

Dhaka ratifies sci-tech accord with Islamabad

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh has ratified the bilateral agreement of cooperation on science and technology signed with Pakistan last year.

The agreement is the third of its kind Dhaka has signed so far. Previously, Bangladesh concluded two similar agreements with China and India, in 1978 and 1982 respectively.

The agreement with Pakistan, signed on 10 August 1992 in Islamabad during Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's visit, will be effective for five years from the date of exchange of notes between the two governments, which is expected soon.

The purpose of the accord is to promote cooperation between the two countries relating to scientific and technological information, industrial research and also with regard to electronics, silicon and food processing technology.

Under the agreement, Bangladesh and Pakistan will undertake joint research projects of common interest while exchange of visits by the scientists and technologists of the two countries will also be arranged. The agreement provides holding of seminars and workshops on scientific issues jointly by Dhaka and Islamabad.

After the completion of each term, the agreement will be automatically renewed for another five years unless annulled by either side with a year's notice.

Bangladesh signed her first bilateral cooperation pact on science and technology in 1978 with China which was renewed

A protocol initialled under it provided opportunities for cooperation in the fields of agriculture, livestock, fishery, poultry, forestry, medical science, nuclear science and technology, jute production and bio-technology.

Sources in the ministry concerned said 90 per cent of the programmes under the first protocol with China have already been implemented while the second protocol is expected to be concluded before the end of the year.

Another cooperation agreement on science and technology between Bangladesh and India was signed in 1982 followed by a protocol in July 1991. The protocol provides for exchange of scientific and technical information as well as exchange of visits by scientists, researchers, experts and students of the two countries.

The provision for joint studies to explore natural resources and holding of joint seminars on scientific and technological matters have also been incorporated in the protocol. However, the protocol is yet to reach the implementation stage.

Bangladesh has cultural agreements with some 30 countries most of which also provide for cooperation in science and technology. But, the provisions under the existing cultural agreements have hardly contributed to promoting bilateral scientific and technological cooperation, informed sources said.

Rao to enforce caste-based job quota plan

Pabna JCD gheraos DC's office

NEW DELHI, Sept 9: Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's government has announced it will enforce a controversial caste-based job quota plan that sparked a rash of student suicides when it was unveiled in 1990, reports AFP.

After keeping the issue on the back-burner for more than two years, the Congress (I) Party administration said it was accepting the plan, reserving nearly half of government employment for 'socially backward' sections.

A notification released by the department of personnel increased by 27 per cent to 49.5 per cent with immediate effect.

Pragati Insurance

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should be no difference of value and standard between the shares of the entrepreneurs and the public, therefore selling of the primary shares at a premium to the public is undesirable," the letter pointed out.

It also said, "Thus the part of our letter referred above (issued on 14.8.93) which approved the selling of Tk 3,05,00,000 to the public at the rate of 50 per cent premium has been suspended." The SEC also requested Pragati to correct the original prospectus and immediately publish that in a daily newspaper. It said, the corrected prospectus must offer the public the shares at Tk 100 each.

According to the insurance rules, all companies at the time of starting business fulfilled the conditions of the law that says Tk 3 crore of the paid-up capital would be fully subscribed by the sponsors. Subsequently, if any company sold shares in excess of Tk 3 crore, it may be regarded as violating the condition of registration by the Controller of Insurance.

In the middle of last month, the government had ordered 14 insurance companies to issue long-overdue public subscriptions, as required by the Insurance Act, by October 31 next.

The Controller of Insurance, in a letter, asked the 14 companies to conform with the regulations and float public shares by the end of October.

The law lays down that 50 per cent of the paid-up capital of an insurance company has to be allotted for subscription of public shares and offered within three years of its inception.

Izetbegovic rebuffed

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don't think that the United States can simply impose an element like that," he told reporters in an Oval office picture-taking session at the start of his meeting.

Izetbegovic said after his meeting that Clinton told him the United States was not ready for 'unilateral' air strikes but that the strikes were not excluded by NATO.

The United States has urged Bosnian Serbs and Croats to yield more territory to the Muslims in talks over partitioning the republic which were suspended last week in Geneva.

Izetbegovic said he felt confident the United States would use its 'big influence' to ensure the Muslims get a 'fair map' in the negotiations.

The peacekeeping force would be used to enforce a peace agreement which Clinton said must be fair and not forced on the Muslims, who have lost ground constantly during the 17-month civil war.

Senior officials said the administration's insistence that US troops deployed in Bosnia come under NATO command was due to problems encountered with the UN force in Somalia.

State Department spokes-

man Mike McCurry stressed that Washington would have to know more about the final peace settlement before the exact nature and extent of the US commitment could be determined.

McCurry stressed the US view that Bosnian Muslims should return to the bargaining table with Serbs and Croats. He acknowledged that Muslims face 'grim choices' in deciding whether to accept the peace agreement being negotiated in Geneva, or continue their civil war.

Clinton said last week that air strikes were an option he would consider if conditions worsen in Bosnia.

Abiola returns home Sunday

LAGOS, Sept 9: Moshood Abiola, the man widely believed to have won Nigeria's annulled presidential election, will return home on Sunday from a prolonged tour during which he has been lobbying for foreign support, his deputy said. "We decided that it is time he should return home," Baba Gana Kingibe, Abiola's running mate in the June 12 election told Reuters today.

He was addressing a meeting with the tribal leaders of the Rangamati Hill District held at the conference room of the Local Government Council Wednesday.

The Minister who is also the convener of the special committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts said the government of Begum Khaleda Zia had shown every sincerity to put an end to the ongoing state of affair in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

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