

New fund for export promotion likely

An export promotion scheme is under active consideration of the government to provide technical and financial assistance to exporting firms for diversifying their products to boost the trade, reports UNB.

Official sources said Export Promotion Fund (EPF) would be created under the scheme to provide monetary support to exporters for product development and market promotion, including participation in overseas trade fairs.

Part of the fund will be used for carrying out an extensive publicity campaign in favour of export development.

The existing Export Development Fund (EDF), supported by the World Bank, will also be augmented to hand out increased soft credit to export-oriented industries for import of raw material and machinery.

Donors will be approached for contributing to these funds to give a fillip to the country's slow-paced export trade.

Sources said the proposed scheme is part of a comprehensive eight-year Export Development Strategy (1992-2000) awaiting cabinet approval.

Private sector will have more say in policy-making as well as implementation regarding exports, as envisaged by the proposed strategy, sources added.

It will offer greater private sector representation at the board level of the Export Promotion Bureau and other related organisations.

Private exports will be encouraged to establish "National Exporters Association" which will basically act as a conduit of the trade information. The association will identify specific export-related problems and report back to the government.

Moreover, sources said, a proposal was being deliberated for vesting on an exporters' association the responsibility of quality certification as well as administration of quantitative restrictions on exports.

India: Push Back

From Page 1 Col 4

tried to send many others rounded up from different Indian cities, but the BDR has refused to accept them.

The Indian agencies vary widely in the numbers of migrants. The figures range from several thousand to more than ten million, giving the entire issue a touch of ambiguity.

The intelligence report said that the number of illegal migrants from Bangladesh was more than ten million. Balkar Singh, the Inspector General for the South Bengal Frontier, was quoted by the Calcutta-based daily Bartaman September 11 as putting the figure at only six lakh plus.

But the BJP figure went out of all proportions. Dr Manohar Joshi, the party's national president, told newsmen Sunday at Ahmedabad that there were about 17 million "infiltrators" from Bangladesh, the Indian newspapers reported Monday.

The BJP chief said these people had settle in Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and North Eastern states over the years. He threatened countrywide agitations if they were not deported immediately.

"The largest concentration of such immigrants today is in West Bengal but the state government dismisses such reports by asserting that the number does not exceed a few thousand," according to a The Hindustan Times report.

The Hindu revivalist party that commands the second largest group in the Indian parliament is credited to have provoked the codenamed operation under which the country's police and paramilitary resorted to brutal means to evict the Bengali-speaking settlers from its various parts.

"There was something ruthless and anarchic about the whole operation," wrote the Delhi-based Indian Express in the September 20 issue, referring to the treatment meted out to the 132 people "pushed back" through Benapole checkpoint September 11.

"Sons were separated from their mothers, husbands from wives, brothers from sisters. Homes lay shattered, relationships were ripped to shreds, and darkness descended at noon," the newspaper described the operation September 9, the day the 132 people were bundled out of the Indian capital.

BSF attempt to push in 41 more

JESSORE, Sept 29: Bangladesh Rifles today (Tuesday) foiled three attempts by Indian BSF to push 41 people into Bangladesh through Benapole, Jadabpur and Sadipur borders, reports UNB.

BDR sources said they thwarted an attempt of the Indian Border Security Forces to push 30 people into Bangladesh territory through Jadabpur border at 5 am.

The vigilant BDR jawans also foiled two other Indian attempts to send eight people through Benapole border and three others through Sadipur border today, the sources said.

Since the beginning of this month, the Indian BSF, under its so-called "Operation Push Back", made a number of attempts to send Bangla-speaking people to Bangladesh.

India seeks french technology

PARIS, Sept 29: India today sought latest French technology for peaceful use of atomic energy, aero-space and bio-technology and hoped the ongoing Franco-Indian cooperation in frontier science and technologies would not be hampered by extraneous pressures, reports PTI.

India is keen in renewing the contract for the delivery of enriched uranium for its Tarapur Atomic Plant due to expire next year, supply of electronic circuits for its satellites and cryogenic rocket engines for its space programme. It wants the French technology to sugar energy and agro-industries.

The progress in the Franco-Indian cooperation in technological sector was reviewed when the French Minister of Research and Space, Hubert Curien, called on the visiting Prime Minister PV

Andhra CM quits

HYDERABAD, Sept 29: The stormy 21-month old N Janardhana Reddy rule in Andhra Pradesh ended yesterday with the Chief Minister submitting his resignation to the state governor Krishna Kant, bowing to the party high command's directive, reports PTI.

Editor: S. M. Ali
Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynbee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX- 246023-4, 245061-2. Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box. No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.



Rescue workers carry the remains of a passenger on a stretcher yesterday in rough mountainous terrain in Nepal a day after a PIA Airbus 300 burst into flames and crashed killing all 167 passengers including four Bangladeshis and crew on board. — AFP photo

Bangladeshis

From Page 1 Col 8

They arrived in Karachi Monday evening about four hours after PIA Flight 2680 slammed into a hillside near the Nepalese capital, Katmandu, killing all 167 people on board.

"We were cursing the delayed flight because it meant two wasted days," said Erzer Ranto, a 20-year-old anthropology student at Bern University in Switzerland. "I never believed in fate but it has saved our lives."

Airline officials said a Japanese passenger, Katsuyuku Onu of Tokyo, came even closer to being on the ill-fated flight. Officials said Onu had actually boarded the jet in Karachi but was pulled off because he had not obtained a proper exit permit from Pakistani authorities.

ESCAP chief assures all possible help

Executive Secretary of ESCAP Raftuddin Ahmad yesterday assured all possible cooperation to Bangladesh in its efforts towards improving the country's socio-economic condition, reports UNB.

The assurance came when the ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) executive called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in the afternoon.

Ahmed lauded economic reforms of the present democratic government, particularly liberalisation of the investment and industrial policies.

PM's intervention sought to save newspaper industry

A meeting of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad, Bangladesh Editors Parishad, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Dhaka Union of Journalists here yesterday discussed the latest situation in the newspaper industry and called for Prime Minister's intervention in the matter, reports BSS.

The meeting expressed concern at the increase in the price of newsprint to Taka 19,880 per tonne, non-payment of arrears advertisement bills and reduction of the advertisement budget, a press release of the Sangbadpatra Parishad said.

The meeting expressed the opinion that the present situation has thrown the entire newspaper industry into a serious economic crisis that, on the one hand, will prevent flourishing of newspapers and on the other, affect free and responsible journalism.

Dhaka, Yangon hold talks on refugees

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 29: Bangladesh and Myanmar today held the ninth round of official-level talks in Akyab on various aspects of the repatriation of nearly 2.65 lakh Rohingya refugees, according to indications available here, reports UNB.

Outcome of the meeting was not available here as the Bangladesh team, led by Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Omar Farooq, didn't return today.

300 missing

From Page 1 Col 8

About 25 passengers who jumped from the boats during the attack were later rescued by local fishermen in the area. Police said that it was not immediately known whether the boats were capsized or were commandeered by the pirates.

BSS from Netrokona says: At least four people were missing when a country-made engine boat with nearly 150 passengers on board capsized in the midstream of the river Someswart yesterday, the Deputy Commissioner said.

PM: National policy

From Page 1 Col 7

Kurt by Shaheed President Zia, the Prime Minister said it was his pledge to create an ideal environment for children.

"We have to be more attentive to the welfare of children", she said while portraying a grim picture of the children's condition in Bangladesh.

She pointed out that majority of children are neglected and plagued with the problems of poverty, malnutrition, untimely death and illiteracy.

"In many cases children are not growing up with proper physical and mental condition due to lack of awareness about children's rights."

Begum Zia said children are our biggest investment for the future and the biggest security and safeguard. "If we want to build a happy, beautiful and self-reliant country we'll have to give more attention to children's welfare. The country's future depend on raising them as worthy citizens", she added.

Tiny Tayeb Ali, who accompanied the guests on the dais as the representative of children, delivered a touching speech on behalf of his mates reminding the audience of their rights and basic needs.

The function over, Begum Zia joined the tiny tots in a colourful rally which ended at the Shishu Academy. The Prime Minister accompanied them up to the High Court crossing.

Referring to the establishment of Shishu Academy, Shishu Park and introduction of Jatiya Shishu Purashkar and television programme Nutun

BNP constitution

From Page 1 Col 7

day that the present party constitution had been adopted when the party believed in the presidential system of government.

With the reversion to the parliamentary form of government, the rank and file of the party felt that necessary amendments to the party constitution be made to cope with the changed situation, the leader added.

The leader however did not elaborate on the possible changes in the party constitution saying, "These are yet to be particularly chalked out."

The council was also expected to witness the emergence of a new Secretary General of the party, sources said.

The Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Barrister Talukder has been Party Secretary General for the last four years. Salam Talukder replaced KM Obaidur Rahman, who deserted the party in 1988.

Meanwhile, Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam, Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah and Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury are the known aspirants for the secretary general post, the second top position in the party.

Whatever the number of aspirants, the one having blessings of the party chief Khaleda Zia would get the post.

According to the BNP's present constitution, an electoral college comprising presidents and secretaries of the union, thana and district-level units

Govt-nurses talks fail

From Page 1 Col 4

also informed that a proposal had been sent for approval from the Prime Minister to form an inter-ministerial committee to look into the other 13 demands, they said.

The officials explained that the formation of a committee was required as those demands involved the Health, Education, Establishment and Finance ministries.

The minister requested the BDNA leader to call off their strike in view of the government's readiness to look into the demands, Health Ministry sources said.

The leaders of the BDNA however said that they could not call off the strike at the moment because all the members of the executive committee were not present at the meeting.

They would convey the decision at today's meeting, they said.

The leaders of the BDNA and other organisations have already announced that they would go for a work stoppage for an indefinite period from October 3 if the talks failed.

Our DMCH Correspondent reports: The situation at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital had become very serious because of the strike.

A total of 125 patients left the 850-bed Hospital Tuesday. The authorities released another 100 patients Tuesday. 34 patients were admitted on an emergency basis by a small team of doctors and staff nurses.

According to the BDNA leaders, the numbers of patients in the state-owned hospitals and clinics were getting thinner everyday.

Dacoits kill one in Manikganj

From Our Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, Sept 29: One person was killed and three others were injured in two incidents of dacoities in two villages of Putail Union under the Sadar Thana Tuesday.

According to police, a gang of 10 to 12 dacoits armed with guns and sharp weapons broke into the house of one Nasiruddin in village Baitara at 1 am.

One of the dacoits shot Meser Ali, son of Nasiruddin in point blank leaving him dead when he tried to resist them.

They also slashed Nasiruddin and Meser's wife Lipi with 'ram daos'.

The gang however, had to flee the house without looting anything, as alarm was raised in the neighbourhood.

In another incident a gang of 10 miscreants broke into the house of one Sadar Ali in village Kapatia and robbed gold ornament worth Taka 65,000 and Taka 35,000 in cash. One Sadek Ali received injuries as dacoits hit him with a 'ram dao'.

All the three injured persons were admitted to the Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

Fate of NCL to be decided today

Star Report

The fate of National Credit Ltd (NCL) could not be decided Tuesday as the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Finance and Financial Affairs was not held.

The meeting has been scheduled for this morning with the Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

The NCL had applied for permission to operate as a commercial bank May 4.

Prior to its application, NCL had faced a severe liquidity crisis.

Second phase of UP polls from tomorrow

Authorities have banned all kinds of public meetings and processions during the second phase of Union Parishad elections scheduled to be held from October 1-8, reports UNB.

A press release issued by the Election Commission here yesterday said the restrictions will be enforced from midnight preceding the day of polling for the next 48 hours in the unions where elections will be held.

For example, the order will be effected for 48 hours from midnight following September 30 in a union where polling will be held on October 1.

None will be allowed to call, hold or participate in public meetings during the said 48 hours in the respective unions under the rule 57 (9) of the Union Parishad Rules.

Persons defying the order will be found guilty of committing punishable crime under the rule.

Ganew

From Page 1 Col 8

Ganew expressed satisfaction at the nation-building and economic development programmes undertaken by the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

He also wished the people of Bangladesh all success in their relentless endeavour to strengthen democracy in the country under her leadership.

Mostafiz also met with Foreign Minister of Turkey Hikmet Cetin on the day and discussed matters of bilateral interest, particularly economic cooperation and trade matters.

He invited the Turkish entrepreneurs to under take joint venture investment in Bangladesh especially in establishing cement factories.

The Turkish minister assured him of all possible cooperation and stated that his country attached special importance to its relationship with Bangladesh.

He also thanked the Turkish Foreign Minister on his positive and constructive role in the OIC meetings.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister also had a meeting with Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi on Sunday.

They discussed bilateral matters and exchanged views on other important regional and global issues.

Earlier in the morning, Mostafiz met with some prominent US investors in his hotel suit and briefed them about the new industrial policy of and investment opportunities in Bangladesh.

The US investors showed keen interest in investing in Bangladesh, particularly in joint venture projects.

The Midnight File

Afghan Army chief hurt in assassination bid

KABUL, Sept 29: Afghanistan's Army Chief of Staff General Asif Dilafer was wounded today in an assassination attempt that killed his driver and injured other passengers in his car. "A remote control device was planted by the side of the road, a government source said. "When his car reached the area it exploded. It was targeted at Dilafer," reports Reuter.

55 killed as Kurds attack Turkish military post

SEMDINLI (Turkey), Sept 29: Kurdish rebels attacked a Turkish military post on the Iraqi border Tuesday and at least 35 rebels and 20 soldiers were killed, local officials said. The rebel force numbered about 300 and was armed with rockets and automatic weapons, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity. In Ankara, Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel confirmed the attack occurred but said the death toll was unknown, reports AP.

Tourists start leaving Kashmir

SRINAGAR (India), Sept 29: Panicky foreign tourists began leaving the troubled northern Indian state of Kashmir on today following threats from Muslim militants, as continuing violence left eight people dead. Scores of tourists crowded airlines and road transport offices along the famous Dal lake, making enquiries for ways out of Kashmir a day after the Hizbul Mujahideen ordered all foreigners in the region to leave by the end of September, reports AFP.

4 children killed in road accidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Four children were killed in separate road accidents in the capital and Manikganj Tuesday.

A six-year-old boy Ananda was killed as a tank lorry ran over him on Shaheed Faruque Road, Demra in the city yesterday morning.

The lorry (Dhaka Na-452) on its way to Dayaganj from Jatrabari ran over Ananda who was crossing the road at around 11:30 am.

The fatally injured boy was immediately rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

Demra police seized the lorry and arrested its driver Shukur Mia, 60.

Another six-year-old girl, Kohinor, was run over by a speeding truck near Pongu Hospital at Agargaon yesterday and succumbed to injuries at the Pongu Hospital.

An unidentified boy, 8, was crushed under the wheels of a passenger-minibus near Postagola Bus Stand at about 8 am yesterday. His body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Our Correspondent from Manikganj adds: One Srivash, 7, was killed in a bus accident on the Dhaka-Archa Highway near Shivaloy Pilot High School in Manikganj.

The passenger bus (Dhaka-CHA 4888) Tuesday noon crushed Srivash to death on the spot. The killer bus was immediately held by police and the local police.

Police arrested Mosharraf, the driver of the bus.

The accident was followed by a two-hour road blocked enforced by the local police. They demanded a speed breaker on the spot.

The road blocked was however withdrawn following an assurance in this regard from a Roads and Highways official.

CNN

From Page 1 Col 5

will be shown on trial basis for a period of six months.

Begum Zia said information technology has brought about a revolution in the world. Flow of information has turned the entire world into one village and people are inspired with similar hopes and aspirations.

She said with relaying of CNN programmes, Bangladesh Television will link itself with international satellite broadcasting. "I congratulate the people on this memorable occasion."

Introduction of this programme in Bangladesh television will bring to us development experiences across the world and we will be able to acquaint ourselves with higher technology and skill, she said.

The Prime Minister said, "Our culture will also be enriched further by taking the good aspects from abroad and we will transcend from success to success in the field of national development."

Information Minister Nazmul Huda and US Ambassador William B Milam were among those present on the occasion.

Polytech teachers

From Page 1 Col 5

motion, formulation of a service structure, regularisation of those appointed on adhoc basis, payment of arrears stipends to the polytechnic students and introduction of a double-shift system in these institutions.

On Monday, the striking teachers submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the Education Minister and its copies to the DCs at the district level.

Environment

From Page 1 Col 7

Ministry said that the drafted law had suggested ratification of some international conventions that prosecute marine water pollution and claim compensation from the offenders.

They said that because of the non-ratification, vessels in Bangladesh waters were freely dumping waste, oil and other pollutants, hazardous to the marine life, and getting away without punishment.

Return of dead

From Page 1 Col 5

Villagers, who even observed first death anniversary of the boys this year, crowded the homes of Rahim and Yunus to see the two born-again boys.

Yunus, who was swept away by the sea from village Gandapara at the age of four, could not remember his fisherman father and mother.

He was even seen crying for going back to his rescuers — a Hindu fisherman family who had found Yunus unconscious in Bashkhal coast, some 30 miles off Kutubdia, a day after the cyclone. Since then, they have been looking after the boy.

After a frantic search, the Hindu fisherman managed to get the whereabouts of Yunus' parents in village Gandapara.

Abdur Rahim, whoever, was happy to be able to return to his home in village Lemshikhali.

Some fishermen rescued Rahim from the Khulna coast floating in the Bay two days after the cyclone. Since then, he had been living with a fisherman family in a coastal village in Khulna.

His rescuers eventually found out the address of Rahim's village and brought him to his parents on Monday.

Their legendary return to their parents is now the talk of Kutubdia.

Besides, the country was losing a huge amount in revenue from the vessels as compensation for dumping waste in the Bay, the officials said.

The country's marine environment suffered blows from two severe oil spills by two foreign vessels — TT energy and MV Filotee, the officials said adding that besides there were many minor incidents of marine pollution.

The three international conventions yet to be ratified by Bangladesh are: The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 and its Protocol, 1978 (MARPOL 73/78). The International Convention of Civil Liability for oil pollution damage, 1969 (CLC-69) and The International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1971.

Shipping ministry sources said that the MARPOL 73/78 could not be ratified by the country because of absence of waste reception, facilities that involved more than 100 crore taka.

They said that the country could demand maximum 86 million Special Drawing Rights (SDR) as compensation for polluting marine environment from oil spill, if the CLC-69 was ratified.

Bangladesh could also demand upto SDR 200 million from the International Fund, the sources added.