

Saifur leaves for Italy Accord on post-cyclone preparedness likely

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman left here Monday for Rome on a week-long official visit to Italy, reports BSS.

He is leading a four-member Bangladesh delegation comprising the Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, Air Commodore Ashraf Haque, Joint Secretary, ERD Faizur Rahman Chowdhury and Bangladesh Ambassador to Italy Wahid Rahman.

The delegation will have wide-ranging discussions with Italian officials on bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Italy.

The discussions will include Italian support and assistance in implementing projects like re-carpeting of runway of Zia International Airport, feasibility study for construction of Rupsa Bridge, Tangail and

Patuakhali polytechnic institutes establishment, rehabilitation of Dinajpur-Panchagar road, greater Rajshahi power distribution project (phase-III) and rehabilitation of power plant within Chittagong Steel Mills compound.

Discussions will also be held on the post-cyclone reconstruction programmes.

It is expected that following the bilateral talks between Bangladesh and Italy the two countries will sign a general agreement on cooperation, agreement on 'post-cyclone disaster preparedness and response project,' and agreed minutes of the joint commission session.

The Finance Minister is expected to return home on February 9.

Community participation sought in population programmes

Speakers at a discussion here Monday laid stress on wider involvement of the people and the communities in planning, implementation and evaluation of the population programmes to control its growth, reports BSS.

The discussion entitled "Participation of the Greater Section of People in Family Planning programmes" was organised by Family Planning Directorate at NIPORT (National Institute of Population, Research and Training) auditorium in the city.

While stressing the community participation for influencing and directing the future health and population programmes, the speakers said strong socio-political support was necessary to make the practice of community participation possible.

They viewed that the popularity and credibility of the country's politicians should be utilised to successfully involve the people in the family planning programmes.

Family planning should be a main issue of political movement, they said.

Presided over by M. Mukammel Huq, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the meeting was addressed by the State Minister for Health and Family Welfare.

Sirajul Huq, Saad Raheem Sheikh, Chief of Asia and the Pacific Division of UNFPA, Alamgir MA Kabir, President of Bangladesh Family Planning Association (BFFA), AKM Rafiquzzaman, Director General of NIPORT and Stigma Huda, a noted lawyer.

Mukarram Hossain Chowdhury, Director General of BFFA, addressed as the main speaker.

Sirajul Huq, in his speech, laid emphasis on strengthening the family planning movement and said all our development efforts would be doomed to failure if we could not check population boom.

He said all of us should think to make small family keeping in view the country's limited resources.

Mukammel Huq said despite formidable odds Bangladesh achieved substantial success in population programmes. We should not remain satisfied with the present state of population control, he said adding rather we should go ahead with the new strategies and programmes to direct the future health and family welfare programmes.

Mukarram Hossain Chowdhury, in his keynote speech, discussed the basic principles of community participation and suggested several measures in involving the greater sector of the people in the family planning programmes.

These included enhancement of the social status of those who adopt or support the family planning, involvement of the political parties in the family planning programme and inclusion of the population programme in their party manifesto imparting training to the Imams for seeking more support from the religious leaders and

involving the youth community in the family planning programme were also included in the suggested measures.

Saad Raheem Sheikh enumerated some measures to achieve required operationalization of the process of community participation required for achieving national health and demographic goals.

He said the existing political and policy commitment in favour of community participation needed to be mobilized and operationalized at the implementation level and a country wide reorientation programme would have to be introduced to sensitize decision makers and professional staff of health and family planning.

He also called for launching of educational and reorientation programmes for community leaders at union level to fully realize the benefits of interaction with the official sector and promote steps at the union and other levels to participative groups including youth clubs, mothers club and cooperative societies.

HERE and THERE

Pen Pals Club
Speakers at a discussion in the capital Sunday urged the country's youths to come forward to establish social values and uphold national identity.
Organised by international Pen Pals Club on the occasion of its 17th founding anniversary, the discussion was addressed by Advocate Md Illias, Md Sharif, Afiyab Ahmed and Md Mridha. Club President Mahbubuddin Chowdhury presided over the discussion.

Tele Communication workers Union
Workers and employees belonging to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Workers' Employees' Union Sunday staged a demonstration in front of the Telephone Bhaban at Ramna in the capital.
The agitating unionists submitted a memorandum to the General Manager. Later, at a rally leaders of the union called for allocating houses to the employees after thorough review by a committee.

Chhatra Front
The central council of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front will be held in Dhaka on February 14 and 15. Councillors from all the districts, upazila and colleges will attend the conference.

Jagpa
Jatiya Ganotantrik Party (Jagpa) held a rally Monday afternoon at the party's office premises at Tongi. Presided over by Mijanur Rahman, the rally was addressed by party chief Shaiful Alam Prodan and party leaders Sardar Muhammad Shahjahan, Syed Ismail Hussain, Abul Bashar Babu, Nurul Islam, Shahidul Islam and others.
The rally was organised in support of Jagpa's mass rally programme scheduled on March 2.

Peace for All
The weekly meeting of 'Peace for All' was held Friday at the organisation's office in the city presided over by Abdul Khaleque, the meeting discussed about organizing tree plantation programme.
The Executive Committee of the organisation will meet tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5 pm to finalise the programme.

Australian grant
RK Gate, the Australian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, presented a cheque for Taka 8,614,234.10 on Monday to Dr Demissie Habte, Director, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B).
The meeting was held at a local restaurant with Professor QM Karamat Ali, Editor of The Business Review, in the chair.

Agrani Bank staff observe hunger strike tomorrow
Officers and employees of Agrani Bank will observe a token hunger strike on February 5 to press home their five-point demand, including announcement of a separate pay-scale, reports UNB.
This was announced at a rally jointly organised by the associations of the bank's officers and employees here Monday. They will also hold rallies and processions at the head office and other branches today (Tuesday).
The associations also demand reinstatement of employees dismissed in 1980, payment of incentive bonus of 1990 and withdrawal of the new promotion criteria.
President of Agrani Bank Employees' Welfare Association (CBA) Shaiful Islam Majnoo presided over the rally held at the bank's head office premises.
The rally was also addressed by President of Agrani Bank Officers' Association Enamul Haque and General Secretary Mirza Wakil, President of the Mirza's Association Coordination Council Begum Sabera and General Secretary of Agrani Bank Employees' Welfare Association AKM Shamsuddin.

New BUET laboratory opens today
By BUET Correspondent
The opening ceremony of the newly set up Laboratory of the Department of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering developed under the auspices of the University of Alberta - BUET Institutional Linkage Project will be held in the seminar room of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) today (Thursday) at 10 am, says a press release.
The Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr Mosharraf Hossain Khondkar will formally inaugurate the ceremony, the press release added.

Dateline Chittagong Jamaat call to send Hajis by ship

CHITTAGONG, Feb 3: Chittagong city Jamaat-e-Islami Monday urged the government to take necessary steps for sending the Haj pilgrims by ship to Saudi Arabia, reports BSS.

Maulana Abu Taher, and Mohammad Shamsul Islam, Ameer and General Secretary respectively of city Jamaat, in a statement, said most of the intending pilgrims could not perform Haj because of the high fare charged by the Biman and as such the number of Haj pilgrims has been reducing

for the last few years.

Tk 230 cr excise duty remains unpaid

CHITTAGONG, Feb 3: Excise duty to the tune of Tk 230 crore for the last fiscal remained unpaid in the Chittagong circle, revenue sources said Monday, reports UNB.
Of the outstanding excise, Tk 116 crore is lying with the gas sector alone.
Other defaulters are cinema halls, brickfields and soft drink sellers.

Biswas, Khaleda greet Premadasa

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Monday felicitated Ranashinge Premadasa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the occasion of National Day of his country, reports BSS.

President Biswas hoped that the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries will be further strengthened in the year to come.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in a similar message also felicitated Ranashinge Premadasa on the same occasion.

Rose festival Feb 7

A Rose festival jointly organised by Bangladesh National Rose Society (BNRS) and Dhaka Club will be held on February 7, reports UNB.
Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas will inaugurate the festival at Dhaka Club at 9 am on the day.

Members of central executive committee of BNRS, led by its president Brig (Retd) Atiqur Rahman, Monday called on the president of Dhaka Club A K Piroz Ahmed at his office and discussed details to make the festival a success.

Garments worker stabbed to death

An employee of a garments factory was stabbed to death by his colleague at Sadarhat, Dhaka Monday afternoon, reports UNB.

Jahangir (25) of Islam Garments at Sharif Market in Sadarhat was stabbed on his chest by the colleague following exchange of hot words.

He was rushed to Salmullah Medical College hospital where attending doctors declared him dead.

A case was filed with Kotwali police in this connection.

WVA Raffle Draw

The following numbers are unclaimed in the WVA Meenabazar '92 held on Jan 31, says a press release on Monday. The numbers are: 1120, 2578, 180, 1791, 175, 2928, 648, 59, 1578, 1361, 1206 and 1557.

Claimants have been requested to collect the prizes from WVA office presenting tickets between 11 am and 2 pm within seven days.



Child artistes performing dance at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium Monday on the occasion of the 17th founding anniversary of Hindol Academy. — Star photo

Iraq urged to release Kuwaiti POWs, detainees

By a Staff Correspondent
The Kuwait University Auditorium the Prime Minister and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah described the continued detention of the POWs and detainees as a violation of international law, Islamic teachings and Arab values.
A seven-member delegation from Bangladesh attended the three-day conference on invitation from Kuwait government.

Iraq while retreating in February 1991 took away many Kuwaiti and third country citizens as prisoners.

In all 2200 POWs and detainees are being held in Iraqi jails in violation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

Opening the conference in Baghdad, Sheikh Saad called upon the Muslims of the world and the international community to exert pressure on Iraq to release the POWs and detainees without delay.

More than 400 leaders, Ulema and intellectuals from 42 countries attended the conference. Representatives of the Islamic organizations, international humanitarian, legal and media agencies also attended the conference. The family members of the POWs and detainees were also present in large numbers.

Those who spoke in the sessions included Hamid Al-Gabidi, Secretary General of the OIC, Suwar-Al-Dahab, Sudanese strong man and former head of state, Dr. Yusuf Abu Baker, Dr. Abdullah Omar Nassef, head of the Mecca based Rabeta, Imams of Holy Kaaba and

Masjeeda-Nababi (Medina), Dr. Abdullah Al-Tuki, President of the Imam Mehdi bin Saud University of Riyadh, Ali Tantafti the Grand Mufti of Egypt, the Grand Mufti of Syria and Humayun Kabir Chowdhury of Bangladesh. Representatives of former Soviet Republics, the American Muslims, the Palestinian and Jordanian Committees also spoke.

The speakers took stock of the plight of the Muslims round the world from Palestinians down to the Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar.
The conference unanimously adopted the Kuwait Declaration expressing complete solidarity with Kuwait in its efforts to have the POWs and detainees released. It also urged upon Iraq to release them without delay.

It also called upon all international, Islamic and Arab organizations to pressurise Saddam Hussain to release the POWs and detainees. The declaration also urged the OIC, The Amnesty International and the Secretary General of the UN to exert influence for the release of the POWs and detainees.

State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwar Rahman Monday said employment opportunity in the field of computer technology is increasing in our country, reports BSS.
Unemployed educated youths especially women can engage themselves in this sector by taking part in computer training course, she added.

Sarwar Rahman was speaking at an inaugural ceremony of computer course on data entry for women jointly organised by Women in Science and Technology in Asian Region (WISTAR) and Institute of Scientific Instrumentation (ISI) in Dhaka.
She said wide use of computers in offices, industries, educational institutions, public and private enterprises would contribute to the national economy in the long run. Rahman called upon women trainees to occupy their appropriate position in service sector after completion of the course.

Presided over by the Director of the Institute of Scientific Instrumentation, under Bangladesh University Grants Commission, Professor M Nurul Islam, the function was addressed by the chairperson of Bangladesh Jatiya Mohila Sangstha Begum Selma Rahman, MP, member of University Grants Commission (Science) Dr MH Khan, Joint Secretary of Science and Technology Division Khodeja Azam, Executive Director of WISTAR, ADR Shahidulartp Ashahida Rafiq.

About 40 women are taking part in the five-week long computer training course on data entry.

Women urged to take part in computer training course

Australian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, R K Gate, presenting a cheque for Taka 86,14,234.10 to Dr Demissie Habte, Director, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, Monday.

Notice Inviting Tender

1. Tenders in sealed cover are hereby invited in BD Form No. 2911 from Class-A and Class-I(One) approved Building Contractors of PWD Bangladesh, Class-II (Two) and Class-III (Three) approved Building Contractors of PWD Chittagong Zone, Chittagong and PWD Circle No. 1(One), Chittagong respectively for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned and as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division No. I/II, Ctg, and PWD Division, Rangamati up to 12.00 Noon of 17-02-92 and will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it.

2. Name of work : Constn. of 600.00 sq ft, Staff Quarters-1 (One) unit (4-storied foundation) at Khagrachari New Police Line in connection with the scheme "Constn. of 44 Nos. new District Headquarters — One at Khagrachari."

3. The estimated cost of the work put to tender : Tk. 4,20,469/-

4. Each tender is to be accompanied by Earnest Money Tk. 8,410/- in TC or BD from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Khagrachari.

5. The tender form together with schedule of items, specifications, special terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and offices of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division No.I/II, Chittagong, PWD Division, Rangamati and all offices of the Sub-Divisional Engineer under this Division during office hours on all working days on or before 15-02-1992 on payment of usual charges.

SM Khaled
Executive Engineer,
Khagrachari PWD Division,
Khagrachari

DFFP(G) 1448-29/1
G-113

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Munshiganj PWD Division, Munshiganj

Notice Inviting Tenders

1. Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from special Class, Class-1 enlisted Sanitary and Plumbing Contractors of PWD for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by all the Executive Engineers under PWD Circle-IV, Dhaka on 23-2-92 up to 12-00 Noon and will be opened on the same day at 12-30 P.M. in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it.

2. Name of work : Sanitary and water supply installation to the DC's Court building in connection with the construction of 44 New District Headquarters — One at Munshiganj. (Front block) Group No. 1.

3. Estimated cost : Tk. 15,10,800/00.

4. Earnest money : Tk. 30,216/00.

5. Time allowed for completion of work : 60 (Sixty) days from the date of issue of Work Order.

6. Tender Form No. 2911, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained and purchased from the office of the undersigned as well as all other offices of the Executive Engineers under Dhaka PWD Circle-IV, Dhaka during office hours on all working days till 22-2-92. No tender forms will be sold after 22-2-92.

Md Serajul Huq
Executive Engineer
DFFP(G)1425-29/1
G-112
Munshiganj PWD Division, Munshiganj

Notice Inviting Tender of RHD

1. Tender Notice No : 66 E.E. RHD, Bogra Road Division of 1991-92 (2nd call).

2. Name of work : Launching of 60.98 Meter (200'-0") long extra-wide Calender Hamilton Bridge at 10th K.M. of Joypurhat-Gobindagonj Road under RHD, Road Division, Bogra during 1991-92.

3. Estimated Cost : Tk 4,54,050.00 only.

4. Earnest Money : Tk 9,081.00 only.

5. Time allowed : 35 (Thirty Five) days from the date of issue of Work Order.

6. Eligibility of contractor : A to D class contractors under special category of RHD.

7. Name of offices of availability of Tender documents : Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Bogra/Rangpur/Dinajpur/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division-1, Bogra.

8. Name of offices to receive Tender Bid : 1) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Rangpur.
2) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Bogra/Rangpur/Dinajpur.

9. Last date of selling tender documents (within office hours) : Up to 8-2-92.

10. Last date and time of receipt of Tender : Up to 12-30 P.M. on 9-2-92.

11. Date and time of opening of bid : At 12-45 P.M. on 9-2-92.

Mozammel Hossain Chowdhury
Executive Engineer, RHD,
Road Division, Bogra.

DFFP (G) 1500-30/1
G-115