



DUNLOP
Tested for the Unexpected

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PM seeks global support to check population boom

CHITTAGONG, Dec 15: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called for concerted efforts of all and sought international support to tackle an impending crisis caused by population boom, reports UNB.

"It's difficult to solve the population problem by the government alone, we need to mobilise government, non-government, national and international efforts to achieve the goal of the family planning programme," she said addressing a seminar here on the 'Family Planning: Government and Non-government Joint Efforts'.

"We will have to mobilise everybody, irrespective of class, creed, profession and party affiliation, to make the programme a grand success," Begum Zia told the seminar held in the auditorium of the Eye Infirmary and Training Complex Trust in the port city in the afternoon.

She called upon all to be active for stepping up the family planning programme in Chittagong division as it is lagging behind in the programme compared to the four other divisions of the country.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf presided over the function.

SAF Games

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pate in the SAF Games, the biggest sports carnival of the region.

Zahir Nasser, president of the National Olympic Committee of the Maldives will lead his six-member team, which includes the team manager, three shooters and a journalist. The remaining members of the Maldives contingent are scheduled to arrive here on Saturday.

The 27-member Sri Lankan team, also consisting mostly of shooters, will also reach today. Rest of the squad is expected to reach here on December 18.

The Indian team, so far the largest contingent named for the Games, and the leading team at all previous Games, will arrive Saturday along with the Bhutanese team, the smallest squad entered for the week-long Games.

The Nepalese contingent is expected here on December 17.

India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will participate in all the 11 disciplines included in the meet.

The Pakistani team will take part in 10 disciplines, judo being the exception.

Meanwhile Kazi Abdul Alim, Chairman of the Coaching and Training Monitoring Cell, expressed optimism saying the country will bag six golds in shooting, two in swimming, and one in athletics and two or three in boxing.

The chairman of the monitoring cell also said the Bangladesh Olympic Association should have a permanent coaching and training monitoring cell to promote sports.

Freedom fighters lament

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Rahman from Brahmanbaria and hundred of others lost their limbs. But they do not regret their physical loss as much as they resent their living conditions.

"I had a job in the stamping department of the Gullistan Cinema from 1976. I lost the job in 1988. I still wonder why I have lost the job," Mohammad Farid Mia, now in his mid-thirties, says. The Gullistan Cinema is a unit of the Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust, founded to ensure the welfare of the freedom fighters.

Farid is lame. He received bullet injuries in a battle in Comilla in June '71. He was more or less satisfied with his job at the movie theatre, although it was an insignificant one.

Now he lives on the Tk 940 monthly government allowance.

"I harbour no opinion about the country's politics; I have almost forgotten the war because I am so much burdened with the struggles of everyday life," he says. His only wish is to have his job back.

"I did not fight to earn a fortune for myself," an enraged Maulud tells The Daily Star. "But I did not fight to see Razakars in the cabinet; nor to see the dirty and violent student politics, or be humiliated by the authorities for being dependent."

"The present politics?" When asked, Shafuluddin reluctantly replies, "It is sick. It is full of violence and nobody guarantees our security."

"I believe the present democracy is thriving on terrorism. I want to believe we have left terrorism back in the battlefields of 1971. Terrorism was a part of the Pakistani rule. It cannot be a part of a democratic, independent country like Bangladesh."

"We do not want to see any violence. We shall believe the spirit of the war has been upheld only when we see that peace reigns in the country," they said.

"Only a couple of days ago, we were harassed by the activists of the pro-Jamaat-Shibir who were trying to write their slogans on the walls of our rest house. They brandished guns and called us names. They have the guts because the government is backing them," says Bakar.

"We have seen a lot of hypocrisy of the ruling parties after the Mujib government. Bangabandhu tried his best for us. The military governments only gave us hopes and used us to bolster their image. Those governments talked about upholding the spirit of the Liberation War but did just the opposite," Maulud points out.

"Why can't they form a government without Razakars? Why can't they ban the communal politics of the Jamaat-Shibir? Why can't they fulfill their promises?" the injured freedom fighters enquire.

They have been pressing for increasing their monthly allowance from Tk 940 to Tk 5000, a taka one lakh rehabilitation grant and housing facilities promised by the Ershad

regime.

The then Acting President Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, following the fall of Ershad, visited the disabled freedom fighters at the rest house and assured them of implementing those demands.

The government of Khaleda Zia also assured them of these facilities.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia also laid a foundation stone for the housing complex for disabled freedom fighters in Mirpur in '91. "But since then nothing has happened."

"Can you do us a favour through your newspaper?" Bazlur Rahman asked, softly. "I want to return to Brahmanbaria by train. I have a card that allows me to travel free in first class. But the railwaymen give us a damn. They do not let me travel on first class. Can you, at least, make the card, issued by the government, respectable? I want to enjoy my right."

Today, many top national leaders will come to see them at the rest house. Every year the leaders do. The freedom fighters will also have the chance to visit the state function of the President in the evening. Every year they do it. It fills them with pride. On this day they feel the war was worth fighting for, but tomorrow, they will again feel like 'parasites of the society'.

CEC: Corpn polls

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of the Jamaat.

During the talks, the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) urged the political leaders to strictly adhere to the election rules for the sake of holding the election peacefully.

He also requested the politicians to refrain from writing graffiti saying such means of campaigning do not influence the voters, rather they irritate them. Political leaders, agreed with the CEC on the matter and some suggested that wall-graffiti be banned by law.

Election Commission Justice Mesbahuddin Hossain, EC Secretary A Z M Shamsul Alam and high officials of the EC were present in the meetings.

Justice Rouf is scheduled to meet the leaders of the ruling BNP December 18 at 11 am and leaders of other parties, at 4 pm the same day.

Prokrichi

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rest of the officials by December 31.

The text of all the resignation letters is the same.

Among the leaders who signed the resignation letters yesterday were Mohammad Abu Hena, chairman of the Bangladesh Management Development Centre (BMDC) and secretary general of the central action committee of the agitating officials and professionals; Mohammad Ruhul Matin, Executive Engineer of the Public Works Directorate and secretary general of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Coordination Committee; Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Professor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Vice Chairman of the central action committee; Javed Iqbal, Deputy Director of the Agriculture Extension Directorate and secretary of the action committee; Dr Mush-taque Hossain, Senior Scientific Officer, IEDCR and a member of the action committee and A N H Akhtar Hossain, Executive Engineer of the Water Development Board and a member of the action committee.

Dr M A Majed, chairman of the central action committee of the officials and professionals, received the resignation letters. Dr Majed, however, is not a government official, having already retired.

Morshed Khan

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M Abul Kalam yesterday termed the appointment of Morshed Khan "a far-sighted decision" and said that "it shows that investment matters will no longer be in the back-seat."

The chamber leaders stated: "When in today's world economic diplomacy has taken on an increasingly important role, the decision was timely and encouraging to boost much-needed investment in the country."

"It is a matter of great satisfaction that a businessman of proven dynamism and leadership has been assigned with a national task."

Morshed Khan, a leading industrialist of the country, was appointed a special envoy of the Prime Minister to beef up Bangladesh's international business prospects.



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament speaking at a discussion on the Victory Day organised by the Bangabandhu Parishad at the TSC in city yesterday. — Star photo

Mainul—the man who designed a monument

By Shamsad Mortuza

The seven concrete isosceles towers of the National Martyr's Memorial at Savar prepare themselves to re-tell the saga of the seven different political struggles that culminated in the independence of the nation on December 16 in 1971.

A history that goes back to the Language Movement in 1952 and records the upsurges of '54, '58, '62, '66 and '69 before final victory was achieved on this day 22 years ago.

"Seven is the numerical summation of 16 and also of 25 — the tempestuous day of March when the liberation war began," said the designer of the national mausoleum — Syed Mainul Hossain.

Mainul's design, which he described as a construction rising up vertically to reach the apex from an extended horizontal sphere out of a 'pressure', was selected in 1978 out of 57 entries.

"Pressure is the essence of the political movements," the architect, who received the Ekushe Padak in 1988, said, defining his work.

Amid pavements of red bricks, the main tower of the monument is 45 metres (150 ft) high with a slightly uplifted concrete belly and just beneath the protrusion, there are some steps in the shape of a triangle.

"The triangle stands for a lamp and the protruding middle signifies the blaze of glory," said the bespectacled architect, presently working at a designing firm at Green Road in the city.

"But, I've heard that they (the authorities) are planning to paint murals on the symbolic flame of the main tower," said Mainul, adding: "The mural might foil the aesthetic spirit instead."

The rest of the mausoleum complex, however, was designed by the Department of Architecture of the BUET.

Spread over an estimated area of 34 hectares (84 acres), the monument compound is skirted by 10 hectares of green belt. Bangabandhu Sheikh



Mujibur Rahman laid the foundation stone of the memorial in July 1972. The construction, however, was carried out in three different phases.

The first phase, that terminated in 1974, focused on acquiring land, building a temporary wreath laying altar, adjacent roads and gardens with a budget of Tk 26 lakhs.

The interim phase, completed in 1982, contains the pool before the monument site. An open air stage, mass grave, helpads and office buildings were built spending Tk 377 lakhs.

The main tower of the monument and the green belt was completed in the final phase with a budget of Tk 845 lakhs.

Lauding the surroundings of the monument, Syed Mainul Said, "I think the monument is well placed."

Father of two daughters, the architect, however, conceded that he seldom visits the monument site, some 33 km off the capital.

"I often used to go there to take photographs earlier," said Mainul, but added: "Frequent visits can be monotonous."

"It was the spirit of liberation that compelled me to design the memorial, but I was taken aback when my house was robbed immediately after its completion," recalled Mainul.

"The bandits raided my house in my absence and demanded the consultancy fee," he added.

Victory Day today

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of building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh as dreamt by the martyrs of the liberation war."

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in a message said, "The day is radiant with the glory of sacrifices rendered by millions of people."

She urged the countrymen to put in their sincere efforts to implement the programmes of the present government for attaining economic emancipation of the people.

Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad, Sheikh Hasina in her message called for stronger unity among the pro-liberation forces with a view to building a strong resistance against the communal anti-Bangladesh forces.

A children and juvenile march-past will be held at the second National Stadium at Mirpur where Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will take the salute. The BTV will telecast the programme live from the Mirpur Stadium. President Abdur Rahman Biswas will host a reception at Bangabhaban in the evening.

Some of the city roads have already been decorated with the national flag and miniature flags.

The army, air force and navy

Editorial on Page 4

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The army, air force and navy

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 3

Awami League President Mohammad Hanif, was also addressed by Mohammad Nasim MP, Abdur Razzak MP, Amir Hossain Amu, Mofazzal Hossain Maya, Fazlur Rahman, Monir Hossain Khan, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Obaidul Quader, Professor Panna Kaiser and M R Akhter Mukul. The meeting was followed by a cultural show upholding the spirit of the Liberation War.

Sheikh Hasina said that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had given the call for the Liberation War in 1971 for the emancipation of the oppressed people but his dream had been shattered after the coup in 1975.

"Even today the people are deprived of their rights — they are deprived of food, shelter and education," she alleged.

She vowed that her party would work for the welfare of the distressed people.

Child labour issue must be handled carefully

By Staff Correspondent

Entrepreneurs, NGO activists and representatives from various international organisations, at a seminar in the city yesterday, stressed the need for amelioration of working conditions instead of eliminating child labour overnight in view of the social realities of the Third World countries.

The seminar, organised by Rapport Bangladesh Limited at Hotel Sonargaon, also called for developing a social safety net for the children and women who would be retrenched from jobs considered hazardous for those of tender age.

The speakers also stressed the need for formulating a comprehensive action plan to achieve the goal of eradicating child labour by the year 2000.

Former Cabinet Secretary Mujibul Huq chaired the open discussion session.

Pressler

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the 1980s, receiving hundreds of millions of dollars. The money was halted three years ago under Pressler's legislation.

The senator said the United States was looking to tougher sanctions against would-be nuclear-armed countries, including Muslim states.

"There's a great fear of an Islamic bomb in Washington. ... Fears it will move from one country to another," he said.

The Midnight File

Grenades found near Muslim shrine in Bombay

BOMBAY, Dec 15: Eleven hand grenades were found near a major Muslim shrine in Bombay on Wednesday, and one exploded while they were being defused, injuring two police officers. Another crude bomb went off in northwest Bombay near Bhabha Hospital, but no one was injured. Police stations were placed on alert all over the city, which was ravaged by Hindu-Muslim riots in January and February and where 13 bombs exploded in March, killing more than 300 people.

70 feared dead in Egyptian rockslide

CAIRO, Dec 15: At least 70 people are feared dead in the rockslide which engulfed a poor district of the Egyptian capital but a survivor was dug out a day after the disaster, rescue workers said today. They said 34 bodies had been found and that another 30 to 40 people were believed to have been buried when boulders from the Mokattam cliffs in eastern Cairo crashed onto the Dweqa shanty town, reports AFP.

PM: Stronger army

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to acquire those qualities for giving military leadership.

Describing our Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) as a great warrior and the greatest man in history, the Prime Minister asked the officers to follow his life and ideals.

The Prime Minister said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had dreamt of turning the Bangladesh Military Academy into an international standard institution. He also had a close relation with the academy and had given it the national standard as a symbol of the nation's confidence in it.

"We are happy that the Bangladesh Military Academy has earned reputation at home and abroad," Begum Zia said. She underscored the need for more involvement of the army in the country's development activities.

Earlier, the Prime Minister reviewed the smartly turned-out parade and took salute at the impressive march-past.

Battalion senior under officer Maruful Abedin was adjudged the best all-round cadet and awarded the 'Sword of Honour'. Company junior under officer Samcer Ahmed Khan received the Osmani Gold Medal for the best academic feat.

Battalion quarter master Kazi Shahed, Editor of the daily Ajker Kagoj, filed the case against the Jamaat chief and Ahmed Khan, Noor Hossain, Fayed Khan, Nezam Khan and Iftekhar of Jessore town.

The petitioner said Prof Azam induced the co-accused to kill his younger brother Kazi Mainul Hasan at about 10 am on April 20, 1971.

Taslima Nasrin prosecuted

KHULNA, Dec 15: Writer Taslima Nasrin was today prosecuted in the CMM court for fanning communalism. The Jatiya Jubo Command local leader Shamsul Islam filed the case.

Murder case filed against Golam Azam, 5 others

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Dec 15: A case accusing Prof Golam Azam and five others of murdering a young man during the Liberation War was filed in the court of the Sadar Magistrate here today.

Experts

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are inferior even by South Asian standards. But ironically, this is also the richest area of the world in potential hydro-power.

The fast-flowing rivers that drain the Himalaya in Nepal contribute 71 per cent of the dry season flow of the Ganges as it meanders across the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and into Bangladesh.

But the three countries have not even started talking about sharing the region's water wealth, and existing bilateral projects are bogged down in controversy.

MOU with WB signed

From Page 1 Col 3

These include rationalising the production capacity by reducing the number of operating looms, workforce rationalisation, providing a social safety-net for the retrenched workers, debt restructuring, privatisation, training for the retained employees, interim financing arrangement and removing government interference and reforming the labour policy in the jute sector.

The production capacity reduction, he said, would be carried out by closing nine 'worst performing jute mills' of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC). Of them, four have already been closed down and the rest are in the process of being dismantled.

The workforce employed in the public sector jute mills would be reduced from 110,000 to around 83,000. Nearly 12,000 workers and employees of the public sector jute mills have already opted for voluntary retirement and another 8,000 jobs would be reduced during the next year, the Jute Secretary pointed out.

As part of the social safety-net component of the programme, training would be given to retrenched workers, he added.

Under the programme, Ali said, a 'model' jute mills would be set up where the retained employees would be trained to enhance their efficiency.

The government would also privatise 18 of the remaining public sector mills by the end of the 3-year programme.

The mills would also be provided with interim financing during the adjustment period.

The interim financing period for the private sector mills would be for 18 months while it would be 36 months for the public sector mills. After that the jute mills will have to secure bank financing on a "strictly bank-client relationship on a commercial basis, the Jute Secretary said.

The total outstanding debt of about Tk 4,000 crore of the jute sector would also be restructured under the proposed programme.

Of the total, Ali said, one-third of the amount would be written-off by the banks, for which the government would compensate the banks with 25-year bonds at a five per cent annual interest.

The rest of the outstanding debts of the jute sector would be reamortised for a period of 15 years with a three per cent annual rate of interest, with a three year moratorium, he added.

Both the banks and the private sector jute mills would be given an option to be included in the proposed programme. Ali said, adding that if they want to be excluded then the government would go ahead and deal with them separately.

The Finance Ministry and the Jute Ministry would soon issue identical circulars, detailing the jute sector reform programme, to the banks and the private sector jute mills respectively, he added.

ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ পানি ও পয়ঃ বিল পরিশোধের নিমিত্তে সম্প্রতি বিভিন্ন পত্র-পত্রিকা এবং টেলিভিশন ও রেডিও এর মাধ্যমে খেলাপী থাককদের অনুরোধ জানানো সত্ত্বেও বকেয়া আদায়ের কাজে লক্ষ্যমাত্রা অর্জিত না হওয়ায় ঢাকা ওয়াসার আওতাভুক্ত সকল এলাকার সরকারী ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানসহ সকল শ্রেণীর খেলাপী গ্রাহকের সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ ও তাঁদের বিরুদ্ধে পিডিআর এ্যাক্টের অধীনে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ কার্যক্রম আরো জোরদার করা হয়েছে। বকেয়া পরিশোধের সুবিধার্থে যীদের কিস্তি মঞ্জুর করা হয়েছিল, সময়মত কিস্তির টাকা পরিশোধ না হলে তাঁদের সংযোগও তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্ন করা হবে এবং আর কিস্তির সুবিধা দেয়া হবে না। ইতিমধ্যে নভেম্বর-ডিসেম্বর '৯৩ বিলিং মাসের বিলও জারী করা হচ্ছে। যারা এখনো হালনাগাদ বিল পাননি তাঁদেরকে সত্বর নারায়ণগঞ্জ অফিসসহ ওয়াসার সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ রাজস্ব আঞ্চলিক অফিসে এবং ওয়াসা ভবনে কম্পিউটার বিলিং সেক্টারে (ফোনঃ ৩১৩০৯২) যোগাযোগ করে নির্দিষ্ট ব্যাংকের শাখায় অবিলম্বে বিল পরিশোধের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে। প্রয়োজনে ওয়াসা ভবনে বাণিজ্যিক ব্যবস্থাপক (ফোনঃ ৩২৭২৪৫) অথবা সদস্য (অর্থ) (ফোনঃ ৮১৬৭৯৯) এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন এড়ানোর জন্য আজই বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ ওয়াসার বিল পরিশোধ করুন এবং সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকারী দলকে কার্যস্থলে প্রয়োজনে রসিদ প্রদর্শন করুন।

ওয়াসা ঢাকা ওয়াসা

ওয়াসা-জরুরী ৫৬৯/৯৩

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