

Take up viable project, PM tells NASIB team

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday asked all concerned to identify the priority areas in the small and cottage industries sector and take up viable projects by minimising administrative and infrastructural expenses, reports UNB.

Care should be taken to avoid heavy administration which hinders progress and growth of any sector, she said.

Begum Zia was addressing a delegation of National Association of Small and Cottage Industries of Bangladesh (NASIB) who called on her at the Prime Minister's office in the afternoon.

The Prime Minister said that while identifying the priority industries, consideration should be given to dairy, poultry, pisciculture, horticulture and flower cultivation in the backdrop of the country's socio-economic needs.

Linkage industries like fish, cattle and chicken feed should be developed to cater to domestic needs, save foreign currency and create employment opportunities, she added.

Referring to the existing credit facilities to small and cottage industries, the Prime Minister stressed the need for proper implementation of the

interest rate which has been reduced by the present government to attract entrepreneurs.

She also emphasised proper marketing facilities for the products of this sector.

The delegation apprised the Prime Minister of various problems faced by the small and cottage industries and urge her to raise the ceiling of investment to Tk 10 lakh from the existing Tk 4 lakh. They also suggested extension of special facilities to underdeveloped areas.

Begum Zia assured of all possible steps to solve the problems.

Police denies any drowning

By Staff Correspondent

A Fire Service salvage team yesterday recovered only a broken loudspeaker from a lake in Madhubagh, Maghbazar, in the city where a boat carrying a picnic party of around two dozen people got entangled with a live electric wire Friday.

Police confirmed that no one was drowned.

Of the ten people who received electric shock and were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, seven were discharged yesterday after treatment.

Self-rule deal Monday

From Page 1 Col 4 Christopher telephoned Rabin early this morning and invited him to attend the signing ceremony at the White House. "I am confirming the fact that Rabin will be flying to Washington to participate in the ceremony on the White House lawn on Monday," Ben-Ari said.

He said Rabin, accompanied by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, would leave Israel for Washington on Sunday.

In Tunis, Arafat's aide Hakan Balawi announced that the PLO chairman would also go to Washington for the signing ceremony.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat will lead the PLO's delegation which will go to Washington to sign the peace deal for the Palestinian said, Balawi told Reuters.

Arafat will fly to Washington tomorrow.

Rabin and Arafat are due to sign an agreement for early Palestinian autonomy in part of the territories Israel occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

Under the agreement, Israel will withdraw first from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The meeting between Rabin and Arafat will be the first official meeting between the two leaders, Israel radio said.

Arafat told Israeli reporters in Tunis on Friday that there was no truth to reports that he had met secretly with Rabin in the past, the radio said.

US President Bill Clinton announced in Washington on Friday that the United States would resume contacts with the PLO and host the ceremony.

"Today marks the dawning of a new era," Clinton said in a Rose Garden statement.

Now there is an opportunity to define the future of the Middle East in terms of reconciliation and coexistence and the opportunities that children growing up there will have, whether they are Israeli or Palestinian.

Within hours of his announcement of a resumed dialogue with the PLO, Clinton telephoned from his presidential jet to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

He later had a brief conversation with Jordan's King Hussein, a White House spokesman said.

The White House said it had invited more than 1,000 people to the signing of the peace accord between Israel and the PLO. Five former US presidents are included in the guest list.

While flying from Washington to an event in California, Clinton spoke from Air Force one with his predecessors and asked them to attend the signing ceremony.

Former presidents Jimmy Carter and George Bush — who both spearheaded efforts that produced breakthroughs in Middle East peace efforts — accepted the invitations.

Gerald Ford said he could

Dhaka hails

From Page 1 Col 4 to Palestinians. The autonomy accord is set for signing in Washington on Monday.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman said, "The dramatic development will not only help establish a durable peace in the Middle East but also consolidate international peace and security."

The Foreign Minister referred to Bangladesh's active role and firm stand in international fora for regaining the homeland of the Palestinians and withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories, including the holy city of Jerusalem.



Deputy Leader of the House Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury and his Opposition counterpart Abdus Samad Azad during a discussion meeting on reasons and solutions for backwardness of education in Bangladesh, organised by the Bangladesh Literacy Samiti in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

MP accuses ministers

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League Member of Parliament (MP) Mirza Azam has demanded removal of LGDR and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus, Salam Talukder and Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haque, accusing both of being corrupt.

Addressing a news conference in the Jatiya Sangsad office of the Opposition Chief Whip yesterday afternoon, Azam further alleged that the two ministers, by abusing their powers, were harassing him and repressing AL leaders and workers in his Jamalpur-3 constituency and also threatening their lives.

The AL MP also demanded immediate scrapping of the Anti-Terrorism Act, which he said, was being used by the ruling party leaders against their opponents in the AL.

The AL legislator charged that the two ministers started filing 'false' cases against him after he raised different issues relating to corruption and irregularities by them in the House.

Elaborating his allegations, the AL MP said a warrant of ar-

rest and an order for confiscation of property were issued against him following an 'unfounded' case of misusing corrugated tin sheets last July 15. "However, the court granted me bail, which infuriated Salam Talukder. He lodged four more cases under the Anti-Terrorism Act on baseless charges," he remarked.

Moreover, the declaration of the 'Weekly Jamalpur', owned by Azam, was cancelled on August 22 because of the magazine's role in revealing misdeeds of the ministers, he said.

The AL MP said cases under the Anti-Terrorism Act were filed against 28 leaders and workers including himself in connection with the observance of a half-day hartal called by his party on August 15.

Azam blamed Salam Talukder for patronising the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Madarganj thana who, he said, was harassing the local AL workers and his own family members.

"All these heinous acts were being done by using the local administration to belittle and defame me," he claimed.

Clinton stressed that his administration would try to extend the breakthrough on the Palestinian front to Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon, the other two Arab countries in the Middle East peace talks.

Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers

shot dead two Palestinians and wounded at least 10 others during clashes in the West Bank with demonstrators protesting against the PLO-Israeli accord, medical workers said.

The deaths in the town of Ramallah were the first since Israel and the PLO agreed to recognize each other.

Nidal Abul Al, 21, was hit in the heart and Iyad Abdel Tamimi in the head as troops opened fire after being stoned by demonstrators, witnesses said. They died on their way to hospital.

The army declared the area a closed military zone.

The Islamic resistance movement Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine called the protest against the autonomy deal.

Air services

From Page 1 Col 8

Dhaka. The abandoned airstrips at Comilla and Feni can also be used for the purpose after some repair, the source said.

Biman's domestic network covers Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, Jessor, Rajshahi and Sylhet.

The state-owned national airlines, which has been incurring huge losses in its domestic operations, is not in a position to expand its services within the country, the source said.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism some time ago proposed the government permit the private sector to operate STOL and even helicopter services on the more remote routes.

The Cabinet, in a meeting last month, only approved the introduction of STOL services in the private sector and not the helicopter service since, according to the policy-makers, this might create various problems which would be difficult to handle under the present circumstances.

Muggers snatch Tk 1.70 lakh

By Staff Correspondent

A group of muggers snatched a sum of Tk 1 lakh 70 thousand at gunpoint from a garments factory at Bijoynagar in the city yesterday morning.

A pedestrian, Abdul Matin, 45, received a bullet injury in his leg when the armed bandits fired while fleeing with the booty.

According to sources, six youngmen attacked Altaf, the manager of Eastern Garments at Bijoynagar, where he was getting out of a microbus near his office at about 10:45 yesterday morning.

Altaf was returning from a bank at Motijheel with Tk 2 lakh 73 thousand for the salary of the office employees, sources said.

The House will nominate a panel of chairmen to preside over the sittings of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS)'s eleventh session in absence of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

Adoption of condolence resolution.

Introduction of four ordinances in the House by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz.

The secretariat also received six private members bills and 2,402 questions from MPs of both Treasury and Opposition benches.

Meanwhile the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the largest opposition in Parliament the Awami League (AL) held meetings of their respective parliamentary wings yesterday afternoon.

The MPs of different parties separately discussed their strategies for the session regarding different socio-political and economic issues.

The BNP Parliamentary Party, however, sat for less than half an hour and discussed the proposed District Council Bill, 1992.

Presided over by Prime Minister and Leader of the House Prof. Begum Khaleda Zia, the meeting resolved to sit again within the next two or three days.

According to sources in the BNP, the Prime Minister asked her party MPs to do their

JP (N) committee

From Page 1 Col 8 (Shamim), Kazi Nurur Rahman, Korban Ali, former State Minister for Inland Water Transport and Shipping, Hasina Banu Shirin, former Whip, SK Wahidul Islam, ex-MP, Manirul Islam Munir, Azzul Haque and Ali Afzal.

JP (N) sources said more names would be added to the lists later.

The Central Committee has announced coordinators for the five divisions of the country, which are as follows:

Dhaka Division: Former MPs Principal Abdur Rouf Khan, Almas Hossain, Ali Osman Khan, Nuresh Maksud; Fakhruddin Islam and Harun-ur-Rashid. Deserted JP leaders Chowdhury Abdul Mannan, Golam Moshi, Sharifuddin Khan, Mukul, Helaluddin Ahmed, Moshabuddin Khan, Noorjahan Kamal, Syed Hafizur Rahman and MA Hakim have also been included as coordinators for the Dhaka Division.

Rajshahi Division: Iqbal Hassan Mahmud, ex-MP, Maj (retd) Asgar Ali Khan, ex-MP, A Jalil Pradhan, ex-MP, Salim Sarder, former Deputy Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation, Feroza Zaman, ex-MP, Kamal Haider, ex-MP, Abdul Hye Khan and Akteruzzaman Khokon.

Chittagong Division: Syed Mohammad Kayes, former State Minister, Abdul Wadud Khan, ex-MP, Dr. Nurul Alam, Maj (retd) Sirajul Islam, Kazi Straj, Haji Salahuddin and Wahed Asghar Chowdhury.

Khulna and Barisal Divisions: Nazimuddin al-Azad, for-

BL College closed

KHULNA, Sept 11: Authorities today closed the BL University College for five days to avoid clash between the Islamists Chhatra Shibir and Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal, reports UNB.

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