

New 8-yr strategy to give export a fillip

Country's export trade is expected to have a fillip with an eight-year Export Development Strategy (1992-2000) put in motion by the government offering a package of incentives to exporters, reports UNB.

Officials said the strategy, which will shape country's future export policies till end this century, was okayed on October 26.

The strategy, drawn up in close consultation with the World Bank, the donor agency preaching export-led growth for Bangladesh economy, has provisions for various policy and fiscal incentives as well as extensive procedural reforms aimed at making export trade smoother and vibrant.

Private sector representatives were consulted in finalising the strategy.

A National Committee on Export will soon come into being with the Prime Minister at the helm which will meet at a regular interval to discuss problems of export and work out solutions. The committee will have direct and regular dialogue with exporters.

Ministers of Finance, Commerce, Industries and Planning will be regular members of the committee while the Ministry Commerce will provide secretarial support.

All manufacturer-exporters will get the Special Bonded Warehouse (SBW) facility. Duty Drawback (DEDO) flat rate will be extended to at least 500 product areas in medium-term and eventually to all export-product areas.

Cash compensation system will be reintroduced for smaller companies unable to enjoy SBW or DEDO facilities.

Under the ambitious export development strategy, a study will be initiated soon and completed in eight months to identify the needs for export-

orientation of public organisations handling exports-national Board of Revenue, Export Promotion Bureau and commercial banks.

An amount to the tune of 6 million US dollars will be spent in the next couple of years for developing managerial skills in these public organisations as well as for entrepreneurial capability of exporters.

An Export Promotion Scheme will be established to provide technical and financial assistance to individual firms for undertaking product development, market research and promotional campaign. Donors will be requested to fund creation of an Export Promotion Fund to finance the promotional drives.

"Meaningful" autonomy will be granted to EPB with greater representation of the private sector at the policymaking level of the organisation.

Legal cell of the EPB may adequately be strengthened to handle the anti-dumping and tariff-related cases faced by Bangladeshi exporters in foreign courts.

Sources said the government had planned to identify various tariff and non-tariff barriers to Bangladesh exports and raise the issue bilaterally with the importing countries for pruning or dismantling them. Support from the donors will be sought in the exercise.

Bangladesh missions abroad will be vested with greater responsibility to promote exports.

The government will attach priority to the infrastructural needs of the export sector while planning infrastructural development. Utility supply authorities will also be asked to favour most export-oriented industries.

HC decision on promotion

From Page 1 Col 5 separation of the judiciary from the executive branch of government.

According to an informed source, the court has sought a second decision of the 'full court' on the government approved promotion list of sub-judges, as it's earlier recommendation was not accepted.

Comprising all sitting High Court Division judges and presided over by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the 'full court' is expected to meet soon to discuss the matter, the source added.

Legal bodies in the country have expressed shock and concern over the government decision. A Lawyers Coordination Committee meeting held earlier this month expressed 'deep concern' at the government move to turn down the 'full court' decision on promotion of sub-judges.

Earlier this year, the Law Ministry, after considering the dossiers of 30 sub-judges, recommended a panel of 25 for promotion, on the basis of seniority, as additional judges, according to the source.

Headed by the Chief Justice and three senior judges of the High Court Division, the General Administrative (GA) Committee initially approved 19 of the 25 sub-judges recommended for promotion by the Law Ministry.

The GA committee further recommended that the other six cases along with the remaining five of the original list of 30 cases be decided by the 'full court', the source said.

In May, the 'full court' scrutinized the 11 cases and recommended that four of them should be included in the initially approved list of 19 and said that the remaining seven cases should be considered in the next panel for promotion based on their subsequent annual confidential report.

The government ignored the 'full court' decision and approved only two of the four cases by superseding one sub-judge in the process, the source added.

The authoritative source, who declined to be identified, at the Law Ministry defamed the government move claiming that all relevant matters were not taken into account and many of the judges of the High Court Division were not present at the 'full court' meeting.

"Not all relevant matters were taken into account by the 'full court' in taking the decision on the four cases," he said "only the aspects favouring the cases were taken into account." He added that the ministry "does not add or subtract from the court recommendations but sends it in toto". However, he added "we do check and make our own suggestions."

According to the informed source, the 'full court' meeting, presided by the Chief Justice, was attended by 29 out of the 30 sitting judges of the High Court Division. The only judge who did not attend

the meeting is on deputation and is the Chief Election Commission.

Article 109 of the Constitution states: "The High Court Division shall have superintendence and control over all courts subordinate to it".

While Article 116 says: "The control (including the power of posting, promotion and grant of leave) and discipline of persons employed in the judicial service and magistrature exercising judicial functions shall vest in the (President) (and shall be exercised by him in consultation with the Supreme Court)".

A senior lawyer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the 'full court' decision should not have been ignored without any 'cogent' reason.

"If no such reasons were offered for ignoring the recommendations of the 'full court' then there is every reason to believe that such appointments were based on irrelevant considerations, which is nothing but malafide or had been done with ulterior motives and this is a destructive policy," he said.

Furthermore, he added, consultation with the Supreme Court meant 'effective' consultation which ought to have been taken into consideration.

"Non-consideration of such a consultation by itself renders actions taken by the Law Ministry illegal," said the senior lawyer.

BJP plans to form Vidarbha state

BHUBANESWAR, Nov 9: The BJP national executive has unanimously decided to take up the issue of formation of a separate Vidarbha state, comprising nine districts, in Maharashtra as demanded by the party's state unit, reports PTI.

The executive, which concluded its three-day meeting here yesterday with a directive to its party workers to be prepared for mid-term polls, also severely criticised the Narasimha Rao government at the centre for its "utter failure and mismanagement on the political and economic front".

The BJP leaders, who did not rule out the possibility of a snap poll, said that such an election if held, should be taken as a referendum on the Ayodhya issue, the nature of Indian nationalism and the genuine meaning of secularism.

The representatives, particularly those from the southern states, criticised the Rao government for being "immersed neck-deep in a quagmire of corruption," party sources said.

Ayodhya, however, formed the core of the discussions during the meeting with the party hardening its stand on the issue, the sources said, adding that the BJP was prepared to sacrifice its government in Uttar Pradesh for the cause.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the inaugural function of the National Grand Conference of the Bangladesh College Teachers Association at Engineers' Institution in city yesterday. —PID photo

Teachers should be accountable

From Page 1 Col 7 the teaching profession to build the nation by upholding their professional ideals.

Referring to various problems of the teachers, she said a high level committee had been formed to recommend steps for their solution. Begum Zia called upon the teachers to properly equip themselves with knowledge to face the future challenges.

Listing a number of steps already undertaken by the present government, Begum Zia said, "We are sincere for the welfare of the teachers."

A large number of school and college teachers in government institutions have been promoted while steps are in progress for recruitment of teachers in increased numbers, she said.

The Prime Minister further said that infrastructural facilities were being created for improving the quality of education.

Dwelling at length on the education sector during the autocratic rule, Begum Zia said the government had to bear the legacy of the mess left by the nine-year of autocratic rule.

She said violence and terrorism had been introduced in educational institutions during

the autocratic rule in a planned way to shatter the country's education system.

She said session jams and brain drain had taken a serious turn and large scale adoption of unfair means in the examination had prevailed during autocratic rule. She said the present government has revived mass literacy programme and education sector has been given top priority as it is key to national development.

She said democracy and education are complementary to each other and democratic values would flourish if there is education. She said similarly education would spread if there was democracy.

She described the teachers as conscience keeper and architect of the society. She also recalled their glorious role in the War of Independence as well as at different stages of national needs.

Begum Zia said her government had revived mass literacy programme of President Zia. The Sangsad has passed Open University Bill, Private University Bill and National University Bill as the government was pledge-bound to spread education and improve its standard. She further said that new medical colleges were being opened to keep

pace with the increased requirement.

She said the government was determined to eradicate terrorism from the campus and prevent adoption of unfair means in examinations. Necessary laws have been enacted in the Sangsad for the purpose, she mentioned.

She said the government was giving emphasis on introduction of production-oriented education aimed at self-employment of the people. She sought the opinions of the teachers for introducing an education system which would be suitable for a democratic society.

Two killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Nov 9: Two persons were killed on the spot when a truck ran over them near Taltola, Pagla, under Narayanganj district this morning.

The victims were identified as Aminul Islam, a tea-stall owner and Ruhul Amin, a brick-field worker, both aged between 25 and 30.

The driver of the truck (No Dhaka Da-3022) managed to escape but police seized the truck.

Tragic death of a woman in Sylhet clinic

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 9: A young housewife met a tragic death due to alleged negligence of the physicians during an operation at a private clinic in town. Mismatching of blood group was the cause of the death.

Rushna Begum 25, wife of Sundar Ali of Rajakarbond under Biswanath thana on Tuesday noon took admission to the Niramoy Clinic on October 31 with kidney ailments.

Stones were removed from her kidney in a surgical operation at 10 am on November 10.

The clinic authority reportedly collected blood from an unauthorised blood bank of Madhusahid area for the patient.

It is alleged that the blood group did not match during transfusion resulting in the death of the patient.

When contacted, the clinic authority blamed the blood bank for the death.

But the owner of the private blood bank denied the charge and blamed the clinic authority instead.

Dacoits stab bank officer to death in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 9: A gang of alleged dacoits stabbed a bank officer to death after storming into his residence in a pre-dawn attack yesterday at Mohammadpur Residential Area under Panchlaish thana, police said.

The dacoits later decamped with 40 tolas of gold and other valuables worth Taka two lakh, police added.

Shamsul Alam, 45, an officer of Lakdighi branch of Janata Bank was stabbed by the dacoits when he attempted to resist them. Alam instantly succumbed to his stab-injury while the dacoits numbering about 8 managed to escape with the goods. In this connection a case was filed with Panchlaish PS but none was arrested so far.

Cholera claims 350 in a week in Zambia

LUSAKA (Zambia), Nov 9: Zambian soldiers buried cholera victims in mass graves Monday as the death toll from a week-old epidemic topped 350, officials said, reports AP.

More than 1,700 Zambians have been hospitalized, mainly in the copper-mining city of Kitwe, health minister Boniface Kawimbe said.

A total of 2,358 cases have been reported in the city of 750,000 since November 1. Dr. Mannaseh Phiri of the Kitwe Mine Hospital said in a telephone interview.

7 Kashmiris shot dead

SRINAGAR (India), Nov 9: Paramilitary troops shot and killed seven people to retaliate for an ambush by Muslim militants who fatally wounded a colleague Monday, officials said, reports AP.

They said the troops and the rebels exchanged gunfire for more than three hours in the Soura neighbourhood in Srinagar after rebel snipers hiding in a building wounded four troops. One of them later died.

When the firing ended, police recovered seven bodies from two buildings the troops had targeted.

Residents, who did not wish to be identified, claimed five of the victims were their neighbours and two were militants. The state police chief, BS Bedi, said all those killed were rebels.

Paramilitary troops policing the northern state of Jammu-Kashmir are often ambushed by the separatist militants who snipe and escape in the narrow lanes, often aided by sympathetic residents.

Rohingyas

From Page 1 Col 5

Our Correspondent in Cox's Bazar, however, said, a total of eight persons were killed in the incidents at the Rohingya camps yesterday. The victims in the violence are Said Alam (30), Md Sharif (26), Sabir Ahmed (15), Abu Siddique (30), Solaiman (50), Abdul Jalil (40), Abu Bakar (35) and Gulbahar (40).

UNB adds: The refugees' sources claimed that at least nine people were killed in the two camps during the clashes today.

Tension was prevailing in all camps following the clashes and the authorities dispatched additional forces to tackle the situation.

Meanwhile, officials at Cox's Bazar indicated that another batch of Rohingya refugees was likely to be repatriated in the next couple of days.

The Midnight File

OIC emergency talks next month

ABU DHABI, Nov 9: Islamic Foreign Ministers will discuss possible military aid to Bosnian Muslims when they hold emergency talks in Saudi Arabia next month, the Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) head said today. "We will discuss all available means to help our Muslim brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina in face of the Serbian aggression," OIC Secretary General Hamed al-Gabed told AFP during a visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Gorbachev defends Honecker

BERLIN, Nov 9: Former Soviet leader Mikhail S Gorbachev on Monday defended former East German leader Erich Honecker, who faces trial this week for the deaths of people killed at the Berlin Wall. Gorbachev, in Berlin to mark the third anniversary of the Nov 9, 1989, opening of the wall, is credited with helping topple Honecker by refusing to support the former East German Communist Party chief in the face of mounting pro-democracy protests, reports AP.

Franco-Russian accord on dismantling warheads soon

PARIS, Nov 9: France and Russia will sign a technical accord in the next few days on dismantling warheads from deactivated Russian nuclear weapons. Defence Minister Pierre Joxe announced Monday. The bilateral accords will be signed during Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev's two-day visit to Paris beginning Thursday. Joxe said in presenting his 1993 budget to the National Assembly. Joxe did not release details of the agreement, but said that France had devoted 30 million francs (dfrs 6 million) for the coming budget year technical cooperation in defense matters, reports AP.

ME talks resume in Washington

Arafat urges Clinton to adopt Bush peace plan

TUNIS, Nov 9: With Middle East talks resuming in Washington today, PLO leader Yasser Arafat urged Bill Clinton in a message to adopt outgoing President George Bush's peace plan.

"Naturally, I congratulated him (Clinton) for his success, and I stressed the necessity to continue the President's (George Bush's) initiative," Arafat told Reuters, summarising a message taken to the United States by Palestinian negotiators.

The Palestinians have been Sick unit owners

From Page 1 Col 8 ated their demand of implementing the recommendations of Sick Industries Revival and Rehabilitation Cell (SIRRC) immediately and threatened to go for a greater movement in case of non-implementation.

The Convenor of IASIRC alleged that the Ministry of Finance was acting as 'the government' and was not at all cordial in rehabilitating the sick industries. For which, he added, the ministry was taking measures ignoring the recommendations of the cell.

He also read out an order issued by the Finance Ministry on October 28, where it laid down some conditions for the sick industries to be rehabilitated. He also criticized the order terming some of its conditions impractical.

The IASIRC convenor also mentioned that the causes identified by the cell behind the sickness of the units included both the wrong policies of the government and the factors beyond the control of the entrepreneurs.

The press conference, held at the office of the Bangladesh Cold Storage Association was addressed, among others, by Jalaluddin Ahmed, Vice-President of Bangladesh Sick Industries Association, Abdur Rashid Lebu, President of Bangladesh Cargo Vessel Owners Association and Azizul Haq.

The speakers at the press conference were also critical about the interest rate on bank loans for industries and the loan recovery system and stressed the need for bringing changes in those.

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh

Shilpa Bank Building (13th Floor) 8, DIT Avenue, Dhaka

Notice

It is notified for informations of the respectable Investors Operating investment accounts with ICB Head Office and Branch offices that Beximco Infusions Ltd. has floated 50 thousand shares of Taka one hundred each, valued at Taka 50 lac and 10 thousand debentures of Taka 1500 each, valued at Taka 1.50 crore. The date of subscription will start from 8th November, 1992 and close on 12th November, 1992. Investor's intending to buy Shares/ Debentures of the aforesaid Company are requested to Contact ICB offices and submit their within instructions in this behalf.

D-616 Authority

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A DROP IN THE OCEAN: The Daily Star Photograph titled "Khudha" (hunger) by the paper's Chief Photographer AKM Mohsin (inset) won the second prize in the First Newsphoto Contest and Exhibition organised by the Dhaka Union of Journalists at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium Monday. Mohsin, aboard an air force relief helicopter flying at tree-top level, framed the moment of gruelling fight for survival by the cyclone-hit people of Maheshkhali island on May 3, 1991.

Identity Card issue Pak Minister rescued from angry crowd

FAISALABAD (Pakistan), Nov 9: Pakistani police fired in the air on Sunday to rescue the Minister of Minority Affairs from an angry crowd protesting against adding people's religious affiliation to their identity cards, reports Reuters.

Police also used tear-gas to disperse a crowd of 5,000, many of them Christians, who had gathered to support their coreligionists on hunger strike for six days in protest against identifying people by their religious faith.

When minister for Minority Affairs Peter John Sahotra arrived to talk to the hunger strikers, demonstrators shouted at him to resign and attacked him, witnesses said.

Police were called in and beat back the crowd with batons, slightly injuring five people.

The crowd also set fire to an effigy of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who made the decision last month to put religion on national identity cards.

"My visit to the hunger strike... was to express my solidarity with the Christians protesting against entry of the religion column on the na-

tional identity card," the official APP news agency quoted Sahotra as saying later.

He said he supported the demand of Pakistan's Christian leaders for immediate withdrawal of the government decision.

"The national identity card is not a religious identity card," Sahotra was quoted as saying.

Many Christians, other minorities as well as members of Pakistan's Muslim majority have voiced fears that the move would prompt discrimination and an upsurge in sectarianism.

The Provincial Assembly in Southern Sind unanimously passed a resolution this week condemning the move, and other provincial parliaments have talked of following suit.

Pakistan's paramilitary forces will take over responsibility for law and order in the troubled Sind after the army pulls out, Interior Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said today.

"We cannot depend on the police," he said in an interview. "They are completely corrupt."

VCPs, sarees seized in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Nov 9: A joint Task Force of BDR and district officials in an anti-smuggling drive recovered 26 VCPs and three bundles of polyester yarn worth about Taka three lakh from an inter-city train at Darshana station here today, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, the task force led by Major Gazi Md. Salauddin searched the bogies of Parbatipur bound "Kapotakh-kha Mail" train coming from Khulna and recovered the smuggled goods, BDR sources said.

They said the recovered goods were to be smuggled out to India with the help of some railway employees.

Meanwhile, BDR recovered 100 Indian sarees worth about Tk 35,000 from a house near Purudah Bazar under Mirpur thana of the district on Sunday.

In another raid, they recovered 70 Indian sarees worth about Tk 21,000 from a house of Alamdanga village on the same day.

Besides, BDR seized 171 Indian sarees valued at Tk 66,500 from a house of Kacharipara village in Bheramara thana of the district on Sunday.