

Airport in Barisal soon Development depends on social peace : PM

BARISAL, Dec 14 : Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said her government would implement all the programmes of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, including making Barisal the Divisional headquarters and constructing an airport here, reports BSS.

Addressing a huge public meeting at Bell's Park here, Begum Zia said the present government would make concerted efforts to change the lot of the people through implementing various development activities. "This is a government of the people and it will work to attain overall development," she said.

Begum Zia stressed that peace and development could be attained if there were peace and discipline in society. She called upon the people to maintain peace and increase production in the fields and factories to attain self-reliance.

She said if we could increase production in the factories more mills and factories could be established thereby generating new employments.

Presided over by Golam Salek, Acting President of Barisal district BNP, the meeting was also addressed by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Energy Minister Khandokar Mosharruf Hossain, State Minister for Education Principal Eunus Khan, State Minister for Irrigation and Flood Control Mosharruf Hossain Shahjahan, Shahjahan Omar MP, M A Jinnah MP, Mosharruf Hossain Mongu MP, Aziz Ferdous MP, Chairman Red Crescent Society Shahidul Huq Jamal MP, Begum Selim Rahman MP, Barisal municipal administrator Ahsan Habib Kamal, Abdur Rashid Khan, District Secretary of BNP, Nazimuddin Alam, Assistant General Secretary of DUCSU, and Syed Moazzem Hossain, President of Barisal Juba Dal.

The Prime Minister referred to the severe cyclone that lashed the country soon after her government took over and said it was tackled efficiently with the help of the people from all walks of life. The foreign countries and donor agencies also provided assistance to overcome the problems since the people's government was at the helm of affairs, she maintained.

She said there had been no report of corruption regarding distribution of relief material which was also acknowledged by the foreign countries.

The Prime Minister said

3 killed in bus plunge

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14 : At least three persons were killed and 40 others injured when a passenger bus fell into a ditch Saturday afternoon at Sitakundu, 20 miles off the city. Of the dead, one was identified as Jamal Uddin. The identity of two others could not be known immediately.

Among the injured 20 persons were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where condition of five were stated to be critical.

Bank staff stabbed

By DMCH Correspondent

Hijackers stabbed two Janata Bank staff and snatched away Taka 42,545 from them at Kamalapur Bazar Saturday.

Three staff — Enamul Huq, a guard, Azizur Rahman, a junior officer and Abul Kalam Azad, a cashier of the Kamalapur Bazar Branch of Janata Bank, travelling by rickshaw to the bank, were stopped by the hijackers at the bazar at about 1 pm. They were carrying an amount of Taka 1,20,545 with them.

The hijackers stabbed the guard and the junior officer and snatched away Taka 42,545 and the guard's rifle. The hijackers left the rifle as local people chased them but managed to escape with the money.



Leaders of the ruling BNP (top) and Opposition Awami League placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Tributes to martyrs

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Our DU Chancellor Prof Moniruzzaman Miah called upon all to remain on guard against any conspiracy to pollute democratic atmosphere. He was speaking at a discussion on Shaheed Intellectuals' Day at TSC auditorium of Dhaka University.

Vice-Chancellor also noted that not only Dhaka University was facing the problem of terrorism but also the whole country.

Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Woakil Ahmed said that we had not been able to identify the 'Al-Bador's.

It was our duty to give a clear idea to our new generation about our independence war, freedom fighters and also the role of 'Al-Bador' and 'Razaker', the pro-VC added.

The discussion meeting was addressed among others by Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, President of Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA), Prof Mohammed Salim, President of Dhaka University Officers Association (DUOA), Prof Syed Ahmed Khan, Chairman of Sociology Department, Prof Muhammed Ibrahim of Physics Department and Prof Syed Anwar Hossain of History Department.

Meanwhile Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) arranged a discussion at Dhaka University Club with Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, President of DUTA in the chair.

DUCSU has arranged a three-day series of programmes to celebrate the 20th Victory Day celebration.

UNB adds: Leaders of journalists unions at a discussion here paid rich tributes to the memory of martyred intellectuals.

They called for fresh vow to uphold the spirit of the liberation war and materialise the martyrs' dreams for an exploitation-free democratic society to show due respect to the Shaheed intellectuals.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) jointly organised the discussion meeting at Jatiya Press Club marking the Martyred Intellectuals Day.

Chaired by BFUJ President Rezauddin Ahmed, the meeting was addressed by BFUJ Secretary General Amanullah, Kabir, Vice President Manjur Ahmed, DUJ President Zahurul Huq and General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazri and Sheikh Mohtuddin.

Milad mahfil and Quran khwani were held and munaajat was offered for the peace of the souls of shaheed intellectuals at the Baitul Mokarram Mosque.

Trouble makers

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Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock Gayeshwar Roy, Whip Mahubul Alam Tara, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Convenor Amanullah Aman, MP, Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal General Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan and Zahid Hossain Chinnu also spoke on the occasion.

Paying rich tributes to the martyred intellectuals, Salam Talukdar pointed out that since 1972 this day is being observed through elaborate formal programmes, but the significance of the day is forgotten the next moment.

If we do not translate the dreams of the martyred intellectuals into action by establishing a truly democratic atmosphere in the country, then all such programmes will remain as mere formalities, he added.

The BNP Secretary General said that those political parties which failed to come to power in the last elections were now involved in destabilising the hard-earned democracy by raising various unnecessary political issues. "We have to be alert against those who want to destabilise democracy in the country," he cautioned.

Criticising the role of a section of intellectuals in the country, Salam Talukdar pointed out that some intellectuals of today are politically motivated and have a vested interest.

"The intellectuals who gave their lives during the Liberation War were not politically motivated," he noted, adding "they were only concerned about the welfare of the nation and its people."

He urged the intellectuals of the country to remain above party politics and work for the overall welfare of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Mosharruf Hossain pointed out that the intellectuals were brutally murdered in the final hours of the Liberation War in a pre-planned way in order to leave the new-born nation intellectually crippled.

He said the occupation forces and their collaborators had also conspired to kill a larger number of intellectuals. An elaborate long list of targeted persons was discovered later, he noted.

Paying rich tributes to the memory of the martyred intellectuals, Mannan Bhuiyan said that it was unfortunate that those who had killed them were not punished by the Government which came to power in December 1971.

He said that even after the Liberation War had ended, intellectuals like Zahir Raihan was kidnapped and killed and another 30,000 progressive political workers were also killed in the country.

He said two identified political forces have joined hands to impede institutional growth of democracy.

He refuted the allegations by an opposition leader that BNP and Jamaat were jointly conspiring against the Awami League.

He pointed out that both Awami League and Jamaat participated in the 1986 elections under an autocratic regime and that helped prolong the autocratic rule.

Bangabhanan

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"Indifference" in this regard.

Earlier, Awami League criticised the government for dropping from the programme the Victory Day parade of the combined forces.

The resolution alleged that the government in collaboration with the anti-liberation forces is virtually ignoring the significance of the day marking the surrender of the Pakistani occupation forces after nine months of bloody war in 1971.

Despite repeated statements by Awami League, the ruling BNP did not pay any heed to correct its position on the issue of observance of the Victory Day, it alleged.

Abdus Samad Azad, Acting President of the Awami League, presided over the meeting held at its central office.

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toyneboe Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. FAX:246023-4. Fax No. 86-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.

Fresh date for hearing of Shyamoli's bail petition

By Staff Correspondent

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court will hear the bail petition of Mary Janet Shyamoli on December 17.

In absence of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Saturday's bail petition was heard by an Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, who issued the fresh date.

On a prayer from Shyamoli's lawyers, the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate also ordered to produce Shyamoli before the court on December 17. She was not produced before the court Saturday.

The fresh date was given as the chemical test report of liver, heart and kidney of Mukhter's body and finger print report of the recovered revolver were not available till Saturday.

On a prayer to let CID investigate the mysterious death of Hafez Mukhter Hossain, former chairman of Narayanjan Sadar Upazila, the magistrate said that the matter would also be heard on December 17.

Hafez Mukhter Hossain was found dead in a car near Holy Cross College at Tejkonipara on November 29 and Shyamoli, a girlfriend of Mukhter, was arrested under Section 54 of Criminal Penal Code on December 1 in connection with the mysterious death.

Intellectuals' Day observed in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14 : Political parties, student and youth organisations here today paid tributes to martyred intellectuals through meetings and discussions, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Awami League, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Juba Union, Chittagong Press Club and Chittagong Union of Journalists held separate meetings at their respective offices in observance of the Day.

Chaired by BFUJ President Rezauddin Ahmed, the meeting was addressed by BFUJ Secretary General Amanullah, Kabir, Vice President Manjur Ahmed, DUJ President Zahurul Huq and General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazri and Sheikh Mohtuddin.

Milad mahfil and Quran khwani were held and munaajat was offered for the peace of the souls of shaheed intellectuals at the Baitul Mokarram Mosque.

Transport strike

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"We submitted our demands to the authorities three months ago and by this time held two rounds of talks with the Communication Secretary, which ended without tangible outcome," Executive President of the association AK Jomal Abedin told a Press conference at the National Press Club on Saturday.

Their main demands include reduction in fuel price from Taka 14 to Taka 6.90, withdrawal of 'extra' fees and taxes from transport parts, re-fixation of fares, cancellation of new system of tax and fee collection, action against toll collectors and security on highways for truck and night coaches.

"We are not in favour of strike which causes sufferings to the public but we are forced to go on strike as the government is reluctant about our demands," the Executive President said.

He said that, because of the certain decisions imposed on us by the previous autocratic government, the transport sector has become a losing concern.

The old laws against the transport owners are still in force, he said, adding that most of the owners of the country except a few in northern districts, issued appointment letters to the transport workers responding to the appeal of the authorities.

The transport services, which remained disrupted in some northern districts because of their local problems, have now become almost normal, he added.

Secretary General of the association Ashraf Khan, Joint Secretary General MA Kader and other leaders Osman Gani, Kristopher Gomej and Rustam Ali were present at the Press conference.

Bridegroom hurt as building collapses

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 14 : A bridegroom and at least 15 of his fellows were injured seriously when a building collapsed on a bridal party at Narayanjanj on Saturday.

The second floor of a three-storied building collapsed on an over 100-men party at Nimalta at noon leaving 16 people injured hospital sources said.

Six of the injured including the bridegroom Sanjay Karmakar were admitted to Victoria Hospital.

The bride, daughter of one Pareh Karmakar, however, remained unhurt.

Eyewitnesses said that the building was a dilapidated one and it crumbled when the party was entering in to the house.

The local people rescued the victims from the debris of the collapsed building, witnesses said.

3 killed

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15-feet down the track.

"The actual number of casualty could not be ascertained until the boggles are salvaged, said the Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi.

Railway officials said it would not be possible to salvage the boggles until tomorrow (Sunday).

Two of the injured were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. They were identified as Mithu Chandra Gosh (30) of Chharghat and Momtajul (20) of Naldanga.

These two persons were not among the eight earlier listed as injured by the railway authorities.

The Uttara Express left Rajshahi about two hours late at 1:30 pm today. Four bogies of the train derailed at Talabipara, between Nandaganachi and Arani stations at about 2.25 pm.

The Midnight File

Russia asks Honecker to leave by Monday

MOSCOW, Dec 14 : Russian authorities have given former East German communist leader Erich Honecker until Monday to leave the country, probably for North Korea, which has offered to take him in for medical treatment, according to reports here Saturday. Tass news agency quoted Russian Justice Minister Nikolai Fyodorov as saying that Honecker, currently held up in the Chilean embassy in Moscow, should leave by Monday, failing which, "we shall put in motion the machinery to carry out the government's decisions by force," reports AFP.

Troops still cruising Rangoon

BANGKOK, Dec 14 : Burmese troops continued to guard key parts of Rangoon, but their presence, which had dramatically increased after anti-junta demonstrations earlier this week, was scaled down today, residents said, reports AFP.

India's concern over Chinese arms supply

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 : India expressed concern to China today over the supply of arms by Beijing to neighbouring Burma and Pakistan, striking a discordant note in their quest for better relations. A source close to today's talks between Indian Foreign Minister Madhavsinh Solanki and China's Qian Qichen said Beijing responded to India's criticism by "trotting out its known formula," he did not elaborate, reports Reuter.

Pact with workers

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Taka 1500 to each of the 50 thousand workers and employees working in the textile sector in advance. This money, however, would be taken back from the workers by instalments after the new wage commission is implemented, the official sources said. This system would be applicable for the jute mills workers too.

According to the sources, the money for the interim period will be given to the textile workers at a time on January 1, 1991 while the same amount of advance money will be given to the jute workers by instalments.

One of the important demands of the textile mills workers which was assured to be met by the Textile Minister in the yesterday's bilateral meeting was the withdrawal of an order of the incumbent government asking the textile mills authority to terminate all the workers and employees who had been appointed during nine years of the Ershad rule.

The Jute Minister also agreed to form a tripartite enquiry committee comprising the officials of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), leaders of the textile mills workers and employees federation and a neutral judge, to investigate why the mills under BTMC were losing concerns in the past, incidentally, 22 textile mills of the public sector were denationalised during the Ershad regime on the plea that they were losing concerns.

On the question of denationalisation of the public sector textile industries, it is learnt reliably that the Textile Minister has verbally agreed to the workers' proposal of no further disinvestment in the yesterday's meeting.

The Minister also assured the labour leaders that the government would withdraw all the cases against the local leaders of the textile workers in connection with the roads and railway barricade programme observed by them on December 25 and 26, the sources said.

Iqbal Majumder, the General Secretary of the Cotton and Textile Mills Workers' and Employees' Federation, while talking to this correspondent yesterday, said that they would not withdraw their 72-hour barricade programme unless the government withdraw the charges levelled against the leaders on the one hand and go for written agreement for the halt to disinvestment in the textile sector on the other.

Among others the Textile Minister Major Mannan (Retd) and the BTMC Chairman represented the Government in the yesterday's negotiation while an eleven member team under the leadership of Badrul Alam and Iqbal Majumder, the President and General Secretary of the Federation, represented the workers side.

The next meeting between them will be held on December 17.

BJSA concerned over agreement to be signed

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association has expressed its concern over a report published in The Daily Star on December 13 which hinted about the text of an agreement to be signed between the government and the Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad soon.

In a press release issued to the press yesterday M Mahmud, the chairman of the association, said that signing of our agreement bowing down to the 'illegal demands' of the workers would, instead of restoring peace and stability in the industrial sector, further worsen the shattered economy of the country.

Although the agreement was to be signed between the government and the public sector workers, it would affect the private sector as well, the press release added.

Referring to past experiences, Mahmud said such agreements earlier created a lot of problems including deterioration of peaceful relations between the owners and workers, heightening of workers unrest in the private sector which virtually led the whole jute industry into further trouble.

Above all, the signing of any agreement with the Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad would be contrary to the relevant clauses of Labour Law of the land as well as the ILO convention, the association asserted. The dispute regarding the workers demand should be solved through discussions between the concerned mill authority and the collective bargaining agent (CBA) of that mill, the association argued.

The Jute Spinners Association (BJSJA) urged the government to hold discussions with the BJA and BJSJA before taking final decisions about any agreement to be signed with the workers.

Himalayas

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pop up several inches (centimetres), they said.

A major earthquake could cause all of Nepal to rise by half a meter (yard), Bilham predicted.

University of Colorado and Nepalese scientists took a survey along a road running from India to China and found bulges in the rock that provided evidence for the rise.

Last March and April, 14 teams from China, the United States and Nepal measured convergence of the two continents using satellite signals set up from 44 points in Nepal, China and Tibet.

Press most free

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ing the war."

Despite the advances, harassment of journalists and violations of their rights remained an occupational hazard in many places. Sixty journalists were killed in 19 countries during 1991, including four in India and one in Pakistan.

Thirty-nine newspersons were murdered in political or criminal retaliation for journalistic enterprise. Two journalists in India and four in Pakistan were among those wounded.

Anti-smuggling

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modity identified as contraband.

The owners of shops and shopping centres also promised not to support anyone accused of selling or supplying contraband items.

Those who will purchase or sell commodities included in the primary list of contraband items will do so at his own risk, a statement said.

They also placed support for recovering and resisting the purchase and sale of illegal commodities.

They shopowners associations leaders included Md. Helaluddin Helal, Amir Hossain Khan, AS Kader, MA Zaman Manju, Md. Rezaul Karim Manju, Md. Shahabuddin, Md. Mohsin, Md. Matiar Rahman, A Selim, Kazi Alamgir Kabir and Masud Kader Manu.