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Insurer to bear cost : Mannan Repair work of DC-10 to take 3-4 months

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan yesterday informed the House that repair work of the ill-fated DC 10-30 aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, which was severely damaged by over-shooting the runway while landing at the Zia International Airport on May 18 last, would be taken up soon, reports BSS.

Making a statement under Rule 300 of the Rules of Procedure, the State Minister said that the repair work of the aircraft would take three to four months and the cost would be borne by the insurer as the aircraft was insured on comprehensive terms.

Mannan said that the aircraft on flight from Jeddah to Dhaka while landing at Dhaka about 7.04 am on May 18 last in inclement weather overshoot the edge of the runway by about 1350 feet and got stuck in muddy soil. Capt. Azizullah was the commander of the flight.

He said there were 12 crew in the flight and 123 passengers including three women and four children. The cabin crew on duty very efficiently managed to disembark all the passengers by emergency exit within forty-five seconds of the accident.

He said that the 6-member inquiry committee set up immediately after the accident headed by member, operation of CAAB, had already taken interviews of the crew of the flight and taken the flight recorder and the black-box of the flight into their possession. Later the committee was expanded with the inclusion of the Flight Engineer, Technical of Biman, and representative of International Civil Aviation Authority.

The statement over, Awami League member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim objected to the formation of the inquiry committee alleging that the inclusion of Director, Flight Operation of Biman in the committee was not logical as he observed that the Flight Operation Directorate of Biman was an accused party in the accident.

He said that the members of the Standing Committee was not consulted when the inquiry committee was formed. Similarly they were informed about the accident four days after the accident.



Lampe Marma(r), the solitary tribal refugee who crossed over to Bangladesh at the Ramgarh reception camp although others refused to come back Tuesday seen talking to Secretary Special Affairs Nasrullah Khan. DC Khagrachhari Yar Mohammad is in the middle.

Reception camps for Chakma refugees to be kept open

CHITTAGONG, June 9: Bangladesh, still expecting the return of Chakma refugees from the camps located in Tripura state of India, decided to keep the reception centres open even tomorrow though the scheduled repatriation Tuesday failed to take off, officials said.

Talking to The Daily Star over telephone the Special Affairs Secretary Nasrullah Khan said "We have kept the reception camps open to receive the Chakma refugees if they come back as the bilateral agreement with India on repatriation of tribesmen still stands valid."

"Besides, talks with India will continue to start the planned repatriation which has run into trouble on the first day," Khan added with a note of optimism.

The Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari Yar Mohammad said "We have not yet decided to pack up our reception camps as the repatriation agreement made with India on June 1 still exists and has not been cancelled."

"We have even received no notice from the Indian side about cancellation of our bilateral agreement on repatriation," the Deputy Commissioner added, saying "As per the agreement we will keep our officials waiting tomorrow also at Ramgarh and Tabalchhari reception centres to receive the Chakma refugees if they should decide to come back."

"We are ready in this connection and today also I have briefed my people to remain present in both the camps tomorrow to receive the returnees," Yar Mohammad added.

As per agreement, the second batch of Chakma refugees is scheduled to return through two reception centres on June 10 but failure in starting the repatriation of the first batch Tuesday has jeopardised the prospects.

According to both Indian and Bangladesh officials, the repatriation suffered a fresh setback as the refugees declined to come back until their 13-point charter of demands were met.

Opposition returns

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Tuesday night.

Prof Chowdhury also informed the House that the government, complying with the opposition demand, had decided to withdraw the scriptwriter of the controversial television round-up on the JS proceedings.

He also said that from now on, the privilege committee of Parliament will meet from time to time to resolve any problem affecting the relations between the treasury and opposition benches.

The Deputy Leader hoped that the House could now concentrate on discussing problems affecting the national interests.

Samad Azad, acting Leader of the Opposition, observed that the understanding would contribute to resolving the national problems in the House.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury of the JP hoped that the electronic media would, from now on, equally cover the political activities of all the parties of the country.

The stalemate in the JS was created Monday morning when the Awami League-led opposition including the Jatiya Party staged a walk out protesting a controversial television report on Sunday's Parliament proceedings.

Later, they decided to boycott the JS until the concerned reporter was withdrawn.

The opposition had also demanded suspension of the BTV roundup until the issue was resolved.

The special privilege committee of Parliament comprising senior leaders of different parliamentary groups and parties, met Tuesday night and after a five-hour long discussion reached a consensus on withdrawing the concerned script writer. They also agreed that the programme would remain suspended until another competent replacement was found.

The committee members examined the text of the script in question. However, the script writer—Shawkat Mahmood of the Dainik Dinkal—was not called to explain his position.

The privilege committee members who were present in Tuesday night's meeting included Majid-ul-Haque (representing the Leader of the House), chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, State Minister for Law Barrister Aminul Haque, Sajeda Chowdhury (representing the Leader of the Opposition), Tofael Ahmed of the AL, Matir Rahman Nizami of the Jamaat and Shahjahan Siraj of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD). The Law Minister and the Information Minister were also present at the meeting on special invitation of the Speaker, head of the committee.

Meanwhile, senior leaders of the opposition, meeting for a while yesterday morning to decide its course of action following the boycott, felt that there was no bar to return to the House since the demands had been met.

Later, the leaders of both benches met in the Speaker's chamber to formalise the understanding reached the previous night.

New budget today

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the annual development programme (ADP) remains largely dependent on foreign aid.

Whatever had been shown in the revenue budget's accounts, the symptom of having an aggregate deficit is a chronic phenomenon of the budget characteristics. However, the deficit was reduced from nine per cent of the GDP in 1981-82 to 7.1 per cent in 1991-92. Rationalising the ADP expenditure and marked improvement in revenue earnings through structural changes of the taxation system contributed to bridging the gap between expenditure and earnings.

Current expenditure as a percentage of the GDP rose from 5.6 per cent in 1981-92 to a peak of 8.6 per cent in 1990-91. On the other hand, development expenditure declined from ten per cent of the GDP to 6.3 per cent over the same period.

The situation of overall budget deficit over the last decade has shown virtually no improvements. The deficit, which was Taka 21.03 billion in FY-81 is now estimated to be about Taka 41.80 billion in FY-92.

Net foreign financing, including grants, also kept on increasing during the period

and stands at Taka 48.80 billion in FY-92 from the figure of 16.44 billion in FY-81.

However, in contrast, net domestic financing showed a negative trend of growth. From Taka 5.90 billion in FY-81, it has now come down to Taka 7.10 billion on the negative side.

The public sector corporations continued to remain in a mess over the last decade. The total profit in 1991-92 of seven major sector corporations—the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC), the Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC), the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), the Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC) and the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)—was Taka 154.2 crore. Of this amount, the BPC alone contributed Taka 618.2 crore while the BJMC alone incurred a Taka 308.5 crore loss.

A special cabinet meeting is scheduled at 1:30 pm today to approve the 1993-94 budget for it to be placed in Parliament.

PM : Education Naruhito, Owada wed

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Begum Zia said the problem of "drop outs" should be looked into and the underprivileged and poor children should be brought under schooling to make the primary education programme a success.

She mentioned the government's "Food for Education" programme to encourage the poor students in getting the light of education.

The Prime Minister said new institutions for higher education are being set up to improve the standard of education and increase the opportunities for higher studies. The government is encouraging the private sector in this regard, she added.

"Education is a huge arrangement, we welcome initiatives of individuals and non-government organisations to supplement government efforts for the development of education," she said appreciating their role.

Begum Zia termed as exceptional the observance of the last Education Week which had been observed up to the thana level.

Expressing her solidarity with some proposed reforms in the education sector, she called upon the educationists to play their due role for the advancement of education in the country.

The Prime Minister also stressed the need for eradicating terrorism and session jam from the educational arena and urged all, irrespective of party affiliation, to make concerted efforts to this end.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Education Secretary Irshadul Huq and Additional Secretary Khadeja Azam also addressed the function attended by ministers, MPs, educationists and senior officials.

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ing a mace, led by the chief court ritualist.

Owada, a former diplomat, was helped by two assistants as she appeared before the sanctuary wearing a 12-layered silk kimono featuring a hexagonal gardenia pattern on a green background. The massive dress weighed 14 kilograms (31 pounds) and dates from the Heian era (794 to 1185).

Speaking in ancient Japanese before his bowing bride at the sacred altar of the mythical sun-goddess Amaterasu, Naruhito vowed the couple would "cherish each other and have everlasting affection."

After the brief ceremony, the couple moved to an outer sanctum to exchange cups of sake, formally sealing the marriage.

Most of the official guests, including members of the Imperial family, wore formal Western dress for the ceremony which took place in the palace garden. The Prince's parents, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, did not attend the ceremony but were scheduled to meet formally with the couple in the afternoon.

The 29-year-old Owada began her last morning as a commoner two and a half hours earlier, bidding a final farewell to her family before being whisked off from the family home for a purification ceremony.

Thousands of excited well-wishers braved steady rain and waded Japanese flags as her black limousine swept past for the 20-minute journey, escorted by a dozen police cars and motorcycles.

Owada, wearing a place blue outfit with a matching hat, arrived at the moated palace shortly before 7.00 am (2200 GMT Tuesday), accompanied by a lady-in-waiting.

Once inside, shielded from the public view, her initiation into the mysterious customs of the imperial family began in earnest with three hours of elaborate wedding preparations based on ancient Shinto rites. After being purified with water blessed by a priest, she changed into her cumbersome dress.

Security was extremely tight with some 30,000 police mobilised in and around Tokyo Wednesday, which has been declared a public holiday across Japan.

Biswas, Khaleda felicitate Naruhito, Owada

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia have felicitated the crown Prince Naruhito of Japan and the bride Masako Owada on the occasion of their wedding yesterday, reports BSS.

Monsura Mohiuddin chargesheeted

Monsura Mohiuddin, a former MP in Ershad's parliament and wife of HG Mohiuddin, former Permanent Representative at the United Nations, was chargesheeted yesterday in a corruption case, reports UNB.

Special Tribunal Judge Zinat Ara framed charge against her in the case filed under the Anti-Corruption Act for possessing Tk 52.25 lakh beyond her known sources of income.

Monsura, 45, standing on the dock, pleaded not guilty when the charge was read out to her.

Farakka

From Page 1 Col 3

contentious issue, the Agriculture Minister said Bangladesh does not want to reach any agreement in a hurry that might jeopardise the country's interest.

The present government is fully alert and will not allow anyone to go for actions that will go against the national interest, he added.

Refuting the Awami League's claim, Majid-ul-Haq said it was during the BNP government that Bangladesh had reached an agreement with India for the first time in 1977 for sharing of the Ganges water.

He said no agreement was signed with India by the Awami League government which claims that it realised 44,000 cusecs of Ganges water for Bangladesh.

Earlier, acting Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad yesterday offered all-out cooperation to the government in resolving the Farakka problem threatening the national economy.

Taking part in the Parliamentary discussions on the problem caused by the Farakka barrage over the Ganges, he urged the government to initiate pragmatic steps to settle the long-standing water-sharing issue with India.

The Bangladesh economy will be ruined if the problem of water sharing of 54 common rivers, including the Ganges, is not solved immediately," Azad told the House.

Referring to various suggestions, including one for raising the issue to international fora or construction of alternate Ganges barrage to press India for a solution, the Deputy Opposition leader said these steps would not help solve the problem.

"Don't try to find a solution in fantasy, seek a solution in reality", Azad said, adding despite tall talks, the post-75 government failed to resolve the problem.

He recalled the Awami League's initiatives since 1950 for a solution of the water problem and said the Bangabandhu government could bring 44,000 cusec of water during the lean period for the country.

The succeeding government got 34,000 cusec of water with a guarantee of 80 percent flow of the Ganges for the country during dry season. But during the Ershad government, the guarantee clause was dropped from the Ganges water sharing agreement with India, Azad said.

He criticised the present government for failing to solve the problem with India. The issue should be resolved in the spirit of SAARC, but the "government has failed," he said.

Azad, however, suggested united endeavours by the government and the opposition to discuss the issue with a positive outlook in the greater national interest and work out a solution.

He also suggested that parliament could adopt a unanimous resolution or form a parliamentary committee under rule 316 of the Rules of Procedure to work out a formula for resolving the problem.

"Let's have a resolution in Parliament... the country needs a solution of the problem. We'll extend our all-out support to government initiatives," Azad concluded amidst applause.

As many 29 members from both benches took part in the discussion on the subject.

The Midnight File

Delhi announces steps to restore normalcy in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, June 9: The centre today announced a series of measures aimed at restoring normalcy in the trouble-torn Jammu and Kashmir and help bring the silent majority opposed to militancy, into the national mainstream, reports PTI.

Muslim troops ordered to stop fighting Croats

SARAJEVO, June 9: The new commander of Bosnia's Muslim-led army, Rasim Delic, today ordered his forces to immediately stop fighting Croats in the Travnik region, Sarajevo Radio reported, says Reuter.

No dramatic changes

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will be around Tk. 7,500 crore. Many believe that this substantial shortfall accounts in large part for the stimulus that the economy is missing. In addition to this, the credibility of the economic liberalisation measures included in the last two budgets in the eyes of the business community is also being questioned.

The World Bank and other major donors believe that private investment could have increased and contributed to higher growth if the government was able to send strong and consistent signals about its commitment to private sector development.

Given Bangladesh's dependence on foreign aid, the 1993-94 budget will definitely attempt to address donors' concern about ADP implementation and private sector confidence. Even though the medium-term plan called for an investment outlay of Tk. 10,500 crore for 1993-94, the ADP for this year will be around Tk. 9,500 crore for it to be consistent with the Government's modest implementation capability.

While the government will not be spending as much as expected on investment, its effort to raise more internal resources will however continue. The three-year long agreement with the IMF that will expire this June included a target of increasing revenue collection by half a percentage point of the GDP (estimated at 23.7 billion dollars in 1991-92) every year. If this target is adhered to, and it is likely to be, the 1993-94 budget will include new measures aimed at collecting around Tk. 500 crore in additional revenue. A majority of these new revenue measures will relate to expansion in coverage of the value added tax.

The additional revenue will permit the government more flexibility with its retrenchment programme for surplus public sector enterprise employees and to buy out the nationalised commercial banks' bad debts which is crippling the financial sector.

The most critical test of the budget will be its success in presenting the government's economic policy in a manner that inspires private sector confidence. Of the three key economic policy measures, namely, import liberalisation, privatization and deregulation of the financial sector, the first has faced the greatest degree of suspicion from the private sector.

There is a strong resistance to opening up of Bangladesh's industry to competition from more mature economies. This resistance will subside only if the government is able to convince the Bangladesh private sector that competition is good for them and that the government will help them reap the benefit.

Memo to PM Krishak Dal demands cut in prices of agri products

Jatiyatabadi Kriksak Dal, peasant wing of the ruling BNP yesterday demanded reduction of the prices of fertilizers, pesticides and other agricultural inputs to help the farmers grow more food, reports BSS.

The demand was made in a memorandum to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia by the members of a delegation of the Kriksak Dal.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister K M Rabbani received the 12-point memorandum on behalf of the Prime Minister at her office.

The delegation was led by Mr Shamsuzzaman Duda, General Secretary and Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, organising secretary of the Kriksak Dal.

There is a strong resistance to opening up of Bangladesh's industry to competition from more mature economies. This resistance will subside only if the government is able to convince the Bangladesh private sector that competition is good for them and that the government will help them reap the benefit.

Today will show

From Page 1 Col 4

Industrialists, on the other hand, have lots to be apprehensive about. What with the ongoing import liberalisation programme, another dose of lowering of import duties on finished goods, is not welcome to all of them. They seem to be particularly vocal—and rightly so—at what they perceive as tariff anomalies, imposition of lower duties on raw materials as compared to finished and semi-finished goods. VAT remains another area of concern to many of them. They are arguing against the present wide application of tariff value mechanism for customs duty assessment but are, at the same time, opposing pre-shipment inspection—a measure that could obviate the need for imposition of tariff values.

As for anticipations, taking clue from the government's commitment to human resource development, general expectations are that more money will be spent on areas such as education, health and family planning. Some also think that the need to create and sustain a business-friendly environment might impel the government to spend more money on areas such as law and order, power sector and communications.

Admonitions abound—one only needs to follow the tenor of discussion at the various pre-budget seminars. Plenty of ideas have come up in these seminars—ranging from calls to cut expenditure in unproductive sectors, protection for domestic industry, pleas for a village-based economy—embracing a participatory process for poverty alleviation, to calls for evolving alternative reform package, urging a fresh look into socio-economic issues.

And, we must not forget the donors, World Bank and the IMF. They have tendered their advice and are now waiting on the sidelines—watching. I would say it again, today will show.

The writer is a former Governor of the Bangladesh Bank

Police disperse city JP rally

By Staff Correspondent

Police picked up four Jatiya Party activists from the street near the Press Club in the capital Wednesday while dispersing a rally of the party.

Jamuna Bridge

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the property, it said.

A high official at the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority said the government had already agreed to raise the amount of compensation money as proposed by the World Bank. But the Compensation Ordinances of 1982 and 1989 would have to be amended before executing the action plan, he added.

Another official concerned with the matter said the government might pass an executive order increasing the amount of the 'compensation' money since promulgation of an ordinance would take much time to execute the resettlement plan.

A total of Tk 60 crore would be required to compensate the JMB project affected people, concerned sources said, adding that 2105 acres of land had been acquired out of the planned 5681 acres of land.

The 11-point action plan was submitted to the World Bank on March 31 for consideration.