

Saifur at Thrift Day function

Shun over-consumption to attain self-reliance

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said savings and investment are keys to augment national development, reports BSS.

He said, as a nation we need to inculcate the habit of thrift for attaining the much coveted goal of self-reliance.

The Finance Minister was addressing as the chief guest the 68th World Thrift Day function organised by Jatiya Sanchay Paridaptar at Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) auditorium in Dhaka. The Thrift Day was introduced in Milan, Italy in 1924.

State Minister for Finance M Mujibur Rahman was the special guest.

Presided over by Secretary Internal Resources Division (IRD) Dr Masrur Rahman, the function was addressed by the Director of Jatiya Sanchay Paridaptar.

Rahman said, we need to shun extravagance and over consumption and will have to cut our coats according to our cloths.

He said during the last autocratic regime the whole nation was plunged into extravagance and the entire national economy was in disorder. He said, increased savings and investment were possible provided there was disciplined macro-economic management.

The present democratic government during its about two years, of rule has brought about adequate measures to contain inflation and tune the fiscal and monetary policies with the objective of the democratic government, he said.

The Finance Minister said during the last six months of the present fiscal year savings has shown encouraging trend compared to that of the corresponding period of last fiscal. But we need to raise the savings rates much higher to be as per with the regional countries like India and Pakistan. He said India has a savings rate of 21 per cent, Pakistan 10 per cent against only 4 to 5 per cent of our country.

The national savings project

which started in fiscal 1979-80 with Taka 67.59 crore investment now stood at Taka 1320.80 crore in fiscal 1991-92. In total 73 savings bureau are working throughout the country.

The slogan of the World Bank this year is "Save More and Invest More," he said adding in a recessionary global economy where the developed western countries have little savings, as a developing poor country we need to be very cautious to best utilize the scarce resources to have maximum returns.

In the context of global economic condition we will have to accumulate all our resources and coordinate all avenues to reduce dependence on foreign aid and emerge as a self-reliant nation.

Indian chamber team for joint venture projects

An Indian chamber delegation yesterday showed keen interest in establishing joint-venture projects in several priority sectors of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The Indian investors would like milk, dairy and livestock, power generation and distribution, aluminium foil manufacturing, cargo movement and jute and jute manufacturing for joint venture.

An official handout said the interest was shown by the visiting 11-member trade delegation of Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Calcutta (BCCIC) when it called on Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the conference room of the Planning Ministry.

Talking to the delegation members, Saifur Rahman said Bangladesh had opened up its market for joint venture collaboration and hoped that the Indian government would also open its market for Bangladeshi goods and entrepreneurs so that the bilateral trade imbalance could be reduced.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Monohordi Degree College ground yesterday. — PID photo

Human rights being violated in large scale, jurists say

Human rights and common-laws are being violated in this region in a large scale due to lack of awareness of the people about their rights to get rid of their sufferings, reports UNB.

Renowned jurists of the sub-continent made this observation at a two-day seminar on "Rights in Search of Remedies: A Review of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in South Asia" that ended in the city yesterday.

They said that the people of the sub-continent were not getting their justice as thousands of cases remained pending years after years.

The jurists urged the social forces to create awareness among the common people about their rights to remove their sufferings.

Some 28 eminent judges and lawyers from India, Pakistan and host Bangladesh participated in the seminar jointly organised by Madaripur Legal Aid Association and Ain O Shalish Kendra at a local market.

Justice Mostafa Kamal, a Judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh chaired the first session of the concluding day that reviewed experiences of PIL.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice M Afzal Zullah, presenting a paper on "Human Rights in Pakistan," said only Sarriah Law can ensure the human rights of mankind.

He said peoples in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are not aware of their rights due to their illiteracy and this is why human rights are being violated here largely.

Afzal Zullah observed that NGOs in India and Bangladesh have succeeded in various cases to create awareness among the people, but in Pakistan, the NGOs are yet to achieve success in this regard.

Replying to a question from the audience, the Pakistan Chief Justice said, "I say Bismillah before beginning because Islam is a way of life and the society which I belong, started from 1400 years ago."

"It's not the question of faith... its my life and part of our life," he said adding that Pakistan is determined to establish Shariiah Law in all walks of life.

Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman, a Judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, presented another paper on "Existing Avenues for PIL in Bangladesh."

He said the concept of PIL is not a new one as the lan-

guage indicates, but this concept assumed a new dimension in recent years in this sub-continent and other third world countries.

Justice Rahman said the helplessness may arise due to financial inability, lack of awareness of the existing rights either constitutional or legal and the disadvantaged position in the society of such person or group of persons to bring a cause of action before a court of law against infringement of such rights.

Referring to the code of criminal procedure, he said Bangladesh is empowered to issue the writ on an application by the prisoner or at the instance of any other person on his behalf or by the court suo motu to secure the liberty of the person imprisoned without any lawful authority or taken into custody violating his fundamental right to free movement in an unlawful manner.

He stressed the need for amendment of "Environmental Pollution Control Ordinance - 1977" in Bangladesh and said some steps may be taken for providing a suitable amendment in this regard.

This will create scope for a citizen to bring an action for protection of lives of living ones from the hazard and threat of pollution by means of discharge into the atmosphere, which tends to pollute the environment and this is to be done in the interest of the public in general, he said.

PM : Opponents

From Page 1 Col 4
General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokan, Sardar Tofazzal Hossain Liaqat, and Tofazzal Hossain Bhuiyan.

She said the quarters which by collaborating with the autocratic forces had delayed the process of restoration of democracy, were out to destroy democracy as they are opposed to development of the country. She further said whenever the country moves to the path of progress, the same forces became active to disrupt the development process.

Earlier, Begum Zia planted a sapling at Monohordi Dak Bangladesh premises.

'Youth a great asset of nation'

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said that the government was determined to ensure active participation of the youth community in nation building activities, reports BSS.

In a message on the occasion of National Youth Day the Prime Minister said the government was active in taking programmes for developing the youth community as human resource and work force.

Begum Khaleda Zia said youth community was a great asset and driving force of the nation.

"Our youth has a glorious heritage," she said adding the people of the country would always remember the laudable role and sacrifice of the youth during the language movement, war of independence, anti autocratic movement and during calamities.

The Midnight File

35 hurt as two Dutch trains collide

EINDHOVEN, Oct 31: Two passenger trains collided head-on Saturday, and about 35 people were injured, police said. An incoming express train collided with a local commuter train that was pulling out of Central Station, Dutch television reported. Both were travelling at low speeds and only three people, including the engineer of the commuter train, suffered serious injuries, said police spokesman Jacques Neyts. Neyts refused to confirm media reports that the trains collided because they were on the same track. He said police were investigating the cause of the crash, reports AP.

Pak army major to die for mass killing

KARACHI, Oct 31: The army on Saturday sentenced an officer to death for the slaying of nine people during an anti-crime crackdown in the southern Sindh Province. Thirteen other soldiers involved in the killings were sentenced to life in prison. It was believed to be the first time that an army court had handed down a death sentence against one of its officers for involvement in a mass killing of civilians, reports AP.

104 Rohingyas leave

From Page 1 Col 8
half years.

The refugees, encamped in the southern region along the Myanmar frontier, spoke of torture, rape, murder and forced conscription by Myanmar soldiers. Yangon denies the charge.

Faruk said two officials from Geneva-based United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees watched Saturday's departure of the refugees as they boarded a boat to cross the frontier Naaf river.

The delayed repatriation has remained slow as most refugees mistrust Myanmar's military regime.

Though Bangladesh has involved the UNHCR on its side of the repatriation, Myanmar still refuses to let the UN relief

Three to die in Bogra for killing two

BOGRA, Oct 31: Three people were sentenced today to death and another to 10 years rigorous imprisonment in a sensational double-murder case, reports UNB.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Abu Zaffar Siddique pronounced the death sentence of Kamal, Imdad and Matin and 10 years RI on Haider Ali in a jam-packed court.

Matin, who remained absconding, was tried in absentia.

Haider, a rickshawpuller, was also fined Tk 2,000 or another cution, the accused shot dead Shaferuddin and Abdur Rashid in broad daylight in the town on April 24 last year.

Shaferuddin and Rashid, ppeon and stretcherman respectively of Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital, shot at when they resisted hijackers snatching the money they were carrying to the hospital.

The accused killed them in the hospital premises at noon and decamped with about Tk 1,00,000 drawn from the Bangladesh Bank for salary of the hospital staff.

Two get life term for acid throwing

CHAPAI NAWABGANJ, Oct 31: Two youngsters were today sentenced to jail for life for throwing acid on a young-woman, reports UNB.

Gulam Mustafa (32) and his friend Golap were found guilty of critically injuring Suraya Parveen (20) by throwing acid. Golap was awarded the punishment in absentia.

According to the prosecution Mostafa had thrown acid on his wife Suraya Parveen (20) while she was leaving a "shalish" in which she got divorced from Mostafa on April 18, 1991.

Parveen had been rushed to the Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Her maternal uncle Prof Afzal Hossain had filed a case with the Nawabganj police.

Diarrhoea claims 33 in Manikganj

From Our Correspondent
MANIKGANJ, Oct 31: At least 33 people died of diarrhoea in seven thanas of the district during the last three weeks. Of them seven persons died in Shibbalaya, five in Daulatpur, three in Ghor, four in Horirampur, five in Saturaia, four in Singar and five in sadar thana of the district.

Daulatpur, Shibbalaya, Saturaia and Manikganj are the worst affected areas. Scarcity of oral saline and other medicines badly hampering the treatment of the affected people.

Seven temporary diarrhoea control centres have been set up in the seven thana health complexes. Seventy-one medical teams have also been sent to affected areas to combat the disease.

The convicted persons are: Faruque, Shamsu, Mozammel, Sobhan, Manju and Mozammel.

11 killed in Jammu bomb blast

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: At least 11 people were killed when a bomb exploded in a bus in India's northern Jammu and Kashmir state today, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports Reuter.

It said a powerful explosion ripped through the bus at a bridge near Jammu, winter capital of the state.

Students protest

From Page 1 Col 7
damaged at least seven vehicles here.

They also severely beat up a student leader of Rajshahi Government College.

Police arrested ten of the agitating students.

The members of School Chhatra Okhya Parishad also handed over a memorandum to the Controller of Examinations, Rajshahi Board at 11 am.

Later they brought out a procession. When it reached Shahed Bazar, police obstructed the procession.

At this stage, the processionists turned violent and damaged five buses including one of Rajshahi University carrying female students. Three of them — Mina, Mila and Mala — received serious injuries.

Near the Rajshahi Government College they damaged two buses.

At one stage, the infuriated school boys beat up the president of Chhatra League (JSD), Rajshahi College unit, Mahmudul Hassan Hiro. He was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in an unconscious state. His condition was stated to be critical.

Our Faridpur correspondent reports: At least 10 persons were injured in the town today when the agitating school students pelted stones towards the vehicles.

A microbus of the Directorate of Fish and a car of an NGO were damaged in the incident.

Vice-president of Faridpur Rajendra College Central Students Union Ziaul Hasan later managed to control the situation.

The students earlier brought out a procession from Faridpur High School, which, while passing through the Faridpur General Hospital, attacked the vehicles. They also held a rally in front of the Faridpur Press Club.

Our correspondent reports from Kishoreganj: Students of different educational institutions brought out a procession here Saturday over a rumour that the government would abolish objective system in the SSC examinations from next year. The agitating students also damaged two BRTC buses and a pickup van belonging to BADC cod storage.

UNB adds from Strajganj: At least 20 students were injured,

one seriously, in a clash between police and school students here today over a rumour that government has decided to withdraw objective type questions in the SSC examinations.

About 300 students of different schools equipped with sticks brought out a procession in the town. They ransacked five high schools and office of the Deputy Commissioner at around 11.30 am.

The young protestors also damaged 5 rickshaws and an emergency medicine vehicle during their procession.

Police resorted to lathicharge on the students when they started throwing stones at the DC office and broke its window-panes.

Several students including a number of pedestrian were injured. Seriously injured Titu was admitted to the local hospital.

Police arrested 12 students in this connection. The arrested are: Sohel, Shamim Al-Hazi Billah, Delwar Hossain (Class 10), Shakhawat, Masum (Class-8) of Victoria High School, Rahim Talukdar, Shariful Islam (Class-10) Amar Ali (Class-9) of Gandayini High School, Ujjal (Class -7) Railway High School, Milton, Bin Mohammad (Class-10) of B L Government College and Mosharrar (Class-9) of Jahanara High School.

Body to probe allegations against Ganasashthya

The Health Minister yesterday constituted a four-member inquiry committee to probe allegations against the Ganasashthya Kendra at Savar, reports UNB.

A government handout asked all having specific complaints against Ganasashthya Kendra, Ganasashthya Trust to submit those in writing to the probe body secretary, Muhammad Abdul Haque, room number 16, block-5 (first floor) of the Election Commission Secretariat at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

They can also call number 815212-16/18 for telephonic contact with the secretary.



Leaders of 17 peasant organisations called on Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina at her Minto Road residence yesterday. — Star photo

Ahmadis accuse Jamaat

From Page 1 Col 8
"We too are the followers of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (SM) and perform all the five principal rites like the Sunnis," he added.

Khan Chowdhury said 'we too believe that Prophet Muhammad is the last Prophet and the only difference is that we believe Imam Mehdi (RA) would descend on earth as the interpreting Prophet and as the follower of the Prophet Muahammad (SM)'.
According to the estimate of the AMJB leaders, the total number of people belonging to the Ahmadiyya community is about one lakh in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Maolana Abdul Awal, president of the Bangladesh Awami Ulama Parishad in a statement Saturday condemned the attack on the Ahmadiyya Complex saying 'the ransacking was a part of a deep-rooted conspiracy'.

The submission of memorandum by the Khatib of the Baitul Mukarram national mosque to the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad on October 15, October 27, the bill had faced strong objections from the opposition parties within the House on two occasions.

The opposition untidly protested the Treasury bench bid while laying the ordinance in the House on the opening day of the current session of parliament on October 11, and then it was again opposed

Half-empty House

From Page 1 Col 7
promulgating the ordinance earlier.

"It is a primary victory of the opposition that the BNP has staged a back-out from plans to pass the bill in the original form", Suranjit observed and added that the government would virtually embrace a total defeat on this issue by means of repealing the law in the face of irresistible mass movement of the opposition parties soon.

Mohammad Nasim, while contacted last night, said: 'We shall not go back to the House until the proposed black law is withdrawn'.

According to Nasim, the Five-party alliance and the Patriotic Democratic Front have already met Sheikh Hasina and expressed their determination to be with her to resist the bill through a movement.

Before the bill was introduced in the House amid a stormy walk out staged by the bigger opposition parties on October 27, the bill had faced strong objections from the opposition parties within the House on two occasions.

The opposition untidly protested the Treasury bench bid while laying the ordinance in the House on the opening day of the current session of parliament on October 11, and then it was again opposed

6 get 14 yrs RI for dacoity

From Our Correspondent
BARISAL, Oct 31: The District Judge of Barguna Baharul Islam today sentenced six persons to 14 years rigorous imprisonment each for committing dacoity in a trawler.

The convicted persons are: Faruque, Shamsu, Mozammel, Sobhan, Manju and Mozammel.

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: House No 11, Road No 3; Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500091-4. Advertisement: 500091. Fax No 88-02-863035. GPO Box No 3267. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.