

Ban on export of wet-blue leather won't be lifted

The Government has no plan to withdraw ban on export of wet blue leather. Shipping Minister M K Anwar informed the House on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Haji Rashed Mosharrar (AL-Jamampur), Mr Anwar, who spoke on behalf of the Commerce Minister, said to increase more export earnings through additional value attachment. Decision had been taken to export crushed and finished leather banning the export of wet blue leather.

Exports of year-wise wet blue and finished leather from 1985-86 to 1990-91 till May 30 are as follows:

	Wet blue	Finished and crushed leather
1985-86	Tk 120.13 crore	Tk 60.11 crore
1986-87	Tk 282.32 crore	Tk 127.39 crore
1987-88	Tk 282.80 crore	Tk 172.39 crore
1988-89	Tk 198.37 crore	Tk 236.13 crore
1989-90	Tk 246.46 crore	Tk 337.80 crore
1990-91 (till May 30)	Taka. 57.64 crore	Tk 384.79 crore

VAT and democracy

From Page 1 Col. 7
The present government aimed at strengthening institutional form of democracy for economic development. He said in a poor country like ours it was not easy to preserve democracy and political independence.

Increased investment was the key to economic development and for this domestic savings were needed, Rahman said, adding the rate of national savings in Bangladesh was minuscule, compared to the savings of other poor countries.

He said the source of government's income was taxation from which the government saves and makes investment. Even in this sector, the country was lagging behind others, he added.

The Minister pointed out that the tax-GDP ratio in Bangladesh was eight per cent compared to the 15 per cent in the neighbouring countries. It would not be possible to reduce dependence on foreign aid to achieve the target of investment if the sources for government's income were not increased, he said.

Rahman said despite many obstacles the BNP government had made provisions for providing 14 per cent of resources from domestic sources for the Annual Development Programme in the National Budget for fiscal 1991-92.

He said increased expenditure in the non-productive sector, gradual decline in the annual investment, unnecessary increase in the subsidy, accumulating losses in the commercial activities and pub-

lic sector industries and rampant corruption during the last autocratic regime had created a state of anarchy.

The Finance Minister wanted to know as to who would bear the 40 to 50 per cent wastage by the Power Development Board for generating power.

He said the BNP government would not bear such losses by imposing taxes on the people.

Rahman said a state of anarchy had been prevailing for a long time in the financial management relating to loan. A huge amount of bank loans remained unrealised and as a result crisis had developed in the economic activities.

He said liquidity crisis had developed in the commercial banks because of non-realisation of loans and now the banks were not in a position to provide fresh loans.

The Finance Minister said the government had taken various remedial measures to tackle the situation.

Referring to the latest global reforms in the economy, the Finance Minister said competitive market economy had already replaced the command economy. Even super powers like Soviet Union as well as Eastern European and other conservative countries are wedded to this economic policy.

Under such circumstances, Bangladesh alone cannot remain a silent spectator to global changes since the present day world was inter-dependent. He said it is necessary to pursue 'stabilisation and structural adjustment.'

DUCSU polls

From Page 1 Col. 8
Elaborate election schedule including the dates for submission of nomination papers and their withdrawals will be announced and an election commission be appointed soon.

The DUCSU meeting was attended by the Pro-VC, the Proctor and the Assistant Proctors, all the hall Provosts, DUCSU and student organisations leaders, and representatives of teachers, officers and employees.

The meeting also reviewed the campus situation and ways to ensure a peaceful election. Later talking to leaders of student organisations, the Vice-Chancellor sought cooperation from all concerned for holding a peaceful election.

The term of the existing DUCSU office-bearers ended on June 6 as the last DUCSU election was held on that day of 1990.

In last year's polls, BNP-backed Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) bagged all the posts of DUCSU and most of the posts of the hall unions.

No speculation could be made yet on the DUCSU elections this year as all student organisations were engaged in a feverish campaign.

JCD sources said it will contest the elections alone and the incumbent DUCSU General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon might contest for the post of DUCSU Vice President. JCD Joint Convener Fazlul Huq Milon and DUCSU Assistant General Secretary Nazimuddin Alam may run for the post of DUCSU General Secretary.

Probability of reorganising the Central Students Action Committee (CSAC) for contesting polls is thin. But an alliance comprising Awami League-backed Chhatra League (A-L), BKSAL-backed Jatiya Chhatra League and CPB-backed Bangladesh Chhatra Union may be formed for contesting the DUCSU polls.

Another panel may be formed comprising the student fronts of the five-party al-

liance. Meanwhile, various student organisations held demonstrations Wednesday on the campus demanding violence free campus and arrest of the armed hoodlums.

Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (A-L) held a rally at the foot of the 'Aparajay Bangla' which was addressed by Shah Alam, Golam Mostafa Suzan and Quamruzzaman Ansari.

They demanded realisation of the ten-point demand of the student community and alleged that police was harassing their activists for nothing while not arresting the real culprits roaming freely on the campus.

JSD (Inu)-backed Chhatra League (N-S) held a rally at the Science Annex Building premises as part of their 16-day anti-terrorism programme.

The rally, presided over by Rokuzzaman Rokon, was addressed by Mokhelesur Rahman Mukhtar, Shahnewaj Tipu, Sharifuddin Rafi, Morshedul Alam Jahangir and Abul Hossain. They reiterated their demand for arresting the killers of their leader Mahbubur Rahman and called for effective measures to stop such killing.

More AL bills

From Page 1 Col. 6
courts.

In the statement of objects and reasons of the bill, Salauddin Yusuf said that the amendments were essential to protect the fundamental rights of the people and to ensure independence of judiciary according to the joint declaration of three alliances.

In another bill, submitted on June 14, Salauddin Yusuf proposed repeal of the Vested and Non-resident Property (Administration) Act of 1974. In the statement of objects and reasons of the bill, he said that the act should be repealed to protect right on property and to get protection under law.



Indian Chief of Army Staff General Sunith Francis Rodrigues called on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Wednesday. —PID photo

People-police gap

From Page 1 Col. 4
curb crimes and ensure security of public life.

The young officers are to keep abreast with time though their dynamic leadership and new outlook, she said and hoped the training of discipline, dutifulness, conscientiousness and patriotism they received from the academy would be successfully reflected in their service life.

Begum Zia assured the government would take necessary steps to resolve the problems facing the police force and for overall development of the Police Academy, country's biggest training centre for police, situated on the Padma.

Recalling the self-sacrifice of the members of the police force in the War of Liberation, she said their contribution would be written in letters of gold in the history of Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister also expressed sympathy to the family members of those police who had laid down their blood during the Independence War.

Establishment of peace, stability and law and order are preconditions for country's socio-economic development, Begum Zia said and asked the police to properly discharge the duties bestowed upon them by ensuring discipline and stability.

She also urged police to curb smuggling, drug abuse and violent activities besides ensuring internal security and law and order.

The Prime Minister wished the new officers all success in life and hoped they would dedicate themselves with a vow to the service of the people and contribute in the country's march towards progress.

The new democratic government, she said, would continue its efforts to improve the lot of the people and ensure their welfare.

Gen Rodrigues

From Page 1 Col. 8
The visiting Indian Army Chief yesterday also called on Defence Secretary Anisur Rahman at Ministry of Defence at the Old High Court building here.

Later Gen Rodrigues visited the Defence Services Command and Staff College at Mirpur. On his arrival at Staff College, General Rodrigues was received and taken round different sections of the college by the Commandant Major General A S M Nasim.

In the afternoon Gen Rodrigues, Mrs Rodrigues and members of his entourage attended a reception, arranged by the Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, at the Senakunja at Dhaka Cantonment.

Chief of Indian Army Staff handed over some souvenirs of the War of Liberation to General Noor Uddin Khan for the Bangladesh Military Museum.

BCL calls hartal in Pabna

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, July 10: A half-day hartal from 6 am to 12 noon was observed in Pabna town today at the call of Bangladesh Chhatra League (A-A), Pabna unit.

The Chhatra League called the hartal protesting arrest of Sobel Haasan Shahtin, a BCL activist and Vice-President of Pabna Edward University College Students Union, earlier.

CHITTAGONG, July 10: Different teachers and student organisations Wednesday expressed mixed reaction to the inquiry committee report on the December 22 Chittagong University incident.

Chittagong University Democratic Teachers' Forum in a statement hailed the report and urged the government to implement the committee's suggestions. The signatories to the statement are Dr Aftab Ahmed, Dr Mahbub Ullah, and Prof Hayat Hossain.

Sammilita Peshajibi Sangsad also hailed the report and urged the government to implement the suggestions. The F Rahman Hall Students Union and Chhatra Sena also expressed similar reactions.

But, Sammilita Chhatra Oikya condemned the report and termed it as biased. It said the report was made in support of a certain student organisation. The organisation will hold a students rally in front of New Market in the town to protest the report tomorrow.

Chittagong Union of Journalists protested the remark made in the report against the local press.

Mixed reaction to inquiry report on CU incident

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The Midnight File

France cuts armed service length

PARIS, July 10: The Cabinet agreed Wednesday to reduce the basic term of national military service from one year to 10 months because of the end of the Cold War, reports AP.

Slovenia accepts EC brokered truce

LJUBLJANA (Yugoslavia), July 10: Slovenia's parliament on Wednesday overwhelmingly accepted the European Community-brokered truce with Yugoslavia, putting its independence drive on hold to stave off civil war, reports AP.

Kaifu begins US visit

BOSTON, July 10: Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu of Japan arrived here Tuesday on a two-day U S visit that will include a meeting with President Bush prior to next week's London summit of the world's leading industrialized nations, reports AP.

Floor crossing

From Page 1 Col. 7
Government and the Opposition indicated that the government would stick to its stand to get the election of the President, after the passage of the proposed amendment, conducted by the Speaker.

This is meant to ensure that MPs belonging to different political parties cast their votes in keeping with their respective party decisions. Otherwise, enforcement of the provision against floor crossing would be difficult, if MPs cast votes in a secret ballot.

Some opposition MPs who had exchanged ideas with the BNP high command about the Constitution amendment bills told The Daily Star that the government insisted that appointment of non-MPs as ministers would be needed to get the services of technocrats who are not interested in taking part in elections.

The government seeks to continue the existing provision of appointing up to one-fifth of the ministers from non-MPs. Awami League proposes to delete the provision, and instead insert a provision of 1972 that non-MP ministers will vacate their offices if they are not elected to parliament within six months of appointment as ministers.

BNP is not ready to move an inch from the stand that the provision to hold referendum to get the Constitution amendment bill passed in respect of the Preamble and Articles 8,80 and 92A okayed should be retained. Awami League wants that the provision for holding of referendum should be dropped. Some opposition MPs like Rashed Khan Menon are of the opinion that after passage of an amendment bill by a two-third majority of the House, referendum would become redundant, because the defeat of a bill in a referendum in such a case would be out of question.

The Select Committee on Constitution amendment bills in its first meeting Wednesday formulated some procedures regarding its own functioning. It will meet again at 10 a.m today.

Menon

From Page 1 Col. 7
To ensure independence of the judiciary and rule of law he sought to amend Articles 115, 116 and 117 of the Constitution and proposed to insert a new paragraph after paragraph 18 of the Fourth Schedule giving people accused under martial law the right to appeal in the High Court Division subject to laws to be enacted by parliament.

He said these provisions were needed to be incorporated in the Constitution to prevent the recurrence of autocracy. Rashed Khan Menon said, through his four Constitution amendment bills that had already been referred to the Select Committee he sought to delete a provision under Article 26 of the Constitution that provides for framing of laws and amendments in violation of fundamental rights, to repeal the law relating to preventive detention, and to ensure that parliament was taken into confidence in respect of relations with foreign countries.

Menon, who is also a member of the 15-member Select Committee on Constitution amendment bills, said he had also sought to amend the provisions proposed in the government bill about floor crossing, conduct of election of the President by the Speaker, deletion of provisions for referendum and appointment of non-MPs as ministers.

Sirajul Haque claimed that he is the conducting lawyer and everyone knows it. So he should be allowed to see Ershad. He said that he met Ershad only during the arms case.

World Population Day today

World Population Day will be observed today in Bangladesh as in other countries of the world, reports BSS. The aim of observing the day is to heighten public awareness about population issues throughout the world.

The theme of this year's Population Day is reduction of population for making a balance among population, development and natural environment aiming to save the earth. The Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed called for implementing a planned and integrated programme to solve the curse of population explosion in the country.

UZ chairmen

From Page 1 Col. 5
ment declaration by July 18 retaining the status of the Upazila Parishad Chairmen.

The Samity's demands include not to hold fresh upazila elections or appoint partymen in UZ parishes before the expiry of 5-year term.

Master said the offices of 25 upazila chairmen were lying vacant following deaths and new demarcation of upazila areas or UZ chairmen elected members of parliament.

He said as per upazila manual the election in those 25 upazilas should be held within 90 days from the day the posts fell vacant.

BCCI asked to prepare two lists of depositors

From Page 1 Col. 5
partial operations of the Bank may start soon, he said.

Since its operations in Bangladesh with a paid-up capital of two lakh US dollar, BCCI business flourished in Bangladesh, its network expanded and profit amounted to 25 lakh US dollar in a period of 16 years.

To allay the depositors' fear, Bangladesh Bank should have allowed limited transaction of the Bank as has been done in Pakistan, said a banking expert. Under such arrangement, depositors could be allowed to

withdraw up to certain amount, say Tk 60,000 to Tk one lakh.

With the suspension of BCCI operations in Bangladesh, export-oriented garments industries have been hit very hard. They are unable to submit their export documents and collect the documents of their back-to-back L/Cs for release of fabrics and accessories from the port. As per existing regulations of the Bangladesh Bank, these garments industries should not be acceptable to any other local bank without issuance of 'no objection

certificates' (NOC) from BCCI. Experts said Bangladesh Bank should spell out guidelines in this respect.

The importers have been facing the same kind of difficulties. They are unable to collect their shipping documents from the counter even by making full payments of their own. Experts said the delay in the process may lead to stockpiling of goods at the port and involving demurrages by the port.

Inland export Letters of Credit (L/Cs), favouring BCCI branches in Dhaka and

Chittagong from various international banks, have been stranded making the country's exports difficult.

On the other hand, defaulted borrowers with the BCCI have expressed their concern. With the closure of BCCI operations in Bangladesh no defaulting borrower can look for alternative arrangement with other commercial banks. Under the banking company act, the defaulters require clearance from BCCI before applying for fresh loans.

The closure of BCCI has put maximum number of deposi-

tors to hard pressure. On Wednesday, many customers thronged BCCI head office but were blocked by the security men. A hand-written notice is on display at the entrance of the Bank asking the clients to 'have patience before restoration of normalcy of the situation.'

An authoritative source told The Daily Star, that Bank of England's decision to liquidate BCCI was an act of highest treachery. It is a well-planned drive to eliminate the Bank from the international scenario, he added.

Ershad case not politically motivated

From Page 1 Col. 4
DL: Was there any mention of any law in the order of the Inventory Committee?

CMM: There was no mention of any law.

DL: If I say the Inventory Committee was formed illegally to frame a case against the accused?

CMM: That is not a fact. The Committee was formed to dispose of the articles.

DL: Did you describe the articles recovered from the house of Ershad in the unofficial note you had sent to Home Ministry on December 29?

CMM: I have submitted a list to the Home Ministry along with the unofficial note.

DL: Who gave the instruction for the case, the Home Ministry or personally the Political Secretary of the Home Ministry?

CMM: There was no personal instruction.

DL: Did you ask why the order for making the list was given?

CMM: That was mentioned in the order.

DL: Was there any instruction for lodging a case?

CMM: No.

DL: From where did the gold and silver mentioned in the list come?

CMM: That was mentioned in the inventory list.

DL: Did you mention the names of the owners of the articles mentioned in the first list?

CMM: I did not mention the names.

DL: It was necessary to obtain the consent of the former President or any guideline from the government in making the inventory list as there was no record of the articles found in the Sena Bhavan anywhere. I think this was a judicial necessity. Did you as Convener of the Inventory Committee, receive any instruction to obtain the consent of the former President?

CMM: There was no written instruction. But we discussed the matter.

DL: Would you know at that moment about the total income of former President Ershad during his whole life?

CMM: I would not know anything at that time.

DL: Ershad had written

three letters to the Home Ministry requesting to allow him or his wife to remain present during the inventory.

CMM: I don't know. But Mustafizur Rahman was present as representative of Ershad during the inventory.

DL: (read out the contents of seven letters to CMM): Do you know about the contents of the letters?

CMM: I don't know.

DL: Do you have any letter that someone was sent as a representative of Ershad?

CMM: Yes. One day Mustafiz was introduced to me in the office of the Joint Secretary (Political) at the Home Ministry.

DL: Do you have any letter?

CMM: Yes.

DL: I say he was sent to receive the articles but not as representative of Ershad.

CMM: This is not true.

DL: Is it mentioned in the inventory list that Mustafiz was his representative? (Junior of Sirajul Haque showed the list to CMM)

CMM: No. It is not written.

DL: There is no mention in the list that Mustafiz was his representative.

CMM: There was a confusion about some articles, which were determined by Mustafiz.

DL: The Committee presumed that the brother-in-law of any person knows everything about his house. Is it not a fact?

CMM: This is not a fact.

DL: How many kinds of liquors were in the stock?

CMM: Three kinds of liquors were probably there.

DL: Was there any Royal Salute, or Black Label or Teachers?

CMM: I don't know the brand.

DL: The ambassadors of different countries presented those to the former President.

CMM: His representative did not say it.

DL: I say those did not belong to Ershad but to the President.

CMM: I have nothing to say. The representative of Bangabhaban also did not say anything.

DL: Who supplies drinks to the President?

CMM: There is an institution for that.

DL: Is it written on the body of the bottles that those belonged to Ershad?

CMM: No. It was not written. But if I take some money from your pocket that belongs to you. It is not always necessary that the names of owners be written on all things.

DL: That means you are saying about the possession of the things. But he would not stay in the Bangabhaban.

CMM: He would not stay there. But I mentioned in my note why we went to see the goods in the Bangabhaban.

DL: You sought a guideline for the disposal of the articles?

CMM: Yes. Particularly for the unlicensed arms.

DL: Has anybody instructed you to lodge the case?

CMM: No.

DL: You mentioned the name of one Atiqur Rahman. Who is he?

CMM: He is the relative of Ershad?

CMM: He is the Assistant Military Secretary to the President (AMSP). He is not a relative.

DL: He said that the articles found in the Bangabhaban belonged to Ershad. Is it not true?

CMM: He said it as per advice of the MSP.

DL: Is the government the owner of the Bangabhaban?

CMM: Yes.

DL: The President would not stay there.

CMM: No. He would not stay there. But many items were recognised by Mustafiz as the belongings of Ershad. Mustafiz said that Ershad used to possess those from the time he was not President.

DL: Can you tell the name of any expert of the Bureau of Anti-corruption who can determine the prices?

CMM: No. I don't know. The cross-examination ended there.

Then Defence Lawyer Yousuf Hussain Humayun submitted before the court the inconveniences faced by former President Ershad in jail and wanted to know about the report of the jail authorities which was disclosed by the Attorney General to the press the other day.

The Attorney General then stated the report sent by the IG (Prisons) about the facilities provided to Ershad in jail.

The Attorney General said that the House was not at a place of solitary confinement. Only Ershad could not see the sunlight otherwise he was given all the facilities and even more than those mentioned in the Jail Code.

The court was adjourned till 10 am Saturday next.

Ershad's Defence Counsel Sirajul Haque said that Ershad is