

BIRDEM employees to go on action programme

The officers and employees of BIRDEM yesterday denounced "capricious activity of the undemocratic National Council of Bangladesh Diabetic Association and threatened action programme to set it right, reports UNB.

At a press conference here, they urged the authorities to meet their 30-point demand, otherwise they would be compelled to go for action to realise their demands.

They alleged that "obstinacy and wantonness" of the National Council of Diabetic Association had thrown them into a state of uncertainty.

Jointly organised by the Officers Club and the Employees' Association of BIRDEM, the conference was addressed by Dr Hafizur Rahman and Dr A K Miah, President and Vice-president of the Officers Club respectively.

Held at the Officers Club at the Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation of Diabetic and Endocrine and Metabolic Disorder (BIRDEM), the conference was attended by Asad Ali Mollah, President of the Employees' Association, Shan-e-Ara Kabir, Dr C M Dewar Rana, N G Bank, Abu Hanif Khan, Shamsul Haque and Wasequr Rahman.

They said despite repeated assurance, the authorities were resorting to dilly daily instead of fulfilling their demands, including introduction of service rule, organogramme and job schedule.

The protesters said after the death of Dr Ibrahim, a total chaos had gripped the diabetic hospital and the National Council, the executive body of the Diabetic Association comprising 26 members appointed "undemocratically".

The staffers, already wearing black badges, said they would observe one-hour token strike from October 15 for three days and two-hour workstoppage from October 18 for another three days, to be followed by a half-day strike later on.

Asked about decline in the quality of services they provide, the leaders said this was due to sense of job insecurity among the employees.

They also questioned the honesty of BIRDEM authorities. According to them, the association earns as much as Tk 15 crore annually, in addition to government subsidy, the Club Vice-President said. "But only Tk 10 crore is spent."

Qatar: Quit border

From Page 1 Col 4

ferring to Qatari accusations that Saudi forces had Thursday seized a border post.

"Iran condemns the Saudi use of force against the small Muslim country of Qatar," said the English-language daily, which is close to the Foreign Ministry.

"The littoral states of the south of the Persian Gulf should know that Iran will defend them against Saudi aggression," it said, adding that Tehran rejected "Saudi Arabian expansionist plans" in the region.

The Times charged Riyadh was trying to make amends for the "weakness" of its army during last year's Gulf war that drove Iraq out Kuwait.

"The latest Saudi provocation... was aimed at boosting the morale of the Saudi army. It is still not acceptable for Iran that the Saudi army should regain its lost morale by using force against a small country like Qatar."

The Qatar news agency said

Saifur: Economy

From Page 1 Col 7

the entrepreneurs upto last September.

Saifur Rahman said, the overall macro-economy position is going on satisfactorily with contained inflation, revenue collection exceeding the budgeted target, adequate foreign currency and investable fund. He said banks are ready with enough liquidity to provide working capital fund for revitalising non-reforming industrial units, and setting up new industries, he reiterated.

The Finance Minister said, Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has so far provided fund for establishing a number of fish farm, poultry farm, cattle farm and other agro-based farms.

He called upon Bank for Small and Cottage Industries (BASIC) to go for increased investment in agro-based industries which will help greater generation of employment NCBs and other DFIs are also gaining momentum in investment financing, he added.

Saifur Rahman underscored the need for effective and congenial bank-client relationship. He said the old concept of creditor and debtor relationships would be turned into mutual partnership relations between funding bank and the entrepreneurs. On the other hand, he said, the entrepreneurs should have to exhibit their commitment for reopening the non-performing industries, come with properly appraised and prepared viable project proposals with commitment for social responsibilities.

He said, "The bankers should guard against fabulous entrepreneurs but having sick industries, in case of financing them for revitalisation," the public money cannot be allowed to be plundered by a few self-seekers without giving dividend to the society, he reiterated.

He gave special thrust on revitalising the jute sector. He said from the point of view of environmental protection, jute is gradually drawing global attraction and we should fund this sector to regain its old stature. He directed the banks to provide fund to the genuine entrepreneurs in jute sector and help create new potential entrepreneurs which will and impetus to the national economy.

Saifur Rahman said, for attaining durable self-reliance through sustainable development we need to endeavour hard collectively for maximum utilisation of our existing resources to have best returns. Attaining self-reliance has no alternative in the present context of the global economic scenario, he pointed out.

One falls from bus, crushed under wheels

By DMCH Correspondent

One bus passenger was killed and another seriously injured when both of them fell from a packed bus at Farmgate area in the city Saturday.

Police said that Pendu Mia (40) was crushed under the wheels near the Tejgon relief godown at Farmgate after he slipped off the bus.

His cousin Nurul Haq (35) was seriously wounded as he jumped off the bus in bid to save Mia.

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 Palton, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynebe 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.



Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress (ANC), receives a bouquet from a boy in traditional Pakistani dress upon his arrival at Islamabad airport yesterday. The ANC leader was welcomed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (behind). Mandela is on a two day visit to Pakistan. — AFP photo

Fishermen thank PM

Fishermen of the coastal areas have expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for the security she ordered to ensure safe deep-sea fishing, reports UNB.

"It's for the first time since independence that we could bring our catches home without being robbed by pirates," a group of fishermen and trawler owners told Begum Khaleda Zia in Dhaka yesterday.

The current airtrip of Lankan President, who travelled to Islamabad and Kathmandu last week in the first phase, will take him to Male, the capital of the Maldives, on October 10.

A ceremonial reception will be accorded to the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at Bangabhaban where he will be straight driven in a motorcade from the airport soon after arrival.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will receive him at Bangabhaban. He will there be given a guard of honour and introduced to the Prime Minister, members of her cabinet, heads of diplomatic missions and other dignitaries.

In the afternoon, Premadasa will fly to Savar to offer wreaths at the Jatiya Smriti Soudha in homage to the martyrs of the 1971 War of Independence.

During stay in Dhaka President Premadasa will call on his Bangladesh counterpart Abdur Rahman Biswas, besides

Shah Moazzem

From Page 1 Col 5

presidium would meet on the issue Monday.

The source holding a central position in the party said that there was a frail possibility of Sirajul Hossain Khan's becoming the acting secretary general. But he was in the race, the source added.

A section of JP leaders and workers brought charges of "inactivity and misuse of party funds" against Moazzem who finally fell from Ershad's grace.

On the other hand Tito was a good organiser but lacked nationwide contacts with the party workers.

The JP had been grouping for an "honourable way" to relieve Moazzem and evolved this formula.

When contacted over telephone Shah Moazzem Hossain admitted the treatment-trip to the United States without specifying the date of his departure.

He said that after a court battle he recently got his passport back and would go for the long awaited medical check up. The trip would not be longer than three weeks, he added.

Moazzem said that he had cardiac problems and some other complications.

He said that it was not decided who would take charge from him and decline to comment on whether he would get back charge on his return.

When contacted Acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said that "nothing was decided yet."

"The presidium will meet Monday or Tuesday to discuss the issue," he added.

Commentary: Push Back

From Page 1 Col 4

ment, perhaps only a temporary one, is that the move has placated the extremist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) giving it a new sense of confidence in its own political prospects. But it remains to be seen how far the ruling party may be obliged to go in accommodating the BJP's virulent communal demands which range from rewriting the history of India to demolishing the Babri Mosque.

On the other hand, the political loss for the Congress Government in the form of damage caused to its commitment to secularism may well be just as severe as the setback suffered in its relationship with Bangladesh.

It is hard to believe that a veteran politician like Narasimha Rao has not assessed this political loss for his administration — indeed for India as a whole. It is also difficult to assume that he is not aware that in any new dispute that develops between Delhi and Dhaka, the sympathies of other South Asian nations, some of which have had their own difficulties with India, will be largely with Bangladesh.

All this makes New Delhi's drive against what a section of Calcutta press describes as Bengal-speaking Muslims of West Bengal so incomprehensible. Then, one starts subscribing to the theory that, regardless of political risks, India is out to destabilise the democratically elected government of Begum Khaleda Zia or to turn it into a subservient partner in its grand design, whatever it may be for South Asia.

Here, this writer is obliged to recall that when asked by him, in the late seventies, what was the "vision for the future" of Indira Gandhi, an astute New Delhi-based expert had replied, "She has no vision for the future. Her vision is only of power."

In this dismal situation created by New Delhi, one hopes lies with the sensible role played by the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Jyoti Basu who has called for immediate talks between the governments of India and Bangladesh. Also playing a positive role on the side of reason and logic is a section of the Indian press, especially the Ananda Bazar Patrika and the Statesman of Calcutta, which have focused on the humanising treatment meted out to the victims of the "Operation Push Back."

While we would like the government of Khaleda Zia to be firm in opposing New Delhi's move, through carefully prepared talks, it should use its channels of communication with the progressive forces in India as well as with the country's media. By doing so, Dhaka will play a role in defusing the tension on the border, prevent the harassment of the victims of the New Delhi's drive and help in restoring to the Indo-Bangladesh relations that spirit of mutual co-operation that once existed during past democratic regimes in Bangladesh, first under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and then under Ziaur Rahman.

Petrobangla to start drilling at Shahbazzpur

By Staff Correspondent

Petrobangla will start its next oil and gas exploration at Shahbazzpur, Bhola in view of the prospects of gas there, based on geological studies and seismic data obtained.

An expert group meeting held at Petrobangla Saturday with the chairman of the corporation, S K M Abdullah in the chair discussed on how to determine priority in the exploration at Mubarakpur, Shahakupa and Shahbazzpur.

The meeting also viewed that although exploration costs are high, exploration of oil and gas should continue unabated in the interest of country's socio-economic development.

The meeting also viewed that funds for exploration should be enhanced.

The meeting further emphasized that all efforts should be made to attract foreign investments in drilling of gas and oil in various parts of the country.

The meeting was also attended by Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Member, Planning Commission, Professors of Geology from the Dhaka and Rajshahi Universities, and other experts.

Premadasa due today

From Page 1 Col 8

Foreign Minister ASM Moustafizur Rahman will receive him at the Zia International Airport.

The main objective of his visit is to discuss with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia various issues concerning the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

The current airtrip of Lankan President, who travelled to Islamabad and Kathmandu last week in the first phase, will take him to Male, the capital of the Maldives, on October 10.

A ceremonial reception will be accorded to the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at Bangabhaban where he will be straight driven in a motorcade from the airport soon after arrival.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will receive him at Bangabhaban. He will there be given a guard of honour and introduced to the Prime Minister, members of her cabinet, heads of diplomatic missions and other dignitaries.

In the afternoon, Premadasa will fly to Savar to offer wreaths at the Jatiya Smriti Soudha in homage to the martyrs of the 1971 War of Independence.

During stay in Dhaka President Premadasa will call on his Bangladesh counterpart Abdur Rahman Biswas, besides

Dhaka, Tehran agree to boost trade ties

Bangladesh and Iran agreed that the joint chamber of commerce should intensify its efforts for meaningful cooperation between the two business communities under a long term trade agreement, reports UNB.

This was revealed at a meeting when Iranian Ambassador in Bangladesh Mohammad Ganjidoost called on Commerce Minister MK Anwar at his office yesterday.

They felt the necessity of making a long term trade agreement between the two countries to ensure supply of jute-goods to Iran to meet her entire requirement.

The Commerce Minister said that a significant change had been made in increasing trade and commerce between the two countries during the present government of Iran, said an official handout.

The parley is expected to focus on ways of further strengthening SAARC, adoption of a more business like and functional approach to the forum and increased people-to-people contact in the region.

Bangladesh will host the 7th summit of SAARC due December 12-14.

4 judges appointed for anti-terrorism tribunals

The government yesterday appointed four retired sessions judges as additional judges of anti-terrorism tribunals for a period of one year, reports BSS.

The additional judges are: Shamsul Huq Mollah — for local jurisdiction of entire Dhaka district, Mohammad Abu Bakar Siddique — for local jurisdiction of entire Chittagong district, A K M Azizul Haque — for local jurisdiction of entire Rajshahi district and Abu Musa Chowdhury — for local jurisdiction of entire Khulna district.

Heroin worth Tk 50 lakh seized at Zakiganj

Form Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 3: Heroin worth about Taka 50 lakh was recovered from two persons at Zakiganj Thana on Friday.

A BDR source said that on a tip a contingent of BDR rushed to Rahimpur village and challenged two persons who entered Bangladesh at about 11 pm.

About one pound of heroin worth about Taka 50 lakh was recovered from their possession.

The arrested persons are: Akaddas Ali of village Gechua and Abdul Motin of village Shirajpara under Zakiganj Thana.

The BDR handed them over to the Zakiganj police and the seized heroin to the Customs Department.

Blind

From Page 1 Col 5

rangements to educate and rehabilitate them.

Even the educated blind were not getting employed due to a lack of a reserved quota in government services.

Latif alleged that the blind were even deprived of the jobs they could do.

The demands include: reservation of three per cent government jobs for the blind, increase in stipend money for the blind students from school to university levels, establishment of a separate directorate for the blind, formation of a blind welfare trust, ensured residential facilities for the blind, government patronisation for marriages of blind girls and a provision of five reserved seats for the blind in the Jatiya Sangsad.

The Midnight File

Some black leaders 'afraid of democracy': Mandela

ISLAMABAD, Oct 3: Some black leaders in South Africa are "afraid of democracy" African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela said here today. Commenting on an upcoming meeting between the leaders of three black homelands and a white right-wing extremist party, Mandela said the former "are afraid of democracy because they were placed in their positions by the governments, not by the will of the masses" reports AFP.

France resumes relief flights to Sarajevo today

PARIS, Oct 3: France will resume relief flights to Sarajevo on Sunday, but the Foreign Ministry said Saturday the flights would operate only as long as warring parties guarantee safe passage. The ministry said the first flight would start within 24 hours, but officials said it would not be before Sunday, reports AP.

ADB: Privatisation

From Page 1 Col 7

vestment, May said that the government should also take additional steps to "remove constraints on private sector investment".

"Apparently, inadequate physical infrastructure continues to impede economic development and I am informed that the energy and telecommunication development continue to be preserved for public sector investment," he pointed out.

There were sectors, he said, where investment, efficiency and growth created impetus for economic development and where private sector investment was a "natural choice". Thus, he recommended opening out these sectors for private sector investments.

Under a technical assistance grant, the Bank would conduct a nine-day workshop starting today (Sunday) to introduce the concepts, techniques and experiences of build-operate-transfer (BOT) and build-own-operate (BOO) financing models and to facilitate infrastructure development under joint participation of the public and private sectors.

On the immediate need to establish a long-term lending mechanism, May said that both the existing development finance institutions, Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) and Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS), now renamed Development Bank had become "inactive and created a vacuum in the supply of long-term finance for industrial development" due to portfolio problems.

"This I understand is one of the main reasons for the present inactivity in the industrial field," he said.

He suggested that the government proceed "quickly" to implement its plans for privatisation of BSRS and establish a "viable institution" to

provide long-term finance efficiently to private entrepreneurs.

To set up larger industrial projects, he noted, private investors had to rely on foreign borrowings in the absence of an adequate supply of long-term finance.

"However, such borrowings are now restricted due to the non-availability of an acceptable foreign exchange risk coverage scheme," May added.

Referring to the "flexible" foreign exchange risk coverage scheme undertaken in Pakistan, he said that the ADB's private sector investment had "reached its limit" in that country.

"Such a scheme appears necessary to encourage the private entrepreneurs at this early stage of the country's industrial development," he said "and particularly at a time of high turbulence in the foreign exchange markets."

However, he hoped that the Bank would be able to increase investment activities in Bangladesh as the business community responded to the government's private sector investment initiatives.

"Things have really picked up within the last few months," May said "we are currently looking at a number of investment proposals promoted by the Bangladeshi business community, some of which may result in our financial participation in the future."

The Bank can invest upto 25 per cent of the total project cost, not exceeding 20 million US dollars in this region, by way of loan and or equity and participate as a partner in the enterprise with the associated risks and without government guarantee.

The seminar was also attended by representatives of the financial and business sectors and was later opened to a general discussion session.

Ershad: BCCI Nurses on strike

From Page 1 Col 5

trees and school libraries.

Funding for the BCCI Foundation came from BCCI's banking operations in Bangladesh. These profits became tax-free because they were given to the foundation and the foundation in turn gave funds not principally to the needy, but to a joint venture investment bank, called the Bank of Small Industries and Commerce (BASIC), staffed by BCCI officials, in which President Ershad and his top aides had a financial stake.

In late 1990, Ershad resigned under fire and was tried for a variety of offences in Bangladesh and sentenced to a ten-year prison terms.

Following BCCI's collapse, the new government retained an investigative firm in New York in an attempt to trace what the new government contended as much as 520 million dollars in funds misappropriated from the Bangladesh Treasury by Ershad and his relatives. The investigators have alleged that Ershad moved millions of dollars through BCCI accounts in London and Hong Kong.

Nurses on strike

From Page 1 Col 7

student nurses, change in the pay structure, better accommodations and increase of job opportunities.

Nurses began agitating September 14. The work stoppage programmes began from September 19 and culminated into an indefinite strike Saturday.

Our DMCH Correspondent adds: The BDNA brought out a procession yesterday at 10 am from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) premises where it held a rally.

The meeting was addressed among others by BDNA leaders Krishna Bela Dey, Jahura Banu, Assistant Nurses' Association leader Anisur Rahman, BDNA PG Hospital wing leader Froza Akhtar and others.

Demanding that the government meet their demands, the BDNA leaders urged all not to spread false news regarding their movement.

BDNA leaders told The Daily Star that its branch organisations similarly held rallies yesterday at their respective medical or medicare centres across the country.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, 46 patients left the DMCH voluntarily. The number of patients admitted in the out-door unit of the hospital was 38; whereas the usual number of daily admissions was 70 to 80 before the movement began.

At present the total number of patients in the DMCH stands at about 1200 against an average number of about 1400.

BSF attempts

From Page 1 Col 2

persons were, however, pushed into Bangladesh by the BSF through the border village Arsingra under Chowgacha Thana at 8 am today.

UNB adds quoting reports trickling into the country from across the border, about 100 more Bangla-speaking Indian nationals were taken to Jayantapur camp in 24-Parganas district of India today.

Three children have died in the camps as diarrhoea broke out there, the reports said.

In another development, four Indian nationals were caught today while they were begging in the bordering area of Machila in Chaugacha thana in Jessore district. They were identified as Beauty (25), Asma (4), Kamala (18) and Shahidul (20).

Tk 60 thousand snatched

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 3: Muggers at gun point snatched Taka 60,000 from a cigarette company agent near the Fatullah police station here today.

Witnesses said that the muggers in a car stopped Khalilur Rahman at Panebhatti area in Fatullah, pointed gun at him and snatched the money.

When Rahman tried to save the money, the muggers shot and injured him before leaving the spot.