

'People want to know what govt is doing'

The people want to know what measures the government is taking for rebuilding the economy, root out violence and improve the condition of the common people.

Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said this at a national seminar on "Democracy, development, debt, and dispossession: Experiences of 20 years of independence of Bangladesh" in the city. He was presiding over the afternoon session of the seminar, reports ISS.

He also called upon the parliament members to know what government was doing for improvement in education, health and other development sectors.

Kamal Hossain also called upon all political forces and intellectuals to reach a national consensus through dialogues for finding out solution to the problems now facing the country.

He said the government could take an initiative in this regard considering the magnitude of the problems left by the autocratic regime which had destroyed the economic sectors as well as political institutions of the country.

Dr Hossain was presiding over the afternoon session of a national seminar on "Democracy, development, debt and dispossession: Experiences of 20 years of independence of Bangladesh." Mujahidul Islam Selim, Prof Sanat Kumar Saha, Dr Ataur Rahman and Ahmed Safa took part in the discussion on the key-note paper presented by Dr Selim Jahan in the morning session.

Dr Hossain said the nation had achieved victory time and again but failed to uphold its spirit. "We can no more afford to take risk upon any more failure after the achievement of national victory," he said referring to the fall of autocratic regime by a mass upsurge last year and added, all of us should

come to a consensus for the sake of our survival.

Dr Kamal Hossain said the people voted, Bangladesh Nationalist Party to power with the hope of fulfilling the national aspirations and now the government should inform the representative parliament what steps it was taking towards that direction.

The government is accountable to the people because Parliamentary system has been restored in the country.

Dr Hossain urged the government to identify national priorities and take realistic measures to drastically cut expenses in unproductive sectors and increase savings and investment for helping growth of a self-reliant economy.

Mujahidul Islam Selim of CPB said all governments so far had failed to give a specific direction toward development. He urged the present government to lead the country to its cherished goal through implementing realistic programmes which should be taken up with improvement of the present economic situation as the main agenda.

Prof Sanat Kumar Saha of Rajshahi University said economic hardship did not allow creation of a favourable atmosphere for democracy in the country. He said the vested quarters had always acted to divert the welfare programmes to their own interest resulting in disparity in the country. Dr Ataur Rahman of BIDS urged the development planners to assimilate the feelings of the general people in formulating development plans and programmes for the country.

He also called for ensuring access to services and resources by the common people as they are the basis of the country's economy as well as politics.

(Related story on Page 3)



Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia addressing the two-day meeting of Deputy Commissioners at the Cabinet Division conference room, Secretariat yesterday.

Govt to hold dialogue with parties : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia Saturday said her government will hold dialogue with political parties to find solutions to the major national issues at stake, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister said this when leaders of the newly floated four-party Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) met her at Sugandha office.

PDF Convenor Pankaj Bhattacharya of NAP, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and Mujahidul Islam Selim of CPB, Dilip Barua of Shanyabadi Dal and Alhaj Abdus Samad of Gana Azadi League were present.

They expressed their support to Begum Zia's call for building the nation together. They also assured the Prime Minister of their support to the government's programme for increasing agricultural and industrial output.

The front leaders told the Prime Minister that they would extend cooperation in implementing the 7-point resolution adopted by major political parties to combat campus terrorism.

They said they will also support government steps to check population growth, combat smuggling and other development and welfare-oriented programmes.

Begum Zia welcomed the support of the front and said "exchange of views with political parties on major national issues will be held in future."

Act without fear

From Page 1 Col 4. Secretary Siddiqur Rahman.

Principal Finance Secretary, Khorsheed Alam and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Syed Hassan Ahmed were also present.

The Prime Minister said her government had started the canal digging programme once again to increase food production in the country. She said we have to increase food production to attain food security. "A country cannot depend on others for food," she said.

Begum Zia said the government had waived agricultural loan to the farmers so that they could get rid of this burden. She said the farmers could get fresh loans and there should not be any misgivings about this.

She asked the district administration to take steps so that the farmers were not harassed in getting fresh loans.

In this regard, the Prime Minister said the government had increased the procurement price of paddy so that farmers can get fair price for their produce.

She urged the deputy commissioners to make the food procurement target a success. She said the government could carry out other development activities unhindered if there was enough stock of foodgrains in the country.

Begum Zia also stressed for

increasing wheat and cotton production in the country. The textile industry will be benefited if it could procure cotton locally, she added.

Turning to the law and order situation, the Prime Minister directed the district administration to hold committee meetings on the matter regularly. She regretted that such meetings had not taken place regularly and sometimes not participated by all the members.

Regarding smuggling, Begum Zia said the country's economy was getting destroyed and the industries were closing due to rampant smuggling.

She said smuggling could not be checked by merely enacting laws. The people have to take a vow to help stop smuggling by boycotting foreign goods while the businessmen have to stop selling foreign goods," she maintained.

The Prime Minister said the government would re-start the mass education programme and the compulsory primary education.

Turning to the judiciary, the Prime Minister emphasised the need for quick dispensation of justice. She said criminals could never belong to any party nor they could become anybody's friend.

Zainul Abedin's birthday today

By Staff Correspondent

The 77th birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, will be observed today (Sunday) in the country.

He is famous for his historic works on the great famine of 1940s.

The Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University is the result of his lone efforts.

Various socio-cultural organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to observe the birthday to pay tribute to the late artist.

Kendrio Kochi-Kancher Mela has organised an art competition for children at the Institute of Fine Art compound today at 9 am. Director of the Institute Quazi Abdul Baset will inaugurate the competition.

Talks offer

From Page 1 Col 7

Meanwhile, reports trickling in across the border say that sporadic clashes have been taking place inside Burmese territory between the troops and various resistance groups. The clashes have left heavy casualties on both the sides.

According to the people of the bordering villages, some 2000 people entered Bangladesh following increase of repressive measures on the Muslim populace in Arakan province by the Burmese troops. Most of the refugees, who have taken shelter at Ukha and Teknaf areas of Cox's Bazar, are young men.

The refugees said they have entered Bangladesh to escape conscription and repression unleashed by the troops.

The troops are forcing the Muslim Rohingya youths to do menial work at different military positions inside Burma, the refugees said.

Abdur Rahman (21), who arrived Cox's Bazar Saturday, said the Burmese forces have asked the village level officials to make list of the youths.

The military officials have warned that any incident of reduction in the number of youths will be punished, the refugees said.

The Burmese troops have also warned the local elderly Muslim people to take care of their youngsters in the village.

Dhaka recognizes Russia

From Page 1 Col 7

In the form of barter and counter-trade will be proposed to each of them.

Confirming the strategies planned to move into the newly opened market of what was once a centrally controlled economy, Commerce Minister MK Anwar told UNB revival of business with Soviet Union was initiated well before the disintegration of USSR, after the expiry of barter agreement.

Efforts, however, have so far produced little because of continued political and economic uncertainty in that region, he said.

Business with USSR remained cut off since the expiry of the latest barter agreement in last March.

Under the latest barter agreement, the two sides were to exchange commodities worth 19 million pound sterling each way.

Dhaka used to export mainly jute and tea to the former Union while Moscow's sales were crude oil and chemicals.

The Commerce Minister, however, informed that business responses, although very limited, were now being received from some of the independent republics.

The government is requesting the chambers here to invite prospective business people from different republics, he said.

ME peace talks resume Jan 7

MANAMA, Dec 28 : Palestinian and Israeli delegations to the peace talks will meet without a Jordanian team when the next session of the Arab-Israelis resumes on January 7, a senior PLO official said, reports AFP.

'Israel will negotiate with an independent' Palestinian delegation when the third round of bilateral talks resumes in Washington on January 7, Nabil Shaath told the London-based Arab-language Al-Hayat newspaper.

Palestinians and Jordanians have attended the Middle East peace conference since it opened in Madrid on October 30 as a joint delegation.

On November 3 they had a first round of talks with the Israeli negotiators but at the second meeting last month in Washington the Arabs said they wanted separate discussions with the Israelis.

The second round ended on December 18 with no tangible results, with Israel refusing separate talks with Jordanians and Palestinians.

But Shaath disclosed that the Israelis had now "changed their attitude concerning an independent Palestinian delegation."

"The negotiations will now resume on this basis," he stressed.

On Wednesday Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa announced that the United States was in favour of "separate" negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on "issues concerning them."

Shaath also told the daily he expected multilateral talks scheduled to take place in Moscow to be held even if no substantial progress is made at the face-to-face talks. A preparatory meeting is set for January 27 and 28.

Syria has been urging a boycott of the multilateral talks on regional matters unless Israel agrees during the face-to-face negotiations to withdraw from occupied Arab territories.

The Midnight File

Chinese dissident on trial

BEIJING, Dec 28: A dissident Chinese journalist who was on the government's most wanted list of pro-democracy activists in 1989 went on trial today on charges of counter-revolution. Wu Xuecan, a former editor and reporter on the overseas edition of the official People's Daily newspaper, published a mock edition of the newspaper in May 1989 calling for the dismissal of hardline premier Li Peng, reports Reuter.

Japan finalises \$573b budget

TOKYO, Dec 28 : Japan today finalised a draft budget for the coming fiscal year which slashes growth in defence spending, boosts foreign aid and delivers on a promise to Washington that Tokyo will stimulate domestic demand. The cabinet endorsed a 72.2 trillion yen (573 billion dollars) budget for the year starting on April 1 — up just 2.7 per cent from an initially planned 70.3 trillion yen (557 billion dollars) in the current fiscal year, reports Reuter.

Rally to hail Kim junior

TOKYO, Dec 28 : A rally attended by top dignitaries was held in North Korea's capital Saturday hailing the appointment of Kim Jong Il, the son of President Kim Il Sung, as supreme commander of North Korea's armed forces, the country's official media said. Kim Jong Il, the president's heir apparent, was named head of the one million-strong military Tuesday at a meeting of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party. The analysts said the appointment was unusual because the North Korean constitution stipulates the president shall serve as supreme commander of the military, reports AP.

Mujahideen shell Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Dec 28 : Afghan authorities said today guerrilla rockets had killed 15 more people, as they ordered 100 rebel prisoners freed under a United Nations peace plan. One person died in the capital Kabul today and 14 were killed and 25 injured by rocketing on the eastern town of Jalalabad, the official Kabul radio said, reports Reuter.

Military bloc

From Page 1 Col 6 and supra-national units, the Marshal said.

The Interfax news agency said Friday that CIS defence officials has initiated four agreements on military questions following their talks here.

Interfax said the accords concerned the defence policies of the CIS, coordination between its members on a joint defence council, the status of soldiers in the former Soviet armed forces and conscription. It did not provide further details.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev acknowledged that Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan were not in total agreement, but suggested "there are no fundamental differences" between CIS members.

Meanwhile, the aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov, previously of the Black Sea fleet, has arrived in Murmansk, northern Russia, where it will join the main-northern fleet, Tass reported.

Interfax said Russia and Ukraine had clashed on Wednesday over who should control the large Black Sea fleet. Ukrainian Deputy Defence Minister Ivan Bizhan denied Ukraine was seeking to take over the fleet's vessels armed with nuclear missiles.

Ukrainian leaders have publicly attacked Yeltsin's plan to free most prices in the giant Russian Federation on January 2. Russia has refused to delay the move by two weeks to give Ukraine and other republics more time to prepare for the shock.

Ukraine has brought forward its own plans to issue its own coupons as a parallel semi-currency to roubles and

threatened further measures. AP says, eleven people were killed in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh territory in Azerbaijan on Saturday after Soviet troops pulled out under orders of Boris Yeltsin, the Tass news agency said.

Yeltsin, who has taken control of most Soviet troops across the country, has said he would not be drawn into the centuries-old ethnic conflict and this week ordered the withdrawal of an estimated 2,400 troops.

Shortly after some troops pulled out, shells began raining down Friday on Stepanakert, capital of the self-declared independent republic, Tass said, quoting Robert Kocharyan, an aide to the Nagorno-Karabakh council chief.

Thirty people were wounded, Tass reported. It gave no other details about the attack or whether all Soviet troops had departed. Yeltsin said this week that 700 troops had left the territory on Tuesday.

(Earlier story on Page 5)

Ceasefire in Georgia

TBILISI (Georgia), Dec 28 : Georgian rebel and loyalist leaders agreed a ceasefire today in a week of fighting that killed over 50 people and pushed the Republic to the verge of civil war, reports Reuter.

The truce emerged after four hours of negotiations in Tbilisi's television centre between rebel national guard leader Tengiz Kitovani and representatives of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, denounced by the opposition as a dictator.

(Earlier story on Page 5)

Liberalize gold import

From Page 1 Col 5. that the stock of gold in the country is large and increasing at a high rate which is attested by the proliferation of jewelry shops since 1972.

The President of the Jewelers' Association, Syed Shamsul Alam, puts the total number of registered jewelry shops at around 28,000. "The number of unregistered shops is at least three times more than the registered ones," he adds.

The primary entry point for smuggled gold is the country's lone international airport in Dhaka and, to a lesser extent, the seaports in Chittagong and Khulna.

According to a customs official, during a two-year period in 1987 and 1988, eight maunds of gold were seized at the Zia International Airport alone.

The main route to smuggle gold out of the country is through the land border with India and it is conducted under a variety of 'arrangements', the BIDS document points out.

The domestic price of gold can act both ways, the report adds. If the price is high, it will reduce the incentive to smuggle out gold to India. On the other hand, if the price is low, gold would be smuggled out to India in larger quantity.

"Unless the domestic price of gold reflects the opportunity cost of foreign exchange, Bangladesh sustains a loss," the BIDS document notes.

Smuggling of gold is such a profitable operation that it cannot be altogether eliminated, the report says, adding, "Therefore, it may be a practical idea to allow import of gold and gold bars, subject to payment of customs duty at about

20 per cent."

The proposed rate is not too high for tax evasion nor is it too low so as to depress the price below the shadow price of gold. It will effectively cut down the profit margin from the illegal import of gold and keep the domestic price in line with the international price and the shadow or unofficial price of foreign exchange, the report explains.

The BIDS draft report also advocates permitting export of gold-based jewelry to the rest of the world, particularly to the developed countries. The market for jewelry is large, the report adds, and our craftsmen are already in high demand in Europe and Asia. Jewelry can be profitably developed in Bangladesh and the benefits accruing out of it could be quite large.

Shamsul Alam agrees with the above suggestion and points out that neighbouring India is the tenth largest jewelry exporter in the world and it is the third largest foreign exchange earner for that country.

"If we can set up the jewelry business as an export-oriented trade, it can become the number one foreign exchange earner surpassing the garment industry," adds the Jewelers' Association president.

Tanbazar

From Page 1 Col 5

were seen fleeing by the river side near the office, police added.

Of the injured conditions of Salma, Shell, Laila, Selina, and Parul were serious but none of them were sent to hospital, brothel sources said.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
ঢাকা
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয় : ভাড়া ব্যবহৃত হু এইরপ বাস/মিনিবাস/ট্রাক/ট্যাক্সী এর মালিকদের ক্ষেত্রে অনুমিত আয়ের ভিত্তিতে আয়কর পরিশোধের সময় সীমা নির্ধারণ/বর্ধিতকরণ প্রসঙ্গে।

ভাড়া ব্যবহৃত হু এইরপ বাস/মিনিবাস/ট্রাক/ট্যাক্সী এর মালিকদের ক্ষেত্রে অনুমিত আয়ের ভিত্তিতে আয়কর পরিশোধের সময় সীমা নির্ধারণ/বর্ধিত করার ব্যাপারে বিভিন্ন মন্ত্রের আবেদনের প্রেক্ষিতে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড নিম্নোক্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করিতেছে—

(ক) এম. আর. ও নং ০৬২/আইন/৯০, তারিখ ১৭-১০-৯০ ইং অনুযায়ী ভাড়া ব্যবহৃত হু এইরপ বাস/মিনিবাস/ট্রাক/ট্যাক্সী এর মালিকদের ক্ষেত্রে অনুমিত আয়ের ভিত্তিতে আয়কর পরিশোধের সময়সীমা ১৯৯১-১৯৯২ কর বৎসরের জন্য ০১-১২-৯১ ইং তারিখ নির্ধারণ করা হইল।

(খ) কর বৎসর ১৯৮৭-৯০ ও ১৯৯০-৯১ এর জন্য উক্ত সময় (যা) ০১-১২-৯০ ইং তারিখ উত্তীর্ণ হইয়াছে। সেই সুযোগ হিসাবে ০১-১২-৯১ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হইল।

(গ) কর বৎসর ১৯৮৬-৮৭, ১৯৮৭-৮৮ ও ১৯৮৮-৮৯ এর জন্য উক্ত সময়সীমা (যা) ০০-১০-৮৯ ইং তারিখে উত্তীর্ণ হইয়াছে। সেই সুযোগ হিসাবে ০১-১২-৯১ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হইল।

(ঘ) কর বৎসর ১৯৯১-৯২ ও ১৯৯২-৯৩ এর জন্য উক্ত সময়সীমা (যা) ০১-১২-৯১ ইং তারিখে উত্তীর্ণ হইয়াছে। উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে সর্বত্র সফল করাগোনা (ভাড়া) ব্যবহৃত হু এইরপ বাস/মিনিবাস/ট্রাক/ট্যাক্সী এর মালিকদের ক্ষেত্রে উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে অনুমিত আয়ের ভিত্তিতে আয়কর পরিশোধ করার জন্য অনুমতি করা হইয়াছে। তবে উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে অনুমিত কর পরিশোধ কর হইলে সেই ক্ষেত্রে আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর বিধান মোতাবেক আয়কর ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হইবে।

ডি এফ পি (সি) ১৮৮০-২৪/১২
৯-১১৩৮

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

ME peace talks resume Jan 7

Israel, Palestine to talk without Jordan

MANAMA, Dec 28 : Palestinian and Israeli delegations to the peace talks will meet without a Jordanian team when the next session of the Arab-Israelis resumes on January 7, a senior PLO official said, reports AFP.

'Israel will negotiate with an independent' Palestinian delegation when the third round of bilateral talks resumes in Washington on January 7, Nabil Shaath told the London-based Arab-language Al-Hayat newspaper.

Palestinians and Jordanians have attended the Middle East peace conference since it opened in Madrid on October 30 as a joint delegation.

On November 3 they had a first round of talks with the Israeli negotiators but at the second meeting last month in Washington the Arabs said they wanted separate discussions with the Israelis.

The second round ended on December 18 with no tangible results, with Israel refusing separate talks with Jordanians

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co. Ltd.
(A Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla)
Phones : 232200, 258462, 232172

Notice for Payment of arrear gas bill

Some of the gas consumers of the company are not clearing their gas bills regularly. Despite earlier efforts to attract their attention to the matter by direct correspondence and notices in mass media like Radio, Television and Newspapers, the situation has not improved to the expected level. The company as such is compelled to resort to severing gas connection of defaulters.

It is specially mentionable that a huge amount of arrear gas bills of staff quarters of Government/Autonomous/Private organizations remain unpaid. Amount payable in this respect is on the increase at an alarming rate. It may be noticed that once the connection is severed its resumption is time consuming and expensive.

It is for kind information of our valued customers that if the bill of a particular month is not paid by 21st day of next month, Surcharge has to be paid and if the bill is not paid within next 45 days the gas connection can be severed without notice.

A special disconnection drive for the defaulting domestic consumers will begin soon. The respected customers are requested to pay their outstanding dues immediately.

The domestic metered customers has the option to pay their bills either at the monthly flat rates or as per meter reading. The customers who are willing to pay the bill as per meter reading but has not yet received the meter bills are requested to contact concerned Zone offices/ Regional Distribution offices immediately.

The customer may also contact these offices for any other problems related to gas connection/bills etc.

It is for further information of our valued customers that no monetary transactions of Titas Gas is done in cash. All monetary transactions be made through designated Banks only. Respected customers are advised not to make any cash payment to any person other than Banks. It may further be mentioned that all officers/employees of Titas Gas and its approved contractors/their representatives carry valid identity cards.

আপনার ও দেশের স্বার্থে পরিবার ছেঁট রাখুন

DFP (BA) 10558 - 23/12 *
G - 1135

Authority