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Labour Minister at FBCCI discussion Growth of industry needs people's buying power

By Staff Correspondent

Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan Thursday said the country's industrial sector cannot be made profitable unless a larger local market is created through increasing the purchasing capacity of the people.

He said real wages of the workers and employees did not increase in accordance with the increase in the productivity, although wages had increased several fold in amount.

The minister was addressing as chief guest the fourth session of the two-day National Convention of Businessmen, organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), yesterday at Hotel Sonargaon.

Expressing his optimism about an immediate improvement in the industrial relations in the country, he said labour problem was not the only problem of industrialisation. There were some more acute problems which were affecting the profitability of the industrial units, he added.

Mannan Bhuiyan also termed the existing labour laws 'defective' and said that a law commission had been set up comprising representatives from the government, employers and employees to amend the labour laws. The commission had met several times and a draft of the law would be prepared soon, he said.

He also assured the businessmen that the government

Zahiruddin

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Beximco Group Sohel F Rahman, while industrialist Rashidul-Hasan presented a paper on Industrial Advancement in Bangladesh and its Contribution to the Economy —1973-1993.

"The ministers or the bureaucrats must remember that business or development is being done by the people," Zahiruddin said, and added, "The Business of the government is governance, not doing business."

The Planning Minister pointed out that reforms to encourage and reward honesty, efficiency and enterprise would be introduced in the banking sector. He said, "We no longer want to see that it is easier to do business illegally than in the normal way."

Zahiruddin Khan revealed that a private sector committee would be formed soon for the business people to discuss their problems with the Prime Minister directly and regularly.

FBCCI President Mahbubur Rahman told the minister that there was always a gap between policy and its implementation and said, "We want to see the government in action, now!"

FBUTA

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Jointly signed by Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman, president FBUTA and Dr Abdur Rahim, general secretary, the statement also called for a social resistance against terrorism in the educational arena.

Attended by representatives from all the universities, the meeting also warned the government against changing the 1973 Universities Ordinance without prior consent of the FBUTA and other teachers' associations.

Afghan FM

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home of Tajik refugees, Arsala said.
He urged a joint approach by Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Russia and Uzbekistan to find a political settlement and appealed to Dushanbe's neo-communist regime to open talks with all branches of the opposition.

Two Tajik Islamic chiefs in exile in Afghanistan meanwhile told a Moscow newspaper they were ready to negotiate, but "exclusively with Russia."
Said Abdulokhi Nuri of the Islamic Rebirth Movement and chief Muslim leader Akhbar Turadzhozoda said the current leadership here was "worth nothing without Moscow and would not last two days without Russian aid." They could not negotiate with Rakhmonov because "it is no longer possible for us to believe him."

They were not against CIS border guards, including Russians, protecting the Tajik side of the border with Afghanistan, but felt a stronger CIS military input simply bolstered the present regime, "which is using Russian bayonets to eliminate its own adversaries."

would not increase the wages of labourers unless productivity was increased.
The Labour Minister stressed the need for developing the country's human resources, saying that it was a pre-requisite for the total development of the country.

"We have a large number of unemployed people. Besides there is lack of skilled manpower" he said.

The fourth session was presided over by M Yunus, former president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), while S H Kabir and Syed Manzur Elahi presented two key-note papers.

Ali Ashraf, Redwan Ahmed, MP, Haji Mohammad Ali, Manzur Ahmed, Taher Sobhan, Obaidur Rahman, Shamsuddin Ahmed and other noted businessmen and industrialists participated in the discussion.

Zahid terms Aug 15 'victory day'

National Democratic Party leader Anwar Zahid yesterday castigated the Awami League for declaring August 15 as 'mourning day' and said it had traded the country's sovereignty while in power, reports UNB.

Addressing a public meeting at the Dainik Bangla crossing in the city, he termed August 15 as 'victory day' for the nation. The Bharatiya Dalit Proletarian Committee organised the meeting demanding ban on the politics of the 'identified Indian agents and Awami axis'.

The NDP leader observed that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed because he himself had killed thousands of political opponents, snatched the political rights of the people, buried democracy and sold out the country's independence to India.

He said the August changeover in 1975 gave Sheikh Hasina the opportunity to demand trial of Mujib's killers, but none, including the parents of Siraj Sikder, could come up with similar demands.

Jamaat leader Abdul Kader Mollah speaking at the rally dubbed the government 'servient to India' and accused it of providing all help to India for turning the country into its market.

Freedom Party leader Major (ret'd) Bazul Huda alleged that when the Pakistan Army cracked down on the people of this country, Sheikh Mujib had surrendered to the Pakistani authorities while the other AL leaders fled away. The bewildered people had built a resistance when Ziaur Rahman gave the call for independence, he said.

KSP Leader A S M Solaiman called upon all to identify the 'Indian agents' and resist them. The meeting was presided over by Golam Haifz, convenor of the committee.

BCL demands radio, TV programmes on Mujib

By Staff Correspondent

The Chhatra League, students front of the AL, Thursday, demonstrated near the National Broadcasting Authority office at Shahbagh in the city demanding of programmes on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15.

Police intercepted the demonstrators at the Shahbagh crossing where they sat on the street chanting various anti-government slogans.

Chhatra League leaders, including Shaiful Alam, Nirmal Ranjan Guha, Iqbal Hossain Apu and Pankaj Debnath, while addressing the gathering there, accused all the post-75 governments of broadcasting "partial" and "distorted" facts on the country's War of Liberation and of completely denying Bangabandhu's contributions towards liberating the nation.

The state-owned radio and television had been turned into 'campaign-boxes' of the rulers, they added.

The students warned that the government must shoulder responsibilities of the consequence for not airing any programme on Bangabandhu on August 15, the day of his assassination.

Earlier, the Chhatra League workers held two rallies in the city.



Dr Kamal Hossain addressing the convenors of district and thana units of the Democratic Forum in the city yesterday. Advocate Zahirul Islam, Matiuir Rahman and Shamsuddoha, MP, are seen on his left. — Star photo

Attendance

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against the party.

When asked for his reactions, Dr Kamal declined to comment on the remarks made by the Awami League GS, saying he would react to the comments only after the six-day mourning of the AL.

"None should make remarks that mar such solemn programmes," he added.

The Jatir Pitar Mrittyu Barshiki Palon-O-Smriti Rakha Committee (National Mourning Committee) has charted a six-day programme at Tungipara marking the death anniversary of Bangabandhu. Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the programmes on Tuesday.

The functions, to last until August 15—the day Mujib was killed in a military putsch in 1975—include milad mahfils, feeding the destitute and discussions.

Hasina, accompanied by nearly all the central leaders of the Awami League, placed wreaths at the mazar of her father and offered فاتحہ.

Dr Kamal Hossain, poet Sufia Kamal, former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain, poet Shamsur Rahman, Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Rehman Sobhan, M R Akhtar Mukul and Dr Tofazzal Karim are expected to take part in the discussions at Tungipara on Saturday and Sunday.

CPB (reformist) president Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, NAP General Secretary Pankaj Bha-

Dr Kamal, allies study draft on politics, economy

By Staff Correspondent

A 'mini-convention' organised by the preparatory committee for the Grand National Convention of Dr. Kamal Hossain and his allies, began discussion on a draft document on the country's political and economic situation.

The two-day mini-convention began yesterday afternoon at a Motijheel restaurant with convenor of the preparatory committee Dr Kamal Hossain in the chair.

About 200 delegates, including representatives from 60 districts, and leaders of the CPB (reformist), NAP, JSD (Siraj), Gano Azadi League and some other parties, attended the meeting. Some individuals were also invited to attend the mini-convention.

The meeting is expected to exchange views and discuss the floating of a new political party during the forthcoming three-day Grand National Convention beginning in Dhaka August 27.

In his introductory speech, Dr Kamal said that the National Convention should come out with specific guidelines to cure the country's 'sick' politics and give the people a sense of direction at this critical juncture.

CPB (reformist) president Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, NAP General Secretary Pankaj Bha-

Call to resist communal, terrorist groups

From Our Correspondent

TUNGIPARA (Gopalganj), Aug 12: Speakers on the third day of a week-long series of discussions in observance of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's 18th death anniversary here called for resisting the communal and terrorist groups with a view to establishing rule of law in the country.

For the establishment of rule of law, they said, the Constitution must be free from all kinds of black laws, including the Indemnity Act.

Held at the G P High School ground under the chairmanship of Sheikh Abdullah, the meeting was addressed by former Justice K M Sobhan, Prof Kabir Choudhury, Abdul Kader Siddiqui BU, Prof Sirajul Islam Choudhury and others.

K M Sobhan, in his speech, remarked that the communal forces were holding the government hostage and were disturbing communal harmony in the society. These evil forces had emerged soon after Bangabandhu was murdered by 'the state-backed terrorists,' he said adding "Since then the law had not been allowed to take its own course."

Prof Kabir Choudhury said that the process of denying Bangabandhu's contributions started soon after his assassination. But none can suppress the fact that Bangabandhu is the architect of independent Bangladesh, he commented.

Teknaf-Cox's Bazar bus services suspended

By Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 12: Transport services between Teknaf and Cox's Bazar remained suspended for the third consecutive day following an untoward incident on August 10.

The trouble ensued after a local Awami League leader had an altercation with a member of the South Arakan Bus Owners' Association three days ago.

Following the incident, an agitated mob put up a barricade at Courtbari on the Teknaf-Cox's Bazar road, which was withdrawn following intervention of the Superintendent of Police.

Bus and coach owners have suspended their services demanding an 'unconditional apology' from the person involved and an end to the use of jeeps and minibuses for carrying passengers.

Thana Magistracy

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matter and formulate a policy in this regard.

When contacted, an authoritative source told The Daily Star that the Law Ministry was not in favour of reversing the decision of shifting the Thana Magistracies. The remaining four courts will be shifted to the District headquarters soon, said the source, adding that for the benefit of the people living in inaccessible areas and islands, the existing 12 Chowki Courts will remain.

These 12 courts are located in Fatikchhari, Razon, Rangunia, Swandip, Satkania, Patiya, Nabnagar, Durgapur, Bajitpur, Bhangra, Hattia, and Iswarganj.

The Chowki Courts in the remote places of the country had mainly civil jurisdiction over particular areas. But these were also empowered to try certain types of criminal cases.

Civil and Magistrate Courts at the thana level were set up by the Ershad regime with effect from 20 April, 1983.

Serbs threaten

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A United Nations spokesman in Sarajevo said that Serb forces were continuing to pull out from Mount Igman but were still present in large numbers on the hill overlooking the city.

Commander Barry Frewer told reporters: "We have confirmed they are continuing to withdraw. A number have withdrawn to Pale but there are still sizeable forces on Igman."

The United States warned on Wednesday that continued occupation of two strategic mountains by Bosnian Serbs could trigger NATO air strikes.

Meanwhile General Briquemont, met NATO officers in Italy today to discuss possible air strikes against rebel Serbs, Briquemont's chief General Jean Cot said.

Briquemont was visiting the NATO air base in Vicenza, Italy, for consultations on air raids.



Hawkers organised a 'mass hunger strike' in front of the National Press Club yesterday protesting their recent eviction from city streets. — Star photo

Nigerians start civil disobedience

LAGOS, Aug 12: Security forces patrolled near-empty streets Thursday and helicopters hovered above Lagos, which was a virtual ghost town as people stayed home to protest the military dictatorship's refusal to relinquish power, reports AP.

Human rights groups called the three-day general strike, beginning Thursday, to oppose the government of Gen Ibrahim Babangida, who voided the June 12 presidential election that was to return Nigeria to civilian rule after a decade of military dictatorship.

Businesses were closed and streets were deserted in the nation's biggest city, home to more than 6 million people and a normally bustling place with all-day traffic jams.

Thousands of police and troops combed the city and guarded highway bridges, but there was no immediate repeat of the ferocious rioting that broke out last month during a similar three-day protest. More than 100 people reportedly died in Lagos during the unrest.

At least three people carrying anti-government signs were ar-

rested early Thursday after they tried to set fire to a pile of tires, but no other incidents were immediately reported.

Government-controlled radio threatened people by reporting in its morning newscast that several companies planned to fire employees who took part in the strike.

But compliance appeared total, although some people might have stayed home out of fear of more violence. Even federal government buildings were deserted. Foreign embassies also were closed.

The situation was similar in Ibadan, a city of nearly 1 million people about 60 miles (100 kilometres) to the north. But it was unclear whether people were participating in the strike in other parts of the nation, where tribal rivalries usually transcend political disputes.

Lagos and Ibadan are hotbeds of anti-Babangida sentiment. "This is just the beginning," said Clement Nwankwo, head of the Constitutional Rights Project, one of the 41 groups that called the strike.

"If President Ibrahim Babangida does not leave as he has repeatedly told the world he will, then he should be ready for a full challenge from civil society."

The French newspaper Humanite reported Thursday that Babangida is having his Riviera villa spruced up in anticipation of self-exile in France.

Two swimming pools and a tennis court are being built at the villa north of Cannes, the Communist Party newspaper, said.

The French Foreign Ministry said Babangida has not requested a visa.

Rallies banned at Jinnah's mazar

KARACHI, Aug 12: Karachi authorities today banned Independence Day rallies at the mausoleum of Pakistan's founder Mohammed Ali Jinnah, reports Reuters.

Former Prime Ministers Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto, the chief rivals in elections scheduled for October 6, had both planned to stage rallies there on Saturday.

The Midnight File

Tajik-Afghan summit

DUSHANBE (Tajikistan), Aug 12: Tajikistan and Afghanistan agreed today that their leaders would hold a summit meeting to resolve a conflict over their border but talks with Tajik rebels failed to free five hostages. Anatoly Chechulin, commander of Russian troops guarding the border, told journalists the first stage of negotiations to free the captive soldiers, four Russians and a Kazakh, had been unsuccessful, reports Reuter.

Karadzic denies report

GENEVA, Aug 12: Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic denied an Austrian news report today that he had threatened to launch nuclear strikes on Europe if the West intervened militarily in Bosnia. "He said nothing of the kind," his spokesman Jovan Zametica told reporters in Geneva, where Karadzic met international mediators at talks on the ethnic division of Bosnia, reports Reuter.

JP dissident demands council session

By Staff Correspondent

A dissident member of the Jatiya Party yesterday demanded holding of a council session of the party in a bid to defuse the present 'tense situation' inside the party.

M Sajjad Hossain, ex-Joint Organising Secretary of the party, at a press conference at the National Press Club, said that a large section of the leaders and workers were fed up with the present leadership who were making the party a B-team of the Awami League.

Sajjad Hossain has recently been relieved of his responsibility by acting chief of the party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury.

Replying to a question regarding his locus standi vis-a-vis holding a press conference, he said that he had consulted a number of leaders before meeting the journalists.

He said Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Razia-Faiz, Maj (Ret'd) Manzur Kader and Golam Sarwar Milon were all in favour of holding an immediate national council of the party.

Moudud Ahmed and Moazzem Hossain, when contacted declined to comment.

Shalikhshvili to succeed Powell

WASHINGTON, Aug 12: US President Bill Clinton will nominate Army General John Shalikhshvili to succeed General Colin Powell as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation's highest military post, administration sources said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

JS body

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The members of the parliamentary committee showed keen interest in different aspects of map-making and expressed their confidence in the present working arrangements of the project.

The Foreign Minister informed the Parliament members, that the project, when completed, would totally revolutionise the mapping system of Bangladesh and replace the existing maps which were prepared in 1911 by the then Surveyor General of British India.

Abdus Samad Azad MP, and Tofael Ahmed MP of the Awami League, Major (Ret'd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed MP, Mohammad Shahjahan Omar MP, and Mohammed Ali Jinnah MP of the BNP were present.

BDR firing incident

Probe body records testimony

By Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 12: The judicial enquiry committee, formed in connection with the BDR firing incident in which five villagers were shot at Teikhat of Jakiganj thana, began its work yesterday.

The commission recorded the testimony of three eye-witnesses at the Sylhet circuit House yesterday.

The commission will also visit the place of occurrence for taking testimony of spot witnesses.

The one-man commission, formed with Anwarul Haq, District and Sessions Judge, Kishoreganj, will stay in Sylhet till August 16, an official source informed.

Special Drive for Gas Line Disconnection of All Defaulting Consumers Including Govt & Autonomous Establishments

With a view to realising the arrears, the special drive for gas line disconnection of all defaulting consumers, including govt & autonomous establishments, has been started from 31-7-93. In this first special drive of 1993-94 financial year, total 01 industrial, 06 commercial, 401 domestic (982 kitchens) connections have been disconnected up to 11-8-93.

All esteemed consumers are requested to pay the arrear gas bills immediately and show the payment receipt to the disconnection squad on the place of gas use. On production of the bill payment receipt by the disconnected consumer at the concerned zone/office of the company by 7-00 pm on the day, steps will be taken for immediate restoration of his line.

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