

Ctg cement factory fails to reach output capacity

Country's largest cement factory recorded an output of 1,74,500 tons worth about Tk 67.96 crore, far below its production capacity, in the last fiscal year due to two major problems.

However, officials told UNB, the Chittagong Cement Clinker and Grinding Factory earned a profit of Tk 6.49 crore in 1991-92 despite the production shortfall because of the problems beyond their control. The profit came from the sale of 1,71,958 tons during the period, they said.

The factory, an enterprise of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), contributed Tk 7.65 crore to the national exchequer in the form of custom duty, sales tax, excise duty and income tax last year.

Having an annual production capacity of 3 lakh tons, the factory since the beginning of the year had although been affected by shortage of raw materials and intermittent power supply disruption which is virtually crippling the project.

Managing Director of the factory B B Dewanjee told UNB that shortage of clinker, the basic raw material of cement, which is usually procured through international tender, was due to irregular supply.

"Unless clinker supply and loadshedding situation improves, production of cement will be badly affected at a time when there is extreme shortage of the construction material in the market," said one of the officials.

Long-term agreement is necessary with international clinker producers to ensure smooth supply of the ingredient, he said. He also suggested installation of separate power house in the factory.

The other cement industry of BCIC, Chhatak Cement Factory, has an annual production capacity of 1.5 lakh tons. Both the factories together produce about 3.5 lakh tons, far below the annual demand of 2 million tons. The rest of the country's requirement is imported.

The government has recently called tender for sale its 51 per cent share of Chittagong factory to the private sector. The factory, which sold 49 per cent share to individuals about three years ago, provided last year 35 per cent dividend, the highest in the public sector.

A number of investors have shown interest in buying the remaining 51 per cent government share with Tk 33.50 crore as against its book value of Tk 4,38,60,000, the MD said. The total asset of the factory is valued at Tk 8.60 crore.

Dewanjee said the government can install another cement factory utilising the money earned through selling the mills to private sector.

Meanwhile, labour leaders pointing at labour unrest in the factory due to government step for privatisation said it would be a great problem for the authorities to go ahead with the plans.



BJP activists demonstrating near the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi yesterday to protest Islamabad's alleged interference in Indian affairs. The protest coincided with the Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Jakarta, at which Pakistan Prime Minister on Tuesday called on the United Nations to seek a solution to the Kashmir dispute along the lines of a UN resolution calling for a plebiscite. — AFP photo

Reject human rights norms imposed by 'others': Rao

JAKARTA, Sept 2: Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao told developing countries today not to accept human rights standards imposed by others, reports Reuter.

"Norms of some societies cannot be unilaterally prescribed as absolute postulates for relations between states and societies," Rao told a summit of the 108-member Non-Aligned Movement.

Many developing countries including Indonesia and Malaysia say donor countries apply Western human rights values on them, without taking into account local traditions and culture.

Indonesia refused aid from the Netherlands after it criticised Jakarta's military massacre in East Timor last November.

Summit chairman Indonesia, in a draft declaration for adoption by the summit, criticises countries which use human rights as a pretext for interfering in other nations' internal affairs.

India faces criticism from human rights groups over its handling of separatists in Punjab and Kashmir. Rao said the

groups often placed no blame on those who practised terrorism.

"Many amongst us face a predicament where human rights are emphatically urged only for practitioners of terrorism or secessionism, while governments dealing with this menace are accused of violation of human rights," he said.

"This blatant distortion cannot be countenanced."

In a reference to India's dispute with neighbouring Pakistan over Kashmir, Rao said, "within the fraternity of our movement, there may be differences between individual members."

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif charged on Tuesday that the people of the India-ruled section of Kashmir had been denied the right to decide their own future.

Kashmir will be in turmoil and South Asia in the grip of tension as long as the just aspirations of the Kashmiri people are denied to them," Sharif said. He is due to meet Rao for talks on Thursday.

PTI adds: Narasimha Rao today asked the developing countries to learn to recognise

their own capabilities and come out of the spell cast on them by the glamour of developed countries.

Emphasising that the developing countries should harness their collective resources and talents for the benefit of humanity, he said. The South must respect South as a step towards better South-South cooperation.

He said the G-15 was born out of this compelling realisation at the Belgrade summit, and by now had established itself as a core around which movement could promote South-South cooperation.

He also suggested the setting up of a stand-by force of NAM volunteers, non-military in nature, ready to assist member-states in situations of crisis where the humanitarian dimension transcended any other.

The stand-by force of NAM volunteers would assist member-states with willing, and dedicated manpower in situations of crisis, where the humanitarian dimension transcended any other, the Prime Minister said.

5-party blasts

From Page 1 Col 8

harmful to a healthy political atmosphere and not expected from a responsible political leader.

The meeting termed Information Minister Nazmul Huda's claim that late President Ziaur Rahman proclaimed Independence March 26 (of 1971) untrue.

He (late Zia) made the proclamation on March 27 at the Kalurghat Radio Station and played an important role in the country's War of Independence, the meeting said adding "It should be noted that anyone who reads out or announces a declaration of a political leadership or the government over Radio & TV never claims himself to be the hero of the incident."

It remarked that the 'ill-attempt' to establish late Ziaur Rahman as the proclamaunt of Independence would ultimately belittle the valiant freedom fighter.

The meeting reminded the BNP leadership that the people did not wage the Liberation War all of a sudden after its being declared, rather the process of founding Bangladesh was started in 1947 when Pakistan was established on the basis of an 'unscientific' and 'unrealistic' two-nation theory.

Ziaur Rahman remained absent and had no role in the phases of the bloody struggle for liberation from 1952 to 1971, the meeting pointed out.

The meeting called on the BNP leadership to give up the 'mentality of trying to establish something false as true'.

Five-Party central leaders including Hasanul Huq Inu, Khalequzzaman, Mohiuddin Ahmed Khan Badal, Nayyem Jahangir, and Saiful Haque were present at the meeting.

UNB adds: The Five-Party alliance is likely to announce from a city rally today (Thursday) a programme of agitations.

Saifur

From Page 1 Col 8

revenue to the tune of Tk 200 crore.

He was also quoted to have told the function that the government could not realise arrear electricity bills amounting to Tk 50-60 lakh because of practice developed by courts to allow 20 to 30 instalments and that even the British judicial system didn't have the practice of staying matters relating to revenue collection.

"It is a serious aspersion and uncalled for attack upon the judiciary and administration of justice in the country and tantamounts to flagrant contempt of the Supreme Court," the bar association meeting said in its resolution.

The meeting, held at the association office, in its resolution adopted unanimously urged all in power and position not to make such 'reckless utterance' in the greater interest of rule of law and independence of the judiciary.

Presided over by association president Khondkar Mahabuddin Ahmed, the meeting was addressed by secretary A F M Ali Asgar, Shamsul Haq Chowdhury, Dr Kamal Hossain, Aminuddin, K S Nabi, Abdul Baset Majumdar, Abdul Momen Chowdhury, Salimullah and Anjad Hossain.

Security for AG

From Page 1 Col 8

companying him is also likely to be strengthened, sources said.

Aminul Huq was appointed Attorney General December 18, 1990 by the government of acting president Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Earlier, he also received letters of threats and anonymous telephone calls at his residence. An anonymous letter threatening him was also recovered from the special Tribunal courtroom in which former president Ershad was being tried.

Dhaka College BCL observes token hunger strike

By DU Correspondent

The activists of pro Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) of Dhaka College unit observed a token hunger strike in front of the Jatya Press Club demanding the arrest and trial of the killers of Farhad Hossain Wednesday.

Farhad, a brilliant student of Dhaka College was beaten to death by some unidentified persons of Nilkhet Bakushah Market on August 25.

Later the BCL(M-I) leaders, expressing solidarity with the strike, held a rally there.

The rally was addressed, among others, by the BCL General Secretary Iqbalur Rahim, Manjural Islam Aaru, Panaj Nath, Liakat Ali and Alok Bionk.

The leaders demanded implementation of the nine point demands of the Dhaka College Students' including establishment of a hostel in place of Bakushah Market immediately.

The Midnight File

Tidal waves leave 56 dead in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Sept 2: A powerful earthquake which unleashed a series of tidal waves on Nicaragua's Pacific coast killed at least 56 people and left more than 100 missing and thousands homeless, a local red cross spokesman said today. Most of the dead were children who drowned when they were swept into the sea, Alvaro Ramirez of the Health Ministry said, reports Reuter.

Former Polish PM, wife found murdered

WARSAW, Sept 2: Former Polish Prime Minister Piotr Jaroszewicz and his wife were found murdered in their Warsaw home Wednesday, police said. The 82-year old former communist leader was found hanging and his body showed numerous signs of torture, said police. His wife, journalist Alicja Solska, had been shot dead, reports AP.

DU student stabbed

By DMCH Correspondent

A final year chemistry student of the Dhaka University was stabbed by some unidentified persons on the University campus Wednesday noon.

Abdul Hat Ukil, 25, is also the Joint Convener of Sangraam Chhatra Samaj was stabbed near the library of the university, campus sources said.

He was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, sources added.

Dhaka concerned

From Page 1 Col 4

Indian capital Tuesday evening, the Bangladesh Finance Minister was received by the Indian Finance Minister at the airport. Bangladesh High Commissioner Farooq Sobhan was also present.

Later, in the afternoon today the Bangladesh Finance Minister attended a luncheon meeting hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industrialists (CII) where he underscored the need for establishing joint venture projects in Bangladesh, since a congenial environment had emerged following the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to India.

He particularly referred to the establishment of joint venture industries in the light engineering, leather, jute, textile and chemical sector.

The Finance Minister said that closer and more frequent interaction between the two country's business and industrial circles would create a better understanding between the two countries.

Welcoming Saifur Rahman, the former President of the CII Manmohan Singh (not the Finance Minister) expressed his interest in the joint venture projects in assembling and progressive manufacturing unit, particularly in the field of agriculture.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Farooq Sobhan also spoke on the occasion. Representatives of various industrialists' associations of India were present in the meeting.

JCD demands trial of killers of 2 polytech students

By DU Correspondent

The Jatyaatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders at a rally yesterday (Wednesday) on the Dhaka University campus demanded arrest and trial of the killers of JCD leaders Abdur Rauf and Shahabuddin.

Shahabuddin, Joint Convener of the JCD of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute unit was shot dead last Saturday and Rauf, a third year student of Civil Department of the Institute and the Social Welfare Secretary of the JCD of same unit who was severely beaten in a hostel of the Institute by some unidentified miscreants on Saturday succumbed to his injuries Tuesday.

Addressing the protest rally in front of the Madhu's Cantonment of the DU the JCD leaders said that a vested quarter was plotting the murders.

The JCD leaders Nazimuddin Alam, Kamruzzaman Ratan, Sayed Sohrab and Nasiruddin Pintu said that certain sector was trying to destroy the democracy by creating violence everywhere in the country.

Meanwhile, the JCD President Ruhul Kabir Ritvee and General Secretary Ilias Ali in a joint statement yesterday demanded arrest and trial of the killers of Rauf and Shahabuddin.

Demanding exemplary punishment to the killers they said that a conspirator quarter was hitting the JCD of the Polytechnic Institute again and again.

The leaders, however, said that no power could destroy the progress of JCD through any conspiracy.

They expressed sympathy to the bereaved families of the late student leaders.

Rohingyas

From Page 1 Col 7

measures, making a headway towards convincing the refugees to go back, officials said.

According to the agreement, Azan will be allowed inside mosques in Arakan, restrictions on free movement of the Rohingyas lifted and those not having citizenship document may get it after return. It was also agreed that representatives of the refugees could go to Arakan to see the arrangements made for them.

Meanwhile, two officials were reported wounded at Sailerdaba camp at Ukha on Tuesday when the refugees attacked them during distribution of relief goods.

On Sunday, eight people looking after the refugees were also injured in such an incident at the same camp.

Sharier Kabir challenges termination today

By Staff Correspondent

Shahrier Kabir, sacked executive editor of the weekly Bichitra, would file today (Thursday) a writ in the High Court challenging his termination order. Court sources said Wednesday.

The writ would be filed against a Joint Secretary of the Information Ministry, who is also the Chairman of Times-Bangla Trust, and the Information Secretary, the source said adding that Dr. Kamal Hossain and Barrister Amirul Islam would move the case.

Kabir, also an active leader of the Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirml Committee, was terminated on July 16 on grounds of "economic insolvency" of the publication.

The mass circulated weekly is one of the publications of the Times-Bangla Trust.

Programme to observe Miladunnabi

Eid-e-Miladunnabi will be celebrated throughout the country on September 10 with due religious fervour, reports BSS.

This was decided at a high level inter-ministerial meeting, held yesterday to chalk out the programme for celebrating the coming Eid-e-Miladunnabi with State Minister for Religious Affairs M A Mannan in the chair.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will give messages to the nation on the occasion.

The Works Ministry will arrange the hoisting of national flag atop government building and private owners or management, will hoist the flag atop their bhabans. The Works Ministry will also arrange the hoisting of national flag and display of banners inscribed with Kaleema Tayaba at all important islands and lightposts in the city.

On the occasion, the Secretariat, Bangladeshi Shishu Academy, Bangla Academy and the university including educational institutions will hold milad mahfil. Besides seminar and discussions will be held on the life and works of Hazrat Mohammad (SM). Islamic Foundation will take initiative in this regard.

Bangladeshi Television, Radio Bangladesh will put up special programmes and newspapers will bring out special supplement on the occasion.

Bangla Academy, Shishu Academy, Islamic Foundation and Islamic organisations will arrange special programmes.

Improved diet will be supplied to the inmates of hospitals, jails, government shishu sadans, vagrant centres and destitute welfare centres on the day.

Bangladesh Embassy and missions abroad will hold milad mahfil and invite diplomats of Muslim countries. Divisional Commissioners, district administrations and Thana Nirbahi Officers will take programmes in the light of national programmes.

NAM leaders

From Page 1 Col 5

lestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat, who did not specifically mention the zone but warned against any moves to split up Iraq.

"We appeal to all to act against the starvation of the Iraqi people... and maintain the unity of the Iraqis with all its religious factions and not to harm the unity of this people and country," he said.

Kenya's President Daniel Arap Moi said the Third World's debt burden of 1.3 trillion dollar was choking off growth. International economic institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund should emphasize sustainable development rather than debt repayment.

AP adds: NAM leaders de-

clared Wednesday that the East vs West political fight of the Cold War era has been replaced by a North vs South economic struggle.

Government officials agreed at the second day of the movement's summit meeting that the Third World gets a raw deal from industrialised nations.

The present economic system, as we all agree, turns us into economic slaves of the rich and development North, said Zimbabwe President Robert G Mugabe.

Protectionism and subsidies by developed nations results in developing countries losing \$500 billion a year, ten times more than the foreign aid sent to developing countries, Malaysian PM Mahathir said.

EBL foreign exchange

From Page 1 Col 8

In the way of FE operation is that the foreign banks may arrest any transactions made by EBL on the ground that the defunct BCCI owed them money or other assets, concerned sources said.

For this reason, the main FE operation of EBL will be made either through Sonali Bank or other nationalised commercial banks (NCBs).

Meanwhile, sources said the government might try to solve its claims of foreign assets worldwide through mutual talks with the majority shareholders in Abu Dhabi.

Bangladesh has a claim of about Taka 100 crore. The majority shareholder has agreed to pay about 1.7 billion US dollar for liquidation of the BCCI.

The world liquidator had not agreed to entertain Dhaka's claim over the money as it views that Bangladesh has not agreed to pool its BCCI assets with other global BCCI branches.

However, the government may be able to recover at least a portion of its claims through mutual talks, sources said.

Meanwhile, the EBL is expected to publish notice to the depositors for their subscription of shares of the bank. The Board of Directors of the EBL has already approved the publication of notice. The depositors can either subscribe shares by paying in cash or by adjusting the sums against their deposits.

The restructuring scheme of the BCCI envisages that 40 per cent shares of the EBL will go to the depositors of former BCCI. This amount totals Taka 24 crore.

Sources say if the total subscription of depositors does not fulfil Taka 24 crore margin, then public shares of Taka 100 each will be floated for the rest.

The EBL has already sent letters to the scheduled banks

for their subscription of the other 40 per cent shares of the bank. Eleven banks, both NCBs and private, will buy these shares. Sources said the EBL had attracted a good response from the depositors. The EBL had received about Taka 3.5 crore deposit since it started operation from August 16.

However, sources said the full swing transactions of the bank will start from September 15 when the EBL will be giving back the money to the depositors of former BCCI.

They said that the compilation of the assets and liabilities of the former BCCI is about to be completed and the loan recovery drive will start after this compilation.

The EBL has already fixed its rate of interest on new deposits and lendings. However, rate of interest on the deposits with the former BCCI now lying with the EBL has not yet been fixed.

Menon

From Page 1 Col 8

better yesterday. He is better than before."

"He is gradually gaining strength, taking interest in his surroundings and various events. He is apparently getting back his appetite."

"After extraction of a pint of fluid from his right lung, he is feeling better while breathing but is still being kept under oxygen at times," the message said adding that Menon was being given high-calorie liquids, to recover from weakness.

The message quoted the doctors as saying that his fluctuating temperature might be the cause of his weakness. Doctors were investigating to ascertain the causes of fluctuating fever.

Afghan delegation at the NAM Summit in Jakarta. Star TV photo

Khaleda-Rao talks

From Page 1 Col 4

Soeharto, who is also the current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The other world leaders, who met the Bangladesh Prime Minister, were Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed, Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Emir of Kuwait Shaikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sri Lankan Prime Minister DB Wijetunge.

During the meeting Begum Zia talked with the world leaders about NAM and bilateral, regional and international issues.

The Bangladesh leaders during her talks with the Saudi Foreign Minister stressed further strengthening the existing relations between the two brotherly Muslim countries.

At her meeting with the Indonesian President Soeharto, the two leader agreed to expand the relations between the two countries in the field of trade, agriculture, family planning and culture.

Begum Zia also laid stress on the formation of the Joint Economic Commission between the two countries.

President Soeharto replied in the affirmative when Begum Zia said her country needed a piece of land in Jakarta for its diplomatic mission. The two leaders also underlined the need for strengthening the bilateral relations at the meeting which lasted for 30 minute.

He also said Malaysia was keen to diversify the relations with Bangladesh in different fields including economic.

Begum Zia said there are a large number of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers in Bangladesh and they were interested to work in Malaysia.

The Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom during his meeting with Begum Zia expressed satisfaction over the restoration of democracy in Bangladesh.

Begum Zia requested the Maldives President to recruit teachers and doctors from Bangladesh for his country. Reciprocating to Begum Zia's sentiment, Gayoom said he would soon take efforts in this regard.

Begum Zia and Sri Lankan Prime Minister DB Wijetunge during their meeting discussed the establishment of air link between the two SAARC countries. The Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa is likely to visit Bangladesh Oct 4-6.

Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala told Begum Zia that his country wanted to establish a trade and transit link with Bangladesh. Begum Zia said Bangladesh was not opposed to it but Nepal should have an agreement with India first in this regard.

Prime Minister Begum Zia also attended the plenary session in the morning and afternoon today.

Home Minister seeks list of smugglers

From Page 1 Col 4

A high level meeting of the National Anti-Smuggling Committee was held in Dhaka yesterday with Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the anti-smuggling drive and activities of anti-smuggling task force in central, regional and district level.

The meeting took a number of decision to gear up the anti-smuggling operation in a co-ordinated way.

The Home Minister asked the meeting to list the names of real smugglers irrespective of their position in society and political affiliations. He urged the committee members to take proper and drastic actions against big smugglers.

The meeting laid emphasis to take suitable economic, fiscal, revenue, industrial and business policy for checking smuggling.

The meeting decided to hold the National Anti-Smuggling Committee meeting after every two months instead of three months.

Security for AG

From Page 1 Col 8

companying him is also likely to be strengthened, sources said.

Aminul Huq was appointed Attorney General December 18, 1990 by the government of acting president Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Earlier, he also received letters of threats and anonymous telephone calls at his residence. An anonymous letter threatening him was also recovered from the special Tribunal courtroom in which former president Ershad was being tried.

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