



42 entrepreneurs apply for launching banks

By Staff Correspondent

Some 42 applications have been submitted to the Ministry of Finance seeking permission to launch private banks. Parliament was informed yesterday during the question-answer session.

In reply to a question from Shahiduzzaman (Naogaon-2), Finance Minister M Saffur Rahman said that so far, 11 private banks have been permitted to operate in the country and the government is studying the pending proposals.

The name of the proposed banks and applicants are: The Eastern Commercial Bank Ltd, S M A Mannan, House-77, Road-6, Old DOHS, Banani, Dhaka; Markentile Bank Ltd, Nurul Islam, 139, Motijheel C/A; Masud Bank, 61, Motijheel C/A; Bangladesh National Investment Bank, Abul Kashem, 18, Purana Paltan; Prime Bank Ltd, M A Khaleq, Rajuk Annex building, Dhaka; Bank of South Asia, Feroz Haider, Hong Kong; Sundarban Bank, M Habibullah Bahar, 50, Alaul Avenue, Uttara; South Asiat Bank, Aminul Islam, Dhanmondi, Dhaka; Bangladesh Social Investment Bank, Dr M Abdul Mannan, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; Palli Unnayan Bank, Nurul Huq Chowdhury, 65/66, Motijheel, Dhaka; The Capital Bank Ltd, Abdul Alim Khan, 29, BB Avenue; Bidesh Bangladesh Bank, Kazi Enam Uddin Ahmed, Motijheel; The Multi Credit, Dr A N M Montaz Uddin Chowdhury, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A; Bangladesh Central Cooperative Bank, M A Kabir Khan, 3, Ahsanullah Road, Dhaka; Royal Bank Ltd, Momin

Ali, 94, Motijheel, Dhaka; Hajj Bank, A K M Shamsul Alam, 9/F, Motijheel C/A; Alrazi Commercial Foreign Exchange, Shaker M N Rajkhan, Jeddah; Hajj Bank, Junayed Kader, Gulshan, Dhaka; Islami Commercial and Industrial Leasing Co, Shamsul Alam, Motijheel; Islamic International Bank, A M Ilias Khan, 145, Motijheel; Self-Employment Cooperative Commercial Credit Ltd, Deen Mohammad Bhuiyan, 56-57, Motijheel; Dhaka Bank Ltd, Abdul Hye Sarker, Sena Kallyan Bhaban; Commerce Bank Ltd, Sheikh Akizuddin, 65-66, Motijheel; National Commercial Bank, Khan Mohammad Iqbal, Gulshan; National Commercial Bank, Muksed Ali, 94, Motijheel; BRAC Bank, F H Abed, 66, Mohakhali, Dhaka; BCI Fazlul Kader, 117/1, Dawn Chamber, Narayanganj; Euro-Asia Bank, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Sena Kallyan Bhaban, Dhaka; Bangladesh Housing Finance Co, Derek Ily Jpde, Motijheel; Chartered Mercantile Bank, Kazi Shamsul Huq, Gulshan; Islamic Commercial Cooperative Bank Ltd, Md Motinuddin; Swift Exchange Co Ltd, Shariful Islam Rajarbagh; Exim Bank, Shahjahan Chowdhury, 60, Purana Paltan; Khudra Shipila Bank, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Society; People's Commercial Bank, Rahimuddin Bharsa, 39, Dilkusha; Industrial Finance Bank, Abdul Kader, 145, Motijheel; Import-Export and Credit Bank, A K Ashrafuddin Ahmed, Rampura; Northern Bank Ltd, Amirul Islam, 8, Banani, Dhaka.

Letter to Hasina not censored, JS told

Post, T and T Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that no letter written to Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina had been censored rather letter addressed to her had been delivered very promptly on the day of its receipt, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Awami League member Mizanur Rahman Manu, Islam brushed aside the allegation that the letter of the Leader of the Opposition had been censored and said no such incident happened, and such allegation was totally false and baseless.

The minister said the Leader of the Opposition had never lodged any complaint to the ministry rather soon after the publication of such a report in the Daily Khabar on July 11, 1993, the ministry enquired into the matter finding it totally baseless and false.

Islam said the allegation of delayed delivery of letters written to Sheikh Hasina because of security checkings and censoring was ridiculous.

He said letters addressed to her Mintu Road and Dhanmondi residences had been very promptly delivered to her on the day of receipt through GPO and Zigatata post offices respectively.

Islam pointed out that the Leader of the Opposition had not given the cover of the said letter for the purpose of enquiry by the Postal Department but the photocopy of the said letter preserved at the Awami League office very clearly showed that there was no stamp on it, no seal of any Bangladesh post office or Nepalese post office though there was a sealed address of Rashtriya Prajatantra Party, Central Office, Katmandu-2028, Nepal.

3 student bodies unite against Shibir at SSMC

By SSMCH Correspondent

Three student's organisations jointly announced their resolve to prevent all activities of the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on the Sir Salimullah Medical College campus in the city yesterday.

The ruling BNP's student front the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) and the Bangladesh Chhatra Union, at a joint meeting on the college campus, took this decision.

They also formed a nine-member steering committee to resist the activities of the pro-Jamaat Shibir.

JCD, BCL continue strike in CU

CHITTAGONG, Sept 22: The first day of the indefinite strike in Chittagong University, enforced by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Awami League-backed Chhatra League, passed off peacefully today, reports UNB.



Pop star Michael Jackson listening to a female Israeli officer during his visit to an army base near Tel Aviv yesterday shortly before his departure for Turkey — AFP photo

Yeltsin in control

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Foreign Economics Minister Sergei Glaziev submitted his resignation, calling Yeltsin's decree unconstitutional.

A political rival, Vice President Alexander Rutskoi, tried to grab the reins of power but appeared to be failing as military and police commanders remained loyal to Yeltsin.

"The state is in danger. Resolute actions are needed. This clique is not going to go away easily because they understand they will have to answer to the people and to justice," Rutskoi told some 5,000 supporters outside Parliament on Wednesday.

The anti-Yeltsin crowd chanted, "Rutskoi be brave, drive Boris away."

But there appeared to be little public reaction to the dramatic struggle, with life in Moscow and other major cities going on normally even as the two sides broadcast duelling views on radio and TV.

Rutskoi's main hope was in some of Russia's far-flung regions, such as the vital oil-producing Tyumen district of Siberia, where his supporters threatened to strike. Late Wednesday, there was no word on the success of their efforts.

After Yeltsin's television appearance Tuesday night, about 150 lawmakers rushed to their headquarters and immediately voted to impeach Yeltsin and

What next?

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uncertain futures in a shrinking army, and ambitious regional leaders who want to wrest more authority from Moscow.

Unpredictable events, such as street violence or a crippling strike, could throw the balance either way.

Yeltsin's television address dissolving parliament Tuesday capped an 18-month power struggle with lawmakers who want to slow the transition to a free market, prop up state industries, and pursue a more nationalist foreign policy.

Vice President Alexander Rutskoi and the hard-line parliament already have set up a shadow government that will try to take power in the days and weeks ahead.

Yeltsin's prime minister promised on nationwide television that police would maintain public order, but "any use of force is ruled out." If so, the two parallel governments may coexist for some time, issuing contradictory orders and vying for legitimacy.

Ironically the result could be a worsening, at least temporarily, of the paralysis of government that Yeltsin set out to fix. Some steps Yeltsin's opponents will take are already clear:

— They will attempt to convene the full parliament, or Congress of People's Deputies, despite Yeltsin's ban. Short of force, he has no way to stop them.

— They may try to block Yeltsin from holding elections to a new parliament in December, both by ordering regional officials not to set up polling stations and by calling for a voter boycott. They could also launch a counter offensive and call new presidential elections.

— Rutskoi, a retired Air Force general and Afghanistan war hero, will use his military connections to seek support in the officer corps. If even a small number of troops goes over to his side, Yeltsin may be unable to disperse the parliament without risking bloodshed.

— Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov has appealed for a nationwide strike and is looking for allies in regional parliaments.

Last April's nationwide referendum and more recent opinion polls indicate that Yeltsin is more popular than the parliament. But Rutskoi and Khasbulatov probably can count on at least 20 per cent of the population — the percentage that describes itself as "highly dissatisfied" with Yeltsin, according to Yuri Levada, one of Russia's leading pollsters.

Yeltsin usually gets staunch support from about 35 per cent, but his popularity tends to rise in crises and decisive moments, replace him with Rutskoi. Rutskoi's first decree nullified Yeltsin's action and ordered all government leaders to obey him and the parliament.

Hasina seeks 'doa' of countrymen

Sheikh Hasina, chief of the Bangladesh Awami League and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, is now under complete supervision of the doctors of the National University Hospital of Singapore, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina has sought doa of the countrymen for her early recovery from the illness.

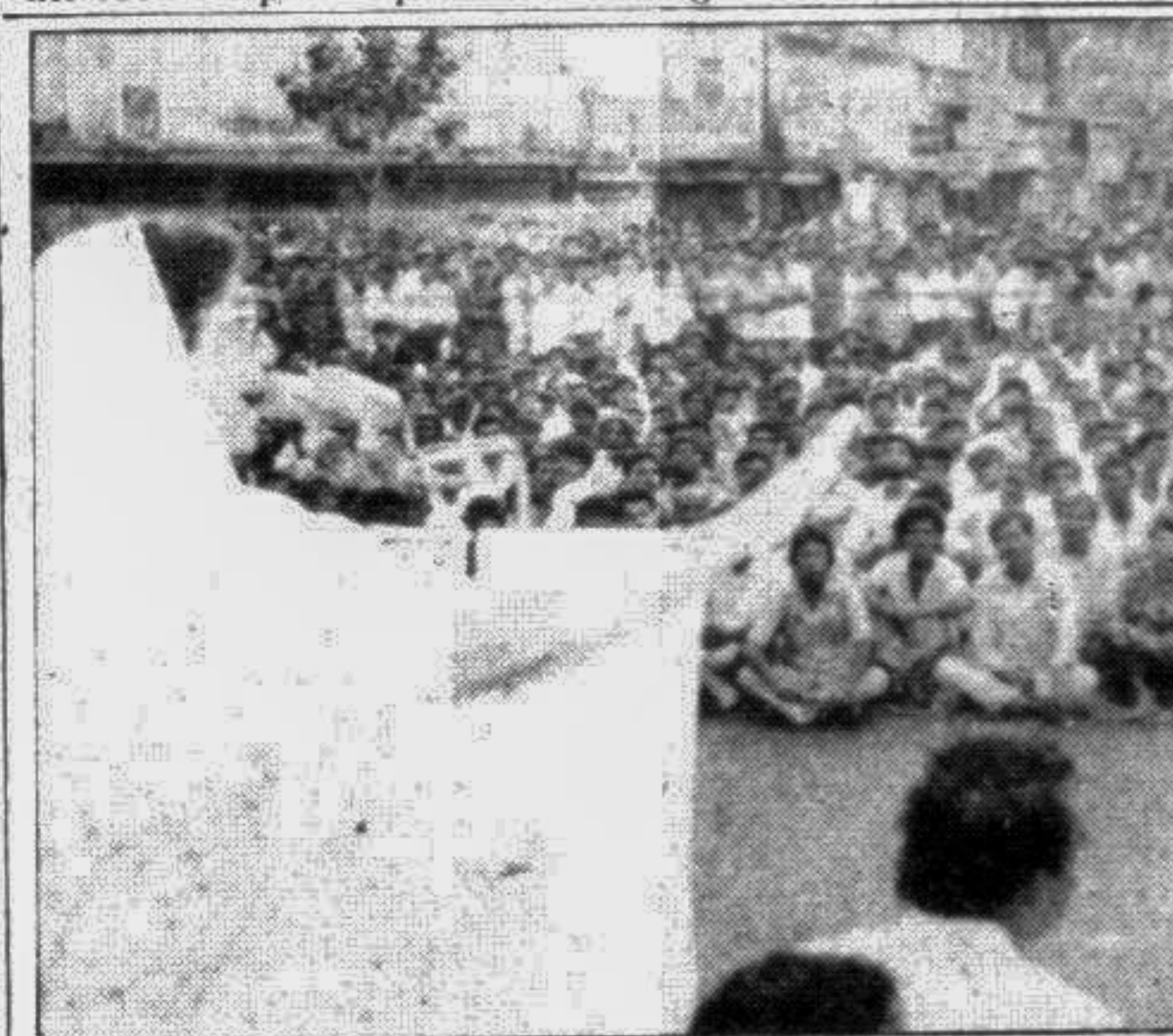
More 10 yrs RI for Mokim Gazi

Mokim Gazi, a notorious dacoit, and his two accomplices were sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment here yesterday for committing robbery, reports UNB.

The new sentence on Mokim Gazi alias Motin Gazi, 40, adds up to a total punishment of 71 years in four cases. Twenty-three cases had been filed against him.

The court also fined him and co-accused Lutfur Rahman Arju and Ripon alias Mohan to pay Tk 5,000 each in default to suffer another one year RI.

Assistant Sessions Judge Krishna Debnath pronounced the judgement after examining eight witnesses.



Jahanara Imam addressing a gathering of the Nirmul Committee at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Ban communal politics

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House will not be sufficient," remarked Hasan Imam, stressing on proper implementation of such a legislation.

From the hastily erected dais, the Nirmul leaders urged all to resist the Jamaat-Shibir forces in every walk of life.

Educational institutions, localities and mosques should be cleared of the Jamaat-Shibir activists, who are threats to democracy, humanity and national development, the meeting urged.

Slaying the killing of student Zubayer Chowdhury Rimu at the Rajshahi University, Abdur Razzak, MP said, "Barbaric killings like this cannot be Islamic as preached by the Jamaat-e-Islam."

"Islam is a religion of peace and what the Jamaat practices is definitely not Islam," the



The mangled remains of the Pajero jeep which met with an accident near the Shanir Akhra in Demra, killing three of its occupants yesterday. — Star photo

AB Bank cuts lending rates

By Staff Correspondent

The Arab Bangladesh Bank Limited has reduced the interest rates on the commercial, industrial and export credits to between 10 and 15 per cent with effect from October 1, according to a press release.

The lending rates for export sector based on commodities have been refixed within the bands of 10 to 10.5 per cent, while the rates for industrial working capital will be between 11 and 14.5 per cent and for other commercial lending 15 per cent.

The decision of reducing the lending rate is being considered to be an outcome of the Bangladesh Bank's recent decision to reduce the bank rates to gear up economic activities in the country. Some other banks are also expected to take similar decisions, banking sources said.

Biman captain off-loads FAA instructor

By Staff Correspondent

An American instructor was off-loaded from a flight to Kathmandu yesterday, jeopardising the Safety Emergency Procedure (SEP) being conducted for the pilots and cabin crew of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Biman officials said.

Trainer Capt Ralph Kohn was invited from the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to supervise the training programme but the captain of Biman's Kathmandu flight refused to take him without proper clearance.

Kohn has been given a No-sub or N-1 ticket by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) which permits him to travel in any of Biman's flights, the source added.

The SEP card is essential for flying in the United States and Biman is planning to start its New York flight as early as possible. Under the training, emergency landing skills of the crew members are examined.

The source said that Captain Kohn was very annoyed at the incident and lodged a complaint with the CAAB authorities to look into the matter.

Sources at the Bangladesh Airlines Pilots' Association (BAPA) told The Daily Star that the FAA instructor had no boarding card and went to the aircraft at the eleventh hour of the departure scheduled at 2:30 pm.

The captain of the F-28 aircraft was quoted by the BAPA officials as saying "No one can board an international flight without security and customs clearance."

UNICEF report

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UNDP Representative Dr Watanabe, in her speech, pointed out that the last development decade had witnessed a significant shift from economic development to social development as the key development indicator.

Development was once indicated by the wealth of the nations and now it is judged by the health of the nations, she said.

Earlier, a group of young crooners from different schools run by the NGOs rendered three songs on child rights.

Diplomats, members of Parliament, representatives of UN agencies and mediamen attended the function.

Progress Report of Bangladesh

Region: South Asia

GNP per capita 1991: US Dollar 220

Survival

Child mortality 1991: 133 per 1000 live births

Regional average: 131 per 1000

World average: 97 per 1000

Ranking in region: 4 of 6 nations with date

Nutrition

Expected child malnutrition: 33%

Actual child malnutrition: 69%

Malnutrition difference: 33% points

Ranking in region: 4 of 5 nations with data

Health

Children vaccinated: 53%

Regional average: 79%

World average: 77%

Ranking in region: 6 of 7 nations with data

Education

Children reaching grade 5: 47%

Regional average: 50%

World average: 68%

Ranking in region: 3 of 6 nations with data

Family Planning

Average births 1991: 4.8 per woman

Regional average: 4.4 per woman

World average: 3.4 per woman

Ranking in region: 3 of 6 nations with data

Progress for Women

Maternal deaths: 600 per 100,000

Regional average: 490 per 100,000

World average: 310 per 100,000

Ranking in region: 4 of 7 nations with data

Source: The Progress of Nations, 1993

The Midnight File

Pakistan to raise Kashmir issue at UNGA

ISLAMABAD, Sept 22: Pakistan is to raise the issue of Kashmir at the UN General Assembly and highlight what it views as serious human rights violations by Indian forces in the disputed state, a Foreign Office spokesman said today. UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali's recent remarks on the 40 year-old dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir reflected the international community's growing concern with the situation there, the spokesman said, reports AFP.

38 killed in US train mishap

SARALAND, Ala, Sept 22: An Amtrak train jumped the tracks on a bridge and plunged into a foggy bayou before daybreak Wednesday, trapping passengers in a submerged car and killing at least 38 people, authorities said. Fifteen others were missing, said Coast Guard Petty Officer David Schmidt, reports AP.

Georgian plane shot down

TBILISI, Georgia, Sept 22: Dozens of passengers were feared killed when a Georgian civilian plane carrying about 100 people was shot down near the besieged city of Sukhumi, presidential aides said. Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's press service would only confirm that 26 people, including six crew, escaped before the burning Tu-154 airliner exploded on the runway at Sukhumi Airport, reports Reuters.

Two DMP divisions inaugurated

Root out terrorism from campus, Matin asks police

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury yesterday asked police to root out terrorism from educational institutions and society at large, reports UNB.

He also urged the public to extend support and cooperation to the law enforcing agencies in ensuring peace and stability in the country.

The Home Minister's instruction came in the wake of a spate of violence, particularly the incidents at Rajshahi University and in Khulna which left three students dead and many injured.

Inaugurating the newly created two divisions — East and West — of Dhaka Metropolitan Police at the DMP headquarters, the minister underlined the need for maintaining law and order in the country to let democracy, development and production go unhindered.

He instructed the police personnel to effectively implement the measures the government had already taken.

He also told them to fulfil people's hopes and aspirations by ensuring safety and security of life and property. In this connection, he suggested a change in the old attitude of police personnel.

Chowdhury advised police to become "community-oriented and pro-people." He asked them to extend hands of friends and service to the people in need.

He said mutual trust, confidence and cooperation among the innocent and honest members of public and the police is the demand of time — it is the claim of new generation.

If they can fulfil this demand, they can win people's confidence, he said. Thus a crime-free society could be established easily, he opined.

"Nobody will be spared if found guilty of corruption and negligence in duty," he warned.

Border confce with Myanmar today

A six-member Bangladesh delegation, led by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Director General Major General Mohammad Anwar Hossain, leaves today for Myanmar capital Yangon to attend the Border Coordination Conference, beginning there today, reports BSS.

The Myanmar side will be headed by Major General Maung Aung, Director General, Immigration and Manpower Department.

Varsity teachers

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Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), the Chittagong University and the Shahjalal University in Sylhet.

The proctorial duties and scheduled examinations were exempted from the strike.

On the concluding day of the strike today the FBUTA will bring out a silent procession from the BUET campus and hold a grand rally at the TSC auditorium on the DU campus.

The FBUTA is demanding arrest and trial of the terrorists involved in the violence at the Islamic and the Jahangirnagar universities and withdrawal of 'false' cases against 10 JU teachers.

Today's FBUTA rally will declare its future course of action, sources said.

Urgent power suspension

As power will be suspended from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Maniknagar Grid Substation Bangabhaban Circuit-1 due to urgent maintenance work to be carried out by Grid Maintenance Divn., Dhaka South, PDB, power will be suspended at Purana Paltan, Motijheel Colony, Arambagh, Motijheel C.A. (partly), Fakirapool, Naya-Paltan, Abhoy Das Lane, R.K. Mission Road, Gopibagh, South Kamalapur through alternate arrangement. Power may remain suspended at the abovementioned areas if any fault occurs in the alternate power distribution system at the abovementioned time. The valued consumers are informed through this notification.

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035, GPO Box No. 3257, GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.