Arif of Sylhet Cadet College stood second getting 835 marks with letters also in the above mentioned five subjects.

Mohammad Abdul Mannan of Foujdardhat Cadet College and Bijon Bihari Sinha of Sylhet Cadet College jointly secured the third position.



The activists of Democratic Students Unity held a rally in front of the National Press Club on Wednesday in observance of 'Save the Education Day'.

Powers bifurcated

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albeit support to the government during its formative stage has now become worried about the future functional procedure of the government.

The Committee in its memorandum on September 8, pleaded for vesting all powers as chief executive and principal accounting officer in the minister for effective control of the bureaucracy so that it did not hamper the smooth functioning of the ministry.

The memorandum also suggested some drastic reformation in the existing Rules of Business adopted in 1975 by limiting the powers of secretaries.

A BCS Coordination Committee source said that earlier, when the government formed a committee to reform the Rules of Business, the Cabinet Division prepared a draft suggesting replacement of the word 'president' by the words 'prime minister' which would help nothing but establishment of a 'prime ministerial dictatorship' instead of a presidential totalitarianism.

The draft raised debate in the political and administrative circles. Later the committee was reconstituted and a seven-member committee with four bureaucratic representatives formed to frame the Rules of Business.

The committee suggested the bifurcation of power between the minister and the secretary. But that also has not yet been gazetted for some unknown reasons.

As there is no gazette notification the secretaries are still enjoying the power as per the 1975 Rules of Business in which they were the official heads of ministries.

liberation struggle, and said truth will ultimately prevent.

"History will properly evaluate Bangabandhu and those who were killed later," he added.

Presided over by the Chairman of the Parliament Colonel (ret) Shawkat Ali the meeting was addressed also by Awami League leader Abdur Razzaque, MP, Captain (ret) Humayun Kabir, General Secretary of the Parliament, Flight Sergeant (ret) Fazlul Huq, Begum Nihara Huda, widow of Colonel Huda and M R Akhter Mukul.

Major (ret) Hafiz, MP, and Rasheed Mosharrif, MP, were also present at the meeting held at the Institution of Engineers.

Abdur Razzaque, MP, pointed out that the reasons for which they gave their lives had been distorted. "The people ever today do not know why they were killed," he added. He also called on the people to unite in portraying the history of the nation truthfully and fight the distortions.

Colonel (ret) Sawkat Ali in his speech urged all those who witnessed historical incidents to come forward and help publish those correctly.

The meeting was attended by a large number freedom fighters, members of their families and others.

Maxwell's funeral on Sunday

LONDON, Nov 6 : The funeral of press tycoon Robert Maxwell who was found dead in the sea off Tenerife on Tuesday is due to take place in Jerusalem on Sunday, a spokesman for his Mirror Group newspapers said here Wednesday.

Sharif orders enquiry into loan scandal

ISLAMABAD, Nov 6 : Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced a judicial inquiry today into a multi-million-dollar financial scandal and pledged to quit if he was found guilty of any wrongdoing, reports Reuter.

Speaking in a television address on the first anniversary of taking office, he said he was unafraid of the accountability demanded by opposition politicians who accuse his government of "loot and plunder."

"If the commission establishes even a single charge against the Prime Minister, I will bow before the law. But if these allegations are proven false then I will leave it to Allah and the court of the people," he said.

Sharif and Interior Minister Shujaat Hussain have been accused of the opposition of taking massive loans for their family business empires from financial cooperatives that collapsed earlier this year.

Both paid back the loans and denied any wrongdoing, but a number of politicians from the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) had connections with cooperatives based in Sharif's home province Punjab.

The scandal has put the government on the defensive and given opposition leader Benazir Bhutto the opportunity to exact revenge for being accused of corruption and sacked last year.

Leading opposition politician Malik Mohammad Qasim told an Islamabad seminar entitled "One year of IDA misrule" today that commissions of inquiry were unacceptable.

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The Midnight File

Mujahideen team starts for USSR today

ISLAMABAD, Nov 6 : A delegation of Afghan Mujahideen will leave Friday for their first ever talks in Moscow with the Soviet government on the civil war in their homeland, rebel sources and authorities here said today. The 11-member delegation is to arrive in Moscow Sunday after spending 24 hours in Saudi Arabia for a pilgrimage to Mecca, a spokesman for the Pakistani Foreign Ministry said, reports AFP.

Suu Kyi in good health

NEW YORK, United Nations, Nov 6 : Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese dissident who won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, is in good health and is free to leave Burma, Burma's ambassador to the United Nations said today, reports AFP.

20 killed after taking adulterated liquor in India

NEW DELHI, Nov 6 : At least 20 people were killed after drinking adulterated liquor during a Hindu religious festival, health officials said Wednesday. Twenty people were admitted in serious condition to the government-run Hindu Rao Hospital in north Delhi, said Om Prakash, an official in the hospital's emergency ward, reports AP.

Solidarity Day today

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to protect the independence of the country.

The day will be a public holiday and the national flag will fly atop all public and private buildings.

Various political and socio-cultural organisations have drawn elaborate programmes to observe the day.

Besides, milad mahfil and special munajat will be offered at all mosques and prayers will be offered at temples, churches and other places of worship for the peace and progress of the nation.

Improved diet will be served to the inmates of the hospitals, jails, orphanages, children centres and vagrant homes.

Newspapers and literary magazines will bring out special supplements and publish articles befitting the occasion. Bangladesh television and radio will put up special programmes.

The Shilpakala Academy will hold a session of patriotic songs in the afternoon. Documentary films show will be arranged for the students in cinema halls and other places.

CUTA appeals to JS body for resolving CU impasse

By Staff Correspondent
The Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) has appealed to the parliamentary committee on campus violence to sincerely look into the 'anarchic situation' prevailing on the CU campus and find out ways to resolve it.

The CUTA President Prof Hamida Banu and the General Secretary Dr Iftekharuddin Choudhury submitted the written appeal to the parliamentary committee at the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) Bhaban Tuesday night.

The CUTA alleged the CU had been kept hostage in the hands of a few terrorists of a student organisation which is being backed by a section of CU teachers with vested interest. The December 22, 1990 killing occurred on the campus when the majority of the teachers and students protested the terrorism, it added.

Those responsible for the December 22 incident were still continuing their terrorist acts as they were brought to trail, it regretted.

The CUTA viewed that effective steps against the terrorists was the only out of the crisis and hoped direct, legal and realistic interference by the parliamentary committee into the affair in the greater interest of the university and the democratic rule in the country.

The CUTA in its appeal also cited ten types of unlawful activities by the identified terrorists on the CU campus.

Those include : illegally using the students from their seats in the residential halls and resort to repression on the general students, curbs on freedom of expression by the teachers in the name of religion, disturbing the congenial academic atmosphere and attempt to control all academic activities in a medieval manner, establish dominance on the campus in a fascist way and attempting to create deadlock in the university administration, turning the residential halls into den of illegal arms, throwing indecent comments to the female teachers and students, interrupting the activities of the CUTA and the cultural activities of the students, locking up the university motor garage and the gates without prior notice and armed attack on the meetings of various bodies of the university including the Syndicate, Senate, Academic Council, Board of Advance Studies, Selection Committee and Finance Committee.

ISLAMABAD, Nov 6 : Bangladesh and Pakistan have decided to set up committees at each others' capital to review the implementation of the decision of the Joint Economic Commission between the two countries, reports BSS.

The three-day fourth meeting of the JEC ended here today with the signing of agreed minutes.

Hasina

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spiracy against democracy at its nascent period. The people want peace and political stability in the country which is inevitable for the economic growth, she added.

She alleged that the ruling party was politicizing with relief materials in the northern area where a large number of people were passing their days of starvation.

Sheikh Hasina also alleged that the present government was misusing huge money on foreign visits in the name of gaining international favour. The Prime Minister did not inform the Parliament or the people anything about her Harare visits. "Such was the democracy she was demonstrating," the AL chief added.

SSC exams

From Page 1 Col. 8
Normally, results are announced within 100 days of completion of the examinations.

Like three other education boards, Comilla Board also granted 25 grace marks for a single subject (including its two papers) where pass marks is lacking. The grace mark remarkably increased the percentage of pass in this year's SSC examinations under the education boards of Dhaka, Rajshahi, Jessore and Comilla this year. The grace mark was increased to help more student pass the examinations as a new system of examinations is going to be introduced next year.

A total of 1,26,642 students (male and female) appeared in the examinations of whom 82,699 came out successful. Of the successful candidates, 8,463 passed in the first division, 38,507 in the second division and 35,729 in the third division.

Hindus clash over Kali puja : 2 killed

From Our Correspondent
GAZIPUR, Nov 6 : Two persons were killed in a rivalry between the two groups over 'kali puja' celebrations in the village Samarasing under Gazipur sadar upazila Tuesday night.

Police said Djendra Chandra (55) died on the spot while Surjamoan (45) on his way to Dhaka Medical College hospital when at least 10 people from the opponent group attacked them with sharp weapons. The victims were going to attend the puja celebrations.

The two groups erected two puja pandals at the same village and tension was prevailing in the village during past couple of weeks on the issue.

Police officials visited the area. None was arrested in this connection.

Tejgaon College student shot at, wounded

By Staff Correspondent
A student of Tejgaon College was seriously injured when his acquaintances allegedly opened fire on him near the College entrance Wednesday afternoon.

The victim, Masud, a member of the College Student Union and a JCD activist, sustained bullet injuries on his back and leg. He was admitted to the Pangu Hospital in a serious condition.

Witnesses said, Masud had had an altercation with the college union Sports Secretary Shaheen on the campus at around 10 am.

Later, a group of five students led by Shaheen called Masud outside the college campus and fired at him with a cut-rifle in front of the college gate at around 1:15 pm, witnesses added.

Masud filed a case with Tejgaon thana accusing Anwar Bipul, Mamun, Shamim and Shaheen. All of the accused, except Anwar an outsider, are students of the college, police said.

Furthermore, all of the accused are also said to be JCD activists. No arrests were made till the writing of this report.

Shantibahinimen kill five

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG Nov 6 : Shantibahinimen shot dead five non-tribals including three women and injured five others at Burighat lake of Naniarchar upzila under Rangamati district today, law enforcing agency sources said.

The insurgents opened indiscriminate fire from a nearby hill top bush on the people aboard a boat on their way to Naniarchar bazar killing five on the spot. Those killed were identified as Selima Begum (30), Amena Begum (50), Saleha Begum (45), Chan Miah (40) and Mohamed Selim (20). The bodies were recovered by police. The rest five with bullet wounds were rushed to the Rangamati hospital.