

Ghali assures aid for peace, development

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali Thursday said, United Nations would extend all possible assistance and cooperation to Bangladesh in her endeavour to ensure development and peace according to a message received in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Ghali gave the assurance to Bangladesh Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman during their meeting at the UN headquarters in New York Thursday morning.

During the meeting the Foreign Minister congratulated the Secretary General on the successful conclusion of and landmark achievements at the

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at Rio.

In this context the Foreign Minister and the Secretary General discussed possible areas of action to help the low-lying countries like Bangladesh in order to mitigate the serious consequences of a possible rise in the sea level due to global warming.

During the meeting they also took stock of the latest situation regarding repatriation of Myanmar refugees. The Secretary General underscored the need for taking all necessary steps to ensure an early voluntary and safe return of the refugees.

Bangalee sangskriti utsab begins

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangalee Sangskriti Utsab (Bengali culture festival)-1992 sponsored by a non-governmental organisation 'Gonosahajya Sangstha' began in city Thursday evening at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

Poet Begum Sufia Kamal inaugurated the five day long festival by lighting a traditional lamp.

"Let's place the Bangalees before the international community by upholding our true culture," Sufia Kamal said adding, "Let us begin the festival through remembering the martyrs of Bengal."

The festival was marked with folk songs and musical compositions from the regions of Dhaka, Comilla and Chittagong.

Sayed Shamsul Haque, F R Mahmood Hasan, Shamsur Rahman, Aly Zaker and others were present on the inaugural day.

Shamsur Rahman said the Bangalee culture was by trait a non-communal one and every Bangalee should be proud of it.

The festival programmes will be held everyday at 7 pm till June 22. Shamsur Rahman, Sanjida Khatun, Anisuzzaman, Anisur Rahman and Rashid Karim will be present everyday in the festival as discussants. The festival was also held in Khulna, Kushtia, Rangpur and Mymensingh.

The advisors to the organising committee of the festival are Shawkat Osman, Shamsur Rahman, Kabir Chowdhury, Anisuzzaman, Rehman Sobhan, Syed Samsul Huq, Sanjida Khatun, Rashid Karim, Wahidul Huq, Qayum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Anisur Rahman, Aly Zaker, Ramendu Majumder, Asaduzzaman Noor, Ataur Rahman, Kalim Sharifi, Selina Hossain, Maleka Begum, Panna Kaiser, Nitun Kundu, Rafiqun Nabi, Fazle Hasan Abed, Ferdousi Majumder, Rashid Haider and Golam Mostafa.

Expenditure of diplomatic missions will increase

Expenditure of the country's 38 embassies, 16 high commissions and seven other offices abroad will increase in the next fiscal, reports UNB.

According to the "Demand for Grants and Appropriations" for 1992-93, expenses will increase in most of the missions including those in Bonn, Brussels, Riyadh, Geneva, New York, Paris, Tokyo, Calcutta, New Delhi and Islamabad.

Mission expenditure in Washington, London, Tokyo and Jakarta will however decrease.

Expenditure of consulates in Agartala, Akyab, Dubai, Hong Kong, Sydney, Jeddah and New York will increase.

The total expenditure for the country's diplomatic missions for the next fiscal has been estimated at Tk. 70.94 crore as against the current fiscal's revised expenditure of Tk. 66.53 crore.

HBFC capital will rise

The government has decided to reactivate Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHBFC) with a substantially increased capital enabling it to start lending operation soon to help solve the acute housing problem for the lower and middle classes, reports BSS.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman disclosed this decision yesterday while placing the national budget before the House.

He said the government took the decision to encourage investment in the housing sector. The BHBFC will once again be able to start lending operation soon, the Finance Minister said.

Meet on local govt review commission held

The 15th meeting of the local government structure review commission was held Thursday with the commission chairman and Information Minister Nazmul Huda in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting held threadbare discussion on the preparation of different chapters of a report containing necessary recommendations about the local government structure.

Committee members - Deputy Minister for Local Government M Abdul Hye, A T M Alamgir MP, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Ayubur Rahman, Vice-Chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau Walful Islam, Dr Lutful Huq Chowdhury, a Professor of the Dhaka University, Secretary of the Statistics Division Dr Fazlul Hasan Yusuf and former Secretary of the Division, Abdus Salam attended the meeting.



A dance sequence by Sharmila Banerjee and Tamanna Rahman on the second day of Bangalee Sangskriti Utsab. —Star photo

EC asks Myanmar to ensure safe return of refugees

The European Community has expressed concern at the delay for the return of the Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh and urged Myanmar to cooperate fully with Bangladesh and the United Nations to ensure safe and orderly return of the refugees, reports BSS.

The community observed that the agreed arrangements for the return of the refugees were not being implemented as planned and also urged Myanmar authorities to allow presence of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on their side of the border during repatriation.

A demarche by the community on Myanmar was made to Bangladesh here yesterday.

It was made as per decision of the community early this month that the demarche on Myanmar should be made to Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, India, China and

Bangladesh. The community has expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by Bangladesh government to tackle the Rohingya refugees issue and for the assurance that the refugees would not be forced to return against their will.

The European Community, at the Asia working group meeting on June 4, agreed on the demarche, which requests support for an international monitoring of Rohingya refugees repatriation.

The demarche, on humanitarian ground, underlined the importance of persuading the Myanmar authorities to allow presence of UNHCR representative for an orderly return of the refugees.

The community also expressed concern over the internal situation in Myanmar, pointing out the need for introducing political reforms and release of political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi.

Foreign debt stands at \$ 11560.6m

Bangladesh's foreign debt stood at 11,560.6 million US dollars in June 1991 showing an increase of 8.2 per cent over the previous year, reports UNB.

The country had to pay 560.2 million US dollars in debt servicing during the current fiscal year as against 599.6 millions last year.

More than 26 per cent of the country's export earnings went for debt servicing this year as against 35 per cent last year.

Bangladesh has so far received 12,335.9 million US dollars from donors in loans and 11,855.6 millions as grants.

New management enlivens JBC

Under dynamic leadership of the new management of Jiban Bima Corporation unprecedented momentum is being realised in all spheres of its activities, says a press release.

As a result, new business has increased by 5 per cent in January-May '92 period compared to that of the last year.

There has been improvement in policy servicing activities of the corporation including issuance of policy documents, premium notice.

Theatre stages Antigone

Theatre, one of the leading drama groups of the country, launched its 25th production "Antigone" yesterday, says a press release.

The inaugural performance was sponsored by United Insurance Company Ltd. and Apex Tannery Ltd.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury, President of Theatre welcome the guests and gave a background of the play before the performance.

Jean Anouilh's play, based on the classical Greek tragedy, has been translated into Bangla by Khairul Alam Shabuj who has also directed it.

Mixed reaction over budget

CHITTAGONG, June 19: Leaders of political parties, trade and other organisations here have hailed the national budget for the fiscal 1992-93 announced yesterday by the Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman, reports BSS.

In separate statements they termed the budget as pragmatic and constructive. A section of opposition leaders however called the budget an account of BNP government's annual income and expenditure.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Engineer Ali Ahmad said, it is a constructive budget with some inconsistencies here and there. Allocation of Taka 1500 crore for the industrial sector, decentralization of power of income tax department, simplification of tax payment system and exemption of income tax upto Taka 40000 are praise-worthy, he said.

Engineer Ahmad also hailed the decision to withdraw Jamuna sur-charge on bank deposit and postal deposits which would encourage savings.

He called for withdrawing Jamuna surcharges from telephone, electricity and telex. Withdrawal of VAT and decrease in taxes on building materials are also welcomed, he said.

The Chamber President said, the common people would be benefitted from decrease in price of diesel and petrol and customs duty on some essential goods.

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor Mir Muhammad Nasir Uddin hailed the national budget saying, it is pragmatic, pro-people and welfare oriented. He said, the budget aims at improving the lot of common man and making the nation self-reliant.

Leaders of BNP city, Chittagong South and North districts Advocate Badrul Anwar, Gulam Akbar Khondakar, Hedayetul Islam and Ekramul Karim hailed the national budget saying it is a people-oriented budget aiming at making the country self-reliant and alleviating the sufferings of the common man.

City Awami League leaders M S Mannan and A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury said that the budget for the year 1992-93 was prepared on the dictation of World Bank and IMF and it would not bring expected benefit for the people. There was no provision for keeping prices of essentials stable, they said.

Jatiya Party-city unit leaders Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury and Jahangir Alam termed the budget as an annual accounts of BNP government. It is dependent on foreign aids and it would not benefit the common man, they said.

Khulna

Various political parties and trade organisations have expressed their reactions over the annual budget for fiscal 1992-93.

The Khulna Chambers of Commerce and Industries, in a statement, hailed the budget saying it would help accelerate the pace of industrialisation and agricultural development.

It also welcomed the reorganisation of the tax system and reduction of taxes on various items, including cement and rod.

Nurul Islam, President, Khulna city BNP, in a statement, congratulated Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman for placing a balanced budget in the Jatiya Sangsad. He said the budget would help achieve self-reliance and fulfil the basic needs of the people.

Food grain import increases by 13.56 per cent

Import of food grains this year increased 13.56 per cent from last financial year's real imports of 15.34 lakh tons, reports UNB.

According to Finance Ministry's Economic Survey 1991-92, about 17.42 lakh tons of grains are expected to be imported by June 30 against the target of 20.30 lakh tons.

Of this year's imports, about 16.05 lakh tons were bought on credit, while the rest by

cash. Grain stock in government godowns, however, increased 4.53 per cent to 12 lakh tons this year against last year's 11.4 lakh tons.

Internal food procurement, however, declined 6.15 per cent compared to last year's while this year's grain distribution registered an increase of about 10.91 per cent from that of last year.

BCI writ challenging BB order rejected

The writ petition filed by Shahabul Hossain, Principal Officer of Bangladesh Commerce and Investment Limited (BCI), challenging the Bangladesh Bank order suspending operations of BCI was rejected Thursday by a High Court division bench, reports BSS.

The bench comprised Justice Anwarul Huq Chowdhury and Justice K M Hasan.

The court held that under Article 9 of Bangladesh Bank Order 1972, the government has got the power to give such directions upon Bangladesh Bank for taking proper steps protecting the public interest and the Bangladesh Bank has legally and properly taken action upon BCI in accordance with the government directions.

The suspension of operations of BCI should continue till completion of the inquiry on BCI.

EC appoints nine to enlist voters of the capital

The Election Commission has appointed 9 registration officers to enlist the voters of the capital city, reports UNB.

Work on the preparation of a new voters' list will begin on June 24, said a press release of the Election Commission Secretariat.

The Election Commission has requested the people of different areas of Dhaka City Corporation to contact the registration officers if the supervisors or enumerators fail to collect their names.

6-day meeting on Research Reactor begins June 22

A six-day technical committee meeting on Research Reactor problems of 1990s jointly sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) begin in Dhaka on June 22, reports BSS.

What's on today . . .

Sufia Kamal's birthday

The 82nd birth anniversary of Poet Sufia Kamal will be celebrated today (Saturday) at a formal function to be held at the seminar room of the National Museum in the city.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has arranged the function beginning at 4 in the afternoon.

Seminar at Engineers Institution

The Coordination Committee of the Engineers, Agricultural Scientists and the Civil Service Officers will hold a seminar on 'Challenges of the 21st century and Bangladesh's preparations for administrative reformation and other issues' at the auditorium of the Institution of the Engineers in the city today (Saturday) at 3 pm.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali will attend the seminar as chief guest while Information Minister Nazmul Huda and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad will be the special guests.

The seminar is being held as part of the committee's two-day grand conference that began yesterday.



A sequence of the play Antigone staged by Theatre Friday.

National Curriculum and Text Book Board

"Text Book Building"

69-70, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000

Re-Tender Notice

Notice No. 87

Dated: 16.06.92

Sealed tenders are invited from 1st class enlisted contractors of Dhaka WASA and other Govt and semi-govt organisations for installation and connection of water and sewerage lines at the Board's newly constructed 12-storey building (69-70 Motijheel C/A). All relevant works including obtaining approval permission of WASA/Power Corporation Authorities for line installation, setting connection and road cutting are included in this work.

Tender schedule can be collected from the office of the undersigned during office hours by depositing Pay Order/Bank Draft of Taka 400/= (Four hundred) only (non-refundable) from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh. Tender schedule cannot be collected on the date of opening tender. Certificate (from Executive Engineer/equivalent officer) of experience on Water & Sewerage line work at multi-storied building should be produced at the time of collecting tender schedule.

Tender can be deposit in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned up to 11-30 minutes on 24.06.92 and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12-00 Noon in presence (if any) of the tenderers.

Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh for 2.5% of the total quoted amount in the tender in favour of "Chairman, National Curriculum and Text Book Board" should be deposited with the tender as earnest money.

The Board reserves the right to accept any tender/reject all tenders/accept in part without assigning any reason.

Moyezuddin Ahmed

Secretary

National Curriculum and Text Book Board, Dhaka

DFP(G) 12651-16/6 G-770

Notice of Tender Military Engineer Services

1. Applications are invited by AHQ, QMG's Branch, DW & CE(Army) Dhaka Cantt for issue of tender documents for the following works by 23 June '92 :-

- Supply & Installation of 300 KVA Auto Generator Set at Jessore Cantt.
- Supply & Installation of 320 KVA Auto Generator Set at Comilla Cantt.
- Supply & Installation of 250 KVA Generator Set at Bhatiyar Cantt.
- Supply & Installation of 250 KVA Generator Set at Halishahar Cantt.
- Supply & Installation of 250 KVA Generator Set at Khagrachhari Cantt.
- Supply & Installation of 150 KVA Generator Set at Dighinala Cantt.
- Supply & Installation of 75 KVA Generator Set at Ghagra Cantt.
- Supply & Installation of 150 KVA Generator Set with mobile system at Bogra Cantt.
- Supply & Installation of 250 KVA Generator Set with mobile system at Saidpur Cantt.
- Supply & Installation of PFI (Power Factor Improvement) at Ghazipur Cantt.
- Provision of external electric supply for 2 x 20 'E' type qtr at Bodiuzzaman Road, Dhaka Cantt.
- Provision of external water supply for 2 x 20 'E' type qtr at Bodiuzzaman Road, Dhaka Cantt.
- Provision of external water supply for 2 x SM BK for 8 NCO's & 160 Men at Rajendrapur Cantt.
- Provision of external water supply for 2 x SM BK for 8 NCO's & 160 Men at Savar Cantt.
- Provision of external electric supply with 250 KVA Transformer for 1xSM BK for 4 NCO's & 80 Men at Jessore Cantt.
- Provision of external electric & water connection for PARA TRG Shed at Jalalabad Cantt, Sylhet.
- Constr of 1 x 6 NCO's & 120 men SM BK (4 Storied) with CH/DH at Parbotipur.
- Constr of 1 x 8 NCO's & 160 men SM BK (5 Storied) with CH/DH at Parbotipur.

2. MES approved contractors may apply quoting their Class and Index No.

ISPR -37 (Army) 776 DFP(G) 12648-16/6

G-768

Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills Limited

An enterprise of Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation Dewanganj, Jamalpur

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. Com/Mech-8(L)/92 Dated: 2-6-92

Sealed tenders are invited by the General Manager, Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills Ltd., P.O. Dewanganj Sugar Mills, Dist. Jamalpur from only the bonafide paint manufacturers for supply of various types of paints. In support of the tenderers being bonafide paint manufacturers, paint manufacturing licence must be submitted with the tender otherwise their tenders will be cancelled outright at the time of opening. Tender schedule stating terms & conditions will be available at Taka 250/(non-refundable) from the office of the under mentioned officers during office hours: (1) Additional Chief Accountant (Cash), BSFC, Adamjee Court, 4th floor, 115-120 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka; (2) General Manager, BSFC, Shipping Office, Arag Chamber, 68 Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong; (3) Finance Manager, Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills Ltd., Dewanganj, Jamalpur. Tenders will be received in the box kept at the Commercial Department of this Mills up to 11-00 am on 30-6-92 (16 Ashar 1399 BS) and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 11-30 minutes before the tenderers (if any) present. The Mills authority reserves full right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. No tender schedule will be sold on the date of opening.

SF-606 DFP(BA) 5489-14/6

G-766