

'Economy will reflect positive impact of bank deregulation'

By Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Finance Mojibar Rahman yesterday said a positive impact of the deregulation of the banking sector would very soon be visible on the economy of the country.

He said the banks had already started to show dynamism in their activities as a result of the withdrawal of various controls. The anarchy in the banking sector had also been removed, he added.

The State Minister was inaugurating a seminar on 'Performance of Private Banks in Bangladesh' organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM).

The seminar, presided over by Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, was addressed, among others, by Director General of the BIBM AHM Nurul Islam Chowdhury. Editor of the yet to be published daily Financial Express Moazzem Hossain and Prof Habibur Rahman of the Dhaka University while five keynote papers were presented by Executive Director of the Bangladesh Bank Abdur Raquib, Managing Director of Janata Bank M Taheruddin, AHM Nurul Islam Chowdhury and Dr Toufique A Chowdhury, Abu Baker and Atiar Rahman Mollah and Deputy Executive President of the Islamic Bank Bangladesh Limited M Kamaluddin Chowdhury.

Mojibar Rahman said the government has introduced a free market economy in the country to protect the interests of the consumers through fair and healthy competition among the traders and entrepreneurs.

"We have been able to restore proper management and discipline in the banking sector which was shattered following violation of rules and regula-

tions during the last nine years of the autocratic regime," the State Minister said.

He, however, stressed the need for united efforts to achieve the desired goals as well as growth in the national economy.

Muzaffar Ahmed said black money is now dominant in the national economy because of the wrong policies of the previous governments.

Aurango's trial: Three PWs cross-examined

Three prosecution witnesses in the trial of Hema-yetullah Aurango, MP for the murder of a defence personnel were cross examined yesterday here in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Dhaka Ms Zinat Ara, reports BSS.

The court, on a prayer of the defence, allowed cross-examination and recorded the evidence. Re-examination was necessitated in view of the deposition and cross examination of an eyewitness in the murder which occurred in January, 1980.

Eye-witness is Golam Kibria Tipu, proprietor of the 'New Popular Workshop' situated behind the Sakura Restaurant at Paribagh, in the city the spot where DGFJ nak Ali Azam was gunned down on January 28, 1980, allegedly by Aurango.

Fifteen witnesses, including two from the defence, have been examined so far. The charge-sheet was completed on May 11, 1981.

The trial, however, remained adjourned for an indefinite period because Aurango, the lone accused, remained absconding.

Phoolan Devi suffers from cancer

NEW DELHI, Oct 13: Phoolan Devi, India's notorious 'Bandit Queen,' is suffering from cervical cancer, a newspaper reported Wednesday, says AFP.

Devi, who surrendered to the authorities in 1983 after a three-year-reign of terror, was diagnosed as having cancer following tests conducted here this week at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, The Hindu said.

Doctors decided that the former dacoit did not require hospitalisation and she was returned to New Delhi's maximum security Tihar central jail, it said.

Devi who has never revealed her age but is believed to be in her late thirties or early forties, has spent more than 10 years behind bars after giving herself up in return for assurances that she would not be hanged.

Devi, whose life has been the subject of several movies and books, took to the Chambal ravines in central India after gunning down 20 upper caste men to avenge her alleged rape by members of their community.

The khaki-clad outlaw with unruly hair tied in a red bandanna, sporting a bandolier across her chest and mouthing expletives has mellowed in prison and today resembles a typical Indian woman dressed in a saree, reports say.



India's notorious 'bandit queen' Phoolan Devi, who is currently in prison, was recently diagnosed as suffering from cervical cancer. This file photo shows Phoolan and her boyfriend Maan Singh (right) surrendering to the authorities in 1983. — AFP photo

3 Chinese held with fake US passports

By Staff Correspondent

Three Chinese nationals were held while trying to avail a flight to the United States from the Zia International Airport by using forged passports on Tuesday.

Immigration officials challenged the three accused who arrived from Hong Kong on October 7 and tried to board a Bangladesh Biman flight BG 001 using US passports on October 12.

The airport officials handed them over to the Cantonment Police after the US Embassy officials confirmed the passports were fake.

A case was lodged against the arrested Cheng V Shin, Lam C F and Fang F.

50 hurt

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Deputy Collector (Revenue), Khalequzzaman, Officer-in-Charge of Cox's Bazar Sadar police station Azizur Rahman, nine policemen, 15 women and scores of other villagers were injured during the two-hour clash.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, while on a visit here Aug 17, reportedly ordered the eviction of the illegal houses on the seafront and, accordingly, the villagers were given notice on September 27, said a government official.

The villagers demanded their rehabilitation prior to the eviction.

A non-government organization built some 300 houses at Darbarpara after the deadly cyclone hit the coastal belt on April 29, 1991 to rehabilitate the cyclone-victims.

WASA godown gutted in city

By Staff Correspondent

A godown in the office of an executive engineer of the WASA in the city's Segun Bagicha was gutted last night. Three firemen entered inside the godown after the flame was brought under control but became unconscious when heavy smoke engulfed the room. They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Fire Service official said. Fire broke out in the godown around 7 pm and firemen brought it under control within half an hour. Total loss and the cause of the fire could not be known immediately. Fire Service official said that the godown was under lock and key which it caught fire.

AL threatens

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met, we will call for resignation of the present government... we will also spell out a formula following the removal of the government."

The Opposition Chief Whip rejected outright the idea of a simultaneous agitation with the Jatiya Party. "We consider Ershad an autocrat who destroyed the democratic institutions and the economy of the country. Besides, the demands of the Jatiya Party and the Awami League are completely different."

Gunshots rock DU again

By DU Correspondent

Some unidentified youths fired at least seven gunshots near the Arts Faculty building of the Dhaka University yesterday afternoon causing panic on the campus after a relative quiet of several months. None was, however, hurt.

Israel, PLO open talks on terms for autonomy

CAIRO, Oct 13: The Israeli and PLO officials who signed a historic peace agreement a month ago opened talks Wednesday to agree on terms for limited Palestinian autonomy, reports AP.

Shimon Peres, Israel's foreign minister, and Mahmoud Abbas of the PLO shook hands for photographers and television cameras.

Peres and Abbas issued a statement after their two-hour meeting, saying they hoped to implement the unity accord "in letter and in spirit" within two months.

Peres said the two sides

ADB project

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aware of the allegations, but it is difficult for the Bank to go to individual thanas and check whether the criteria were fulfilled.

He, however, observed that the procedure of implementing the project must be improved to accelerate the implementation process.

Another official at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the delay in implementing the project was caused mainly by 'uneven' interferences by the division concerned of the ministry into the matters of the project administration. The project administration was constrained to take decisions and work independently because of the interference, he added.

The other components of the project, which was undertaken to reduce poverty, include training for about 1500 selected youth, specialised training for about 14000 project beneficiaries, in-service training of 655 project staff and field functionaries, micro-credit for beneficiaries for investment in livelihood facilities and institution-building to facilitate skill training.

Bonapartism

From Page 1 Col 7 parties should remain alert against the threat of Martial Law," he told PROBE. He did not, however, mention any particular party or group.

The private member's bill, submitted to the Parliament secretariat by Menon in 1991, has not yet been introduced in the House. The bill was apparently shelved when it was sent to the President for his approval.

That bill spelt out that taking over of power through unconstitutional means or any such action by suspending or abrogating the Constitution would be considered an act of treason. The proposed bill also seeks to prohibit further constitutional amendment to legalise any unconstitutional take-overs.

Though the government has remained silent on the issue for so long, an influential policy-maker told PROBE that the BNP now again felt the need to adopt the bill. The PM's aides were learnt to have discussed the matter with Menon. A minister also had talks with him on the issue when they went to Khagrachhari recently to attend a meeting with the Shantibahini leaders.

But it is still not clear whether the government will bring a new bill or pass the one submitted by Menon. If the President gives his assent, the bill will be sent to the parliamentary standing committee for scrutiny. Besides barring illegal take-

VCs thank PM for UNGA speech

The members of the Bangladesh Biswabiddalaya Parishad, an organisation of the university vice-chancellors, yesterday called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office, reports BSS.

The vice-chancellors congratulated the Prime Minister for her speech at the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly and said they felt proud of such a speech at the world body.

They discussed with the Prime Minister various activities of the universities, especially the academic system.

Two Americans win Nobel Prize for Physics

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Oct 13: Russel A Hulse and Joseph H Taylor Jr of Princeton University in the United States, won the Nobel Prize in Physics Wednesday, reports AP.

"They were honoured for the discovery of a new type of pulsar, a discovery that has opened new possibilities for the study of gravitation," said the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

American Kary Mullis and British born Canadian Michael Smith won the 1993 Nobel Chemistry Prize.

Sugar supply

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April next year. A total of 23,76,825 tonnes of sugarcane will be crushed this season with an expected sugar recovery of 8.6 per cent.

The 16 mills produced 1,87,483 tonnes sugar last year, which was 94 per cent of the target, with a recovery rate of 8.4 per cent.

The authorities hope to achieve the target fixed for the current season since there has been good cultivation of sugarcane this year — about 46 lakh tonnes more than the previous year.

Farmers will get Tk 37.50 per maund by selling sugarcane at the mill-gate while Tk 37 will be paid at the purchase centres located at remote areas. After February 15 next year, the price will be gradually increased by 75 paise per maund every fortnight.

"This is the highest price the farmers are getting for sugarcane in the sub-continent," claimed the authorities who believe that this 'fair price' will ensure availability of sugarcane for the mills. Previously, sugarcane were purchased by the mills at Tk 27 per maund during 1989-90, but the rate was enhanced later.

The government allowed only the BSFC to import one lakh tonnes for the current fiscal. The first consignment of 12,600 tonnes from India arrived at the Chittagong port in August while the second consignment of 12,000 tonnes is expected to reach within a couple of days.

Another two ships carrying a total of 27,900 tonnes sugar from Brazil are now on their way to Bangladesh. Import of another 48,000 tonnes will be arranged later. The present stock of sugar at government godowns is around 10 thousand tonnes.

Sources said the government has no plan to increase sugar price now while the ex-mill rate of locally produced sugar remains at 25,000 taka per tonne and the price of imported sugar at the port has been fixed at Tk 26,000 per tonne.

She said Bangladesh's signing of the United Nations charter for the rights of the children in regard to provision of health services and treatment facilities, had further enhanced these responsibilities.

Menon's bill also seeks to restrict use of religion in politics. The Workers' Party general secretary said many leaders within the government were eager to see the bill passed, and that he would try to introduce it in the next session of Parliament.

Replying to a question, he said he had informal discussions with some policy-makers of the government on the issue. BNP joint secretary general and Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam told PROBE that personally he supported the initiative since, according to him, "there is no room for Martial Law in democracy."

When asked if the BNP would support Menon's bill, he said the policy makers of the party would take the final decision. He however added that instead of forcing such a decision upon any one, the BNP would prefer to settle such issues on the basis of collective opinion.

5 Ansars

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Earlier, on July 15, police recovered 48 rounds of ammunition from Habildar Musleh-uddin and arrested him for abetting the Sarbaharamen. It was found that 10,385 rounds of ammunition were missing from the Coastal Ansar Battalion arsenal.

One of the accused, Lutfar Rahman was absconding, sources said.

The Midnight File

Draft Russian Constitution likely on Nov 10

MOSCOW, Oct 13: A draft Russian Constitution will be published on November 10, a spokesman for the President's office said today. The spokesman told AFP that the constitutional conference, charged with revising Russia's Soviet-era constitution, will hold plenary sessions on Friday and Saturday, and on October 29 and 30, to finalise the text.

Arafat urges Israel to make peace with Syria

TUNIS, Oct 13: Yasser Arafat appealed to Israel to make peace with Syria, a move he hopes will strengthen the autonomy accord between Israel and the PLO, officials said Wednesday. Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman made his appeal to Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin during a meeting Tuesday night, reports AP.

ECNEC okays Tk 380cr project for schools, madrassah

One thousand three hundred and eighty non-government high schools and 460 madrassah will be developed with the next two years at a cost of Taka 380 crore including a foreign exchange component of Taka 80 crore, reports BSS.

A project to this effect was approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) held here yesterday by the Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

Two boys' high school, one girls' high school and one madrassah of each of the 460 thanas of the country will be brought under this project. The development work includes construction of three multipurpose rooms including a science laboratory in each of the school and madrassah.

The Finance Minister directed the Education Ministry officials to take appropriate measures to introduce two shifts in the educational institutions of the country including that of the Dhaka city to ease out ever increasing rush of the admission seeking students.

PML attempt

From Page 1 Col 7

Bhutto told reporters at her home here. But when it came to the question of scaling back its nuclear programme, she said, "Pakistan can't take any unilateral step in this regard."

Pakistan's long friendship with the United States began to sour in September 1990, when Washington cut all aid to Islamabad, believing it had acquired a nuclear bomb. Washington has pressed Pakistan to roll back its nuclear programme, but Ms. Bhutto said it wouldn't be possible unless India also gave up its nuclear weapons.

BNP resorts to 'state-terrorism', say Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the government was pushing the country into chaos in a bid to cover up its "failure, inefficiency and corruption," reports UNB.

In a statement, she protested police lathicharge on the procession and rally of Awami League in Lalmonirhat on Tuesday and said the ruling BNP had resorted to "state-terrorism" to silence the people struggling for realisation of their various demands.

Hasina, also leader of the Opposition in Parliament, said the right to organise meeting and procession is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed in the Constitution.

"The real character of so-called democratic government has been exposed to all by obstructing opposition meetings, frequently imposing Section 144 and muscleflexing with police backing," she said.

BGMEA denies employing child workers

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Redwan Ahmed MP has denied employment of any child worker in the country's garment factories, reports UNB.

"There is no child labour in any garment factories of Bangladesh," he categorically said while top executives of a re-novated buying company of the United States called on him Tuesday.

President of Capital Mercury Shirt Corporation Richard F Bebon and Michael Kim met the BGMEA President and the executives of the association and discussed the impact of the much-talked Hurkin Bill in the US Senate.

Ahmed pointed out that BGMEA had plans to rehabilitate the displaced underaged workers through providing residential hostel accommodation, education and vocational training.

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"DRESS AS YOU LIKE" COMPETITION

In observance of Tourism Month an attractive "Dress as you like" competition for adults will be arranged at Abahani Playground, Dhanmondi on 24th October 1993 at 10.00 a.m.

Winners will be awarded attractive 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. Interested persons are requested to contact the undersigned on or before 20 October 1993 for registration and further information.

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Star Computer Special
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