

Biman ups freight rate Vegetable exports to UK stopped

By Staff Correspondent

Exporters have completely stopped vegetable shipments to England since Friday demanding a 30 per cent cut in Biman freight charges.

Bangladesh Fruits, Vegetables and Allied Products Exporters' Association yesterday (Saturday) organised demonstrations in front of the Biman office and the Export Promotion Bureau to press home its demand.

Vegetable exports to England fetched 35,000 pound sterling every day with Biman earning Tk 13 lakh at the same time, the association claimed.

President of the association Farid Uddin Ahmed in a speech during the demonstration said that Biman was playing a vital role in transporting vegetables that annually brought home Tk 200 crore from abroad.

He said that England was one of the chief buyers and that the exporters were sending 80 to 100 tonnes of vegetables there per week.

But, he pointed out that Biman had enhanced the freight charge to England from Tk 33.55 to Tk 40 per kg of vegetables in January '91, then later enhanced it to Tk

52.45. In May, Biman again enhanced the charge by 10 per cent.

He said that during the period the association was told by Biman officials that the rate would be decreased but that never happened.

Meanwhile the devaluation of the pound in the international market had worsened the exporters' position, he said.

Farid pointed out that at present "the export cost for a kg of vegetables was Tk 90 on an average while the export earning stood at Taka 70."

He said that the vegetable exporters could no longer bear the Tk 20 loss per kg caused by Biman's blunt decisions.

The leaders also said that "as there are other vegetable exporters in the world market such as India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Cyprus... we can not simply raise the price of our vegetables in the market according to our wish."

The demonstration was attended by Md Mostafa, secretary of the association, and Nurul Islam, Md Hanif, Jafar Abedini, Md Ashik and others.

Biman operates three flights a week to carry vegetables to England.



Poultry farm owners and workers brought out a procession in city yesterday demanding immediate ban on import of eggs from India (Story on Page 7). —Star photo

Textile, jute workers blast WB policy

By Staff Correspondent

Different textile and jute workers' organisations Saturday blasted the World Bank policy for the loss in textile and jute sectors.

Speakers at a discussion on the World Bank's policy in the industrialisation of Bangladesh said hundreds of factories in the country turned sick due to the free import policy as directed by the World Bank.

The meeting was organised at Jatya Press Club auditorium by Srana Bikash Kendra, Patkal Sramik Sangram Parishad, the Workers' Federation of Textile and Yarn Mills and National Garment Workers' Federation.

The speakers said the import duty on yarn has been lowered from 30 per cent to 15 per cent whereas the exporting countries provide subsidy on their export of yarn.

They said this has resulted in a huge import of yarn at a very cheap price.

On the other hand, the government has imposed fresh duty on the import of raw materials of local textile and yarn mills. They said this has made local goods uncompetitive to foreign goods.

The speakers also claimed that the jute mills could be made profitable if they were given their earned foreign currency for import of goods.

They said that Taka 1500 crore was earned from the export of hessian last year. The private sector importers made a profit of Taka 600 crore by importing out of this Taka 1500 crore.

They said if the money was used by the mills, the profit would offset the losses of the mills and make them profitable by Taka 300 crore.

JCD rivals in BUET clash over filing of nomination

By BUET Correspondent

Several rounds of gunshots were fired on the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) campus late Friday night.

Continued tension prevailed on campus since Thursday when rival activists of JCD clashed over filing of nomination papers for the upcoming Engineering University Central Students Union polls.

Several gunshots and explosions were also heard on Thursday.

According to witnesses, about seven rounds of gunshots were heard from Suhrawardy hall area at around 11 pm Friday.

The Awami League-backed Chhatra League and Bangladesh Chhatra Union gheraoed the Vice-Chancellor's residence for about half an hour from 1 am on Saturday protesting the filing. They demanded identification of the culprits and exemplary punishment to them.

Former general secretary of JCD Mostafizur Rahman Manik in a statement said that the JCD panel was made through violence and threats. It cannot be recognized by the general students, he added. BCL blamed the JCD for the recent violence on campus.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union yesterday held a rally and demanded recovery of arms and ammunition immediately.

Police was deployed on the campus but no one has been arrested in connection with the violence, said a police source.

Afghan rebels shell Kabul

KABUL, Nov 14: Muslim rebels shelled government security posts along the southern edge of the capital Saturday, the fiercest attack since a cease-fire was signed nearly three months ago, reports AP.

WB chief due today

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health sector projects during the WB chief's visit.

Preston is expected to call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and hold talks with officials of the Finance, Agriculture, Commerce, Jute and Energy ministries.

According to WB resident mission sources, Preston will seek to get an idea about the country's 'broad policy objectives on development' during his talks with government leaders.

He is also likely to review the Bank's operational activities in the country, but his talks with government officials are unlikely to include specific projects, the sources added.

The government will also seek a review of the Bank's position on providing credits to the power and agriculture sectors and a commitment on WB participation in financing the Jamuna Bridge project.

The Bank suspended credit operations in the energy sector in 1991 when the systems loss in the power sector jumped to as high as 44 per cent. The Bank also sought privatisation of the fertilizer and irrigation equipment distribution in the agriculture sector.

On poverty alleviation, a Finance Ministry source said, the government will not make any 'concrete' suggestions but will seek WB support for a

Tea price

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September this year as against 20 lakh kgs in the same period last year.

Tea exporters now feel that a credit line with Russia and other East European countries must be set up immediately to overcome this sluggishness in trade.

Another source said that Bangladesh tea was not competitive with the international market as it was traded on barter with East Europe.

The country used to get a premium price for its tea exports to the communist bloc. But in the changed situation, Bangladesh faced international competition and the price declined.

"However, the price of tea is expected to become stable by the end of the year," the source said. He pointed out that the first shock for Bangladesh tea in the international market was over.

In addition to the crisis in East Europe, the trade embargo on Iraq has also affected Bangladesh tea export. Iraq, during 1989-90 had imported over 21 lakh kgs of tea from Bangladesh. As this major buyer has been barred from buying tea, export volume has also dropped.

With these hurdles in tea exports, the government is now actively considering sending delegates to some Arab and East European countries to boost the same, according to concerned sources.

Delegations may go to Russia, Poland and Iran by the end of this year. The government is also considering searching tea markets in Australia, Japan and other far eastern countries.

Kamal

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party including Abdul Mannan, Tofael Ahmed, Abdul Momen and Sajeda Chowdhury took an initiative November 11 to put the strains in the relationship between the party chief Sheikh Hasina and Kamal Hossain to an end.

The presidium members, as part of the negotiation process, sent Mostaque Ahmed, a party MP from Cox Bazar to Kamal Hossain on the day and requested him not to attend the youth league rally organised by Mostafa Mohsin Montu.

Party chief Sheikh Hasina was aware of the move but did not object to it, a leader close to Hasina told The Star last night.

But Kamal Hossain clearly paid no heed to the move and attended the rally held at Ramna Batamul.

The leaders involved in the fence-mending initiative were now convinced that the party was left with no other option but to expel Kamal Hossain, sources said.

But Sheikh Hasina was of the opinion that it would be a wrong strategy to take extreme measures against Hossain until he announced his long desired 'third force', sources close to Hasina said.

Hasina also believed that before expelling Hossain from the party, his sympathisers at home and abroad should be convinced that it was Hossain himself and not anybody else in the party, who wanted to get out of the Awami League, sources said.

The younger section in the Awami League leadership, however, strongly believed that the party should get rid of a 'disturbing element' like Kamal Hossain as soon as possible.

This section of the ALWC is likely to come out with the suggestion that Kamal be expelled immediately for his repeated violation of party discipline.

Diplomatic ties with Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenia), Nov 14: Bangladesh and Armenia have established diplomatic relations, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Ambassador in Moscow Mustafizur Rahman and Deputy Foreign Minister of the independent republic of the former Soviet Union Georgy Kazinian signed a protocol to this effect here on Wednesday.

Aurango

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near Sakura Restaurant at Shahbagh in the city on January 28, 1980.

When produced on the dock, the accused MP pleaded not guilty and his solicitors prayed for his bail. But the court rejected the prayer for the third time yesterday.

The court also fixed January 7, 1993 for examination and cross-examination of the witnesses.

If the AL MP is proved guilty, he faces a death sentence as maximum punishment under Section 302 of BPC.

Khondokar Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Abdul Malek and Khondokar Abdul Mannan appeared in the court on behalf of the defendant while Abdur Razzak Khan, Mosharrif Hossain Khan and Masud Ahmed Talukder were on the prosecution side.

Following the murder a case was registered with Ramna police accusing Aurango in 1980 but the case remained shelved for an indefinite period.

However, the case was revived and the accused MP was arrested from a bar of Hotel Purbant on October 24 and sent to the Dhaka Central Jail.

Restaurant owners oppose VAT

Restaurant owners yesterday (Saturday) opposed the VAT and turn over taxes imposed on their trades and demanded an amicable solution by refixing the VAT ceiling immediately, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh Restaurant Owners' Association at a press conference held at the National Press Club yesterday warned that they would go for a 72-hour close-down programme, if their demands were not met within this month.

They criticised the government for publishing advertisement in the national dailies recently, in which the restaurant owners were accused of not depositing the VAT in the government exchequer, even after realising the 15 per cent VAT from consumers.

Addressing the press conference, president of the association Khandaker Ruhul Amin said it is nothing but a conspiracy to undermine the restaurant owners.

Press Club incident DUJ demands publication of full report

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday demanded publication of the full enquiry commission report on the June 21 police attack on journalists at Press Club by November 20, reports UNB.

It also demanded that punitive action be taken against those responsible for the incident as suggested by the one-man judicial enquiry commission headed by Justice Kazi Shafiqul Islam.

The commission in its report held eight police personnel responsible for the police action in and around Jatya Press Club on June 21, injuring 25 journalists. It accused Acting Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Mirza Raquib Huda of showing negligence to duty.

An executive committee meeting of the DUJ in a resolution said that there is no scope for belittling the negligence to duty of the chief of police force engaged in maintaining law and order in capital Dhaka.

The enquiry commission report has proved that the demand for removal of Raquib Huda made by DUJ after the incident was reasonable, the resolution said.

The meeting, chaired by DUJ president M Shahjahan Miah, demanded punishment of those responsible for the incident, including the acting DMP Commissioner.

It also demanded of the government to pay compensation to the affected journalists.

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Delegations may go to Russia, Poland and Iran by the end of this year. The government is also considering searching tea markets in Australia, Japan and other far eastern countries.

One killed, 16 hurt as farmers clash in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 14: A farmer was killed and 16 others were injured in a clash today between two rival groups of farmers at Chandpur Char in Chowhall thana, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said three critically injured villagers were admitted into the Chowhall Health Complex where Anwar Hossain, 35, succumbed to his injuries.

The Midnight File

India to continue making fissionable material

NEW DELHI, Nov 14: India will continue to produce fissionable material needed to make nuclear weapons as long as other nations do, a news agency reported Saturday. Indian officials said in Washington they turned down a US proposal to enter into a pact with Pakistan to freeze fissionable material production. United News of India said. The officials, who were not identified, made the statement Friday after two days of talks with their US counterparts on curbing the spread of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and reducing tensions in the region, reports AP.

Hussein favours all Arabs' involvement in peace process

AMMAN, Nov 14: King Hussein, seeking to allay fears that Jordan will sign a separate treaty with Israel, said Saturday he was striving for a comprehensive settlement that would include all Arab parties involved in the peace process. The remark, made in a letter to Jordan's chief negotiator Abdul Salam Majali, was generally perceived as aimed at mollifying fears sparked by a recent Jordan-Israel draft agenda that could accelerate the kingdom's peace talks with the Jewish state, reports AP.

PM visits enclaves

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of tubewells in the area as well as develop the 20 km road from Angorpotha to Tinbigha.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for setting up small and cottage industries in the area with the help of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC).

"Programmes of the present government are aimed at balanced development of the country", she said.

Begum Zia urged residents of the enclaves, particularly the women, to take up poultry farming and vegetable cultivation, for socio-economic emancipation. "Women have to participate in the nation-building activities as well," she said.

The Prime Minister asked the adults to take the opportunity of mass education programme of the government.

The public meeting was also addressed by Home Minister Abdul Moin Chowdhury, Begum Shamsunahar Ahsanullah MP, Begum Rebecca Mahmud MP, Begum Shaheda Sarker MP, and local BNP leaders, including Asadul Haib, Mahbub Nasim, Abdul Kader and Salehuddin Ahmed Hela.

After the meeting at Banger Bazar, Begum Zia drove through the Tinbigha corridor and addressed another huge public meeting at Hatibandha Altmuddin Degree College premises.

She told the meeting that a vested quarter was trying to foil the development programmes of the present government and asked the people to stand guard against the conspirators.

"They want to stop the on-going development process by resorting to terrorism", Begum Zia said, but warned that nobody would be allowed to hinder the government's programmes aimed at welfare of the people.

Referring to the anti-terrorism bill passed in parliament, she said action would be taken against anyone, irrespective of party or group, found involved in terrorism, extortion or creating indiscipline in the

Divisional Commissioner of Jalpaiguri, Inspector General of BSF (North Bengal), District Magistrate of Koochbihar and an Additional IG of Calcutta Police were among others present when the Prime Minister passed through the corridor, local officials said.

"The security is almost similar to that posted during the opening of the corridor," said a local journalist.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Indian BSF held a meeting on Friday to discuss security

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
রাষ্ট্র শিক্কা বুটো
রাষ্ট্র অধিদপ্তর
মহাশালী, ঢাকা-১২১২
ফোন নং-৮৮৪১২/১০৪০
তারিখ: ১১/১১/৯২ ইং

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিশ্ব এইস দিবস' ১৯ ডিসেম্বর '৯২ উপলক্ষে কলকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ছাত্র/ছাত্রীদের জন্য রচনা প্রতিযোগিতার আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। প্রতিযোগিতার বিস্তারিত মত্রে আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার দেয়া হবে। বিজয়ী ও নিম্নকারী অর্কখনে সিক্স সিক্স শিক্কা প্রতিষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে এক কপি পালসেট সাইজের ছবিলাকী রচনা আগামী ২২ নং নভেম্বর '৯২ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবরে পঠিত হবে।

১. পলাশী পথ ছাত্র/ছাত্রীদের জন্য।
২. এইস প্রতিযোগিতায় সাময়িক অর্ককারী।
৩. রচনা বাংলা ভাষায় ৫০০ শব্দের মধ্যে লিখতে হবে।
৪. একাদশ শ্রেণী থেকে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ছাত্র/ ছাত্রীদের জন্য।
৫. এইস প্রতিযোগিতায় সাময়িক অর্ককারী।
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মোঃ নজরুল ইসলাম
হাওদা
রাষ্ট্র শিক্কা বুটো
পাঠা মেইকাল হোস্টেলের পাশে
মহাশালী, ঢাকা।
ফোন নং-৮০৪৯৭/১০০৩০০

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G-1446

Vacancy Announcement

The Bangladesh Resident Office of the Asian Development Bank wishes to recruit a female receptionist/telephone operator. The candidate must have:

- fluency in English
- pleasing personality
- some experience, preferably at similar organization
- knowledge of typing
- knowledge of computer operation (not essential)

Interested candidates fulfilling the above requirements should submit application with bio-data and a recent photo by 23 November 1992 to:

Administrative Officer
Asian Development Bank
BSEC Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka

Suitable candidates will be interviewed by appointment only. Those who have applied for this position previously need not apply again.

D-624

Tripura disbands 2000 policemen

AGARTALA, Nov 14: The Tripura government tonight disbanded two battalions of the Tripura armed police comprising 2000 policemen and hinted at tough measures to bring the agitating non-gazetted policemen, who have hardened their stand, to their knees, as over 50 persons were injured when para-military forces opened fire, burst teargas shells and made a lathi-charge to disperse agitating policemen and Congress-1 workers at two places, reports PTI.

Reuter adds: Leftist students called a 12-hour stoppage to back 12,000 striking policemen in the northeast Indian state of Tripura today and it appeared to have evoked

Kampala meet

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Moazzem Ali, a Director General at the Foreign Office.

The Kampala meeting will finalise the agenda and the date of the Cyprus summit, diplomats in Dhaka said yesterday. Nicosia has proposed that the Commonwealth heads of state and government meet from October 21 to 25 in the Mediterranean city, they said.

Delegates at the November 16-18 meeting are likely to endorse the host country's decision, the diplomats said.

The Cyprus summit will be the 12th meeting of the Commonwealth leaders who met in Zimbabwe last year. The summit is usually preceded by a meeting of senior officials.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who attended the Harare summit is expected to attend the Nicosia conference of the former British colonies.

Traditionally, the Monarch of Britain, who formally heads the Commonwealth, inaugurates the once-in-a-two-year event.

3 including 2 policemen hurt in bomb blast

By DMCH Correspondent

Three people, two of them policemen, were injured in a blast in the capital's Lalbagh Police Station Saturday afternoon.

A powder milk container full of explosives exploded breaking out a fire in a store room of the Police Station when a labourer was cleaning the room at 2:45 pm, police said.

Store-in-charge, a police Sub-Inspector Delwar Hossain, an Assistant Sub-Inspector of police Jasimuddin and the labourer Shaheed were injured in the blast.

Fire Service office said that two of their teams rushed to the spot and doused the fire before it spread.

Two policemen were admitted to the Suhrawardy Hospital while the labourer was given first aid at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), said an on duty officer of the Police Station last night.

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