

Hamdard to set up school, college in Bangladesh

Governor of the Pakistan province of Sindh Hakim Mohammed Said, now on a visit here, yesterday called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office, reports BSS.

Hakim Said, who is also the president of the Hamdard Foundation of Pakistan, briefed the Prime Minister on the activities of the Bangladesh chapter of the Foundation. The Hamdard Foundation has been engaged in research and development of unani and herbal medicines in the subcontinent for more than five decades.

He told the Prime Minister that the Foundation has decided to involve itself with promotion of education, particularly of the poor and orphans and to set up schools and colleges in Bangladesh.

Hakim Said informed Begum Khaleda Zia of the Hamdard plan to undertake research project on herbal medicine with a view to reaching the traditional medicare system to the common people. He referred to the popularity of herbal medicine in China, Indonesia, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

Referring to the similar projects taken by the Foundation in Pakistan and India, the Sindh governor said, in the first phase the Foundation would help build schools.

Begum Zia gave the assurance of cooperation by her government in this regard.

The Prime Minister emphasised the need for more research on herbal medicine and said people living in the rural areas were largely dependent on the traditional systems of medicine.

Religious Affairs Minister Keramat Ali, and Pakistan High Commissioner Anwar Kamal were also present.

Irish trade centre opens in city

Visiting Irish Minister for Defence and Marine David Andrews inaugurated the Ireland Trade Centre here yesterday, saying it would help foster relations between the two countries, reports UNB.

"This is the beginning of trade, cultural and political relations between the two countries ... I think the centre will play a significant role in strengthening the growing relations," he said.

The Minister, who flew in here Friday night on a four-day private trip to Bangladesh, also opened the just-established Bangladesh-Ireland Friendship Society in the capital.

"The two countries can proceed on establishing joint venture industries in order to strengthen the existing economic cooperation between the two countries," he said.

He identified fishing, telecommunications, agriculture and powdered milk as the possible joint venture sectors in which the entrepreneurs of the two countries may come up.

Andrews, the first Irish Minister here after the liberation of Bangladesh, pointed out that Ireland was one of the countries who first recognised Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign state in 1972.

The trade relations between Ireland and Bangladesh are now very limited. Bangladesh imported powdered milk from the island-country worth about one million US dollar while it exported a small quantity of garments to that country through the buyers from the United Kingdom.

A trade centre source said there was a tremendous scope for exporting Bangladeshi garments and handicraft to Ireland, but absence of direct shipping lines hampered it.

As Ireland is a fish-rich country, Bangladesh can use its expertise and know-how in developing fish resource and fishing industry, he added.

Patron of the Bangladesh-Ireland Friendship Society, Jagur Rahman also spoke on the occasion. Wife of the visiting Minister, Annette Andrews, and some local businessmen were present at the function.

Tk 4385 cr earned thru' export in five months

Bangladesh has earned 1107.06 million US dollar, equivalent to Tk 4385.06 crore, during the first five months in the current fiscal year through export, according to an official source here, reports BSS.

It was about 10 per cent higher in terms of dollar and 12.13 per cent in terms of Taka compared to the earning of same period of last fiscal 1992-93.

This was revealed in the 73rd board meeting of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) held yesterday at its conference room here with Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam in the chair.

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The units to be divested, conducted by chartered accounting firms, is said to be on a much higher level than the quoted price for individual units, the government source noted.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inspecting the Police Parade at the inaugural function of the 'Police Week '94' at the Rajarbagh Police Line ground in the city yesterday. Inspector General of Police A S M Shahjahan is seen on the right of the Prime Minister.

— PID photo

PM : Police

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The supreme sacrifice of the members of the police has remained as an inspiration for the nation, she said paying respect to the independence martyrs.

BSS adds: Abdul Matin Chowdhury yesterday urged the senior police officials to take comprehensive measures for the maintenance of law and order in the country.

He said, ensuring the overall welfare of the people is the main duty of the police personnel.

He said steps would be taken for increasing the size of the police force, procuring of transports and modern equipment, establishment of new police boxes and increasing training facilities of the police personnel.

Hill students stage longmarch to Naniarchar

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 8: The Pahari Chhatra Parishad this morning staged a longmarch to Naniarchar from Rangamati to lay wreaths and attend a mass funeral organised in memory of the tribals who were killed in violence on November 17 last year there, local sources and law enforcing personnel said.

A large contingent of police was deployed there today to thwart any outbreak of violence.

The marchers, however, went back peacefully after observing their programmes, police said.

DU Hons

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The university authorities started selling the forms from December 15 last. With a view to removing session jam and to keep pace with the university's current academic calendar, the DU authorities are trying to complete admission as early as possible, sources said.

The authorities last year started giving forms on January 25. But this year, the admission tests in four units will begin on January 21.

This year, about 16,126 students, the highest number of candidates, applied in 'Ga' unit. Candidates willing to change subject or faculty have to apply through this unit.

Besides, 15,350 students have applied in 'Ka' unit (Faculty of Science). The number was 13,890 last year.

About, 12,600 candidates have applied in the 'Kha' unit (Faculty of Arts) in which only 10,166 students applied last year.

Meanwhile, some 7,907 students have applied in the 'Ga' unit (Faculty of Commerce) this year. Some 6,500 candidates applied last year in this faculty.

Around 44,400 students applied for 3,692 seats for the session 1991-92 while 43,000 students competed for a total of 3,692 seats for 1990-91 and 39,000 students for 3,500 seats for 1989-90 session, according to available statistics.

The DU authorities nominated three commercial banks in the different places in the city to sell the application forms.

Manzur

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GD entry is my basic right. The attitude of the police officials regarding the GD entries forces me to believe that the BNP government has already started interfering with the upcoming polls, he added.

Manzur urged the Election Commissioner to take necessary actions in order to maintain its neutrality in the election.

UNB adds: Leaders of the alliance yesterday warned of street agitation if the coming city corporation election is rigged by the ruling party.

7 killed, 52 hurt in road accidents

At least seven persons were killed and 52 injured in road accidents in Faridpur, Savar and Barisal yesterday.

UNB from Faridpur reports: Three people were killed and two injured critically as a truck hit a rickshaw and skidded off the Faridpur-Barisal highway at Goirer crossing yesterday.

Two of the dead were identified as Keramat Ali, 42, of village Nurulganj in Bhanga thana and Abdul Khaled Bepari, 50, of Nazirpur in the same thana, both cloth traders, who were returning from Kumarkhali market in Kushtia. Another unidentified dead was about 45.

Khaled Bepari expired on the way to hospital while the two others died on the spot, police said.

The vanpulisher, Sheikh Abdul Khaled, 30, and his passenger Kashimuddin, 35, were admitted to the Faridpur General Hospital where their condition was stated critical.

A Savar report says: Two persons were killed when a car and a mini bus collided near Bathali on the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

Witnesses and police said car driver Shushil Kumar

Shafi refuses to lead PLO team to talks

AMMAN, Jan 8: Palestinian leader Haider Shafi said today he would not lead the Palestinian team to the next round of Middle East peace talks because he did not support an Israeli-PLO pact, reports Reuter.

"No, because I am unhappy with this (Palestinian self-rule) agreement, I decided right from the beginning to distance myself from having any role in that," he told Reuters television in an interview in Amman.

Asked whether this was his final decision, the chief Palestinian negotiator during most rounds of Arab-Israeli peace talks since the process was launched in October 1991, said "Yes.. I won't (head the team.)"

Like most Palestinian peace delegates, Shafi, a respected Gazan doctor, was unaware of the controversial self-rule plan worked out in secret Israeli-PLO negotiations while formal peace talks were going on in Washington.

The accord, signed in

Privatisation Board

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the World Bank, to make the Board more effective. The World Bank was dissatisfied with the slow rate of progress in the government's disinvestment drive.

In fact, while signing the 250-million dollar jute sector adjustment credit last month, under which 18 jute mills are earmarked for privatisation, the World Bank wrote in a condition that the Privatisation Board must be made more effective.

The recent change shows that the government is keen to make the Board more effective," the Board official said.

The Board will now be able to independently select the public sector units for divestment, analyse accounts and even restructure the debts before putting them up for open-tender sale.

Initially, the government short-listed 20 textile mills and another 40 public sector units for privatisation, but so far none of the textile mills could be privatised while only four other units have been divested.

Inadequate response from private investors is a major problem in the privatisation drive, forcing re-tenders in a number of recent initiatives.

Valuation of the units to be divested, conducted by chartered accounting firms, is said to be on a much higher level than the quoted price for individual units, the government source noted.

New-born missing from DMCH

By DMCH Correspondent

A new-born baby has been missing from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) since yesterday evening.

Mother of the baby — 30-year-old Kohinur Begum — lodged a diary with the Ramna Police Station last night saying that her new born son was stolen from her post-delivery bed at ward No-15 of the hospital in the afternoon.

Ramna police said that a medical staff brought the written complaint of Kohinur to the police station last night.

Medical source said that Kohinur gave birth to a son at around noon in the hospital yesterday.

Kohinur, wife of one Abdul Berek came to the city from Chittagong. She was staying with one of her friends at Shyamoli in the city.

Number of guest birds drops by 40pc in a yr!

The number of waterfowls visiting the Mirpur zoo here dropped by about 40 per cent this year, according to a census conducted by bird watchers yesterday, the opening day of the eighth Asian Waterfowl Census, 1994, reports BSS.

A total of 5,472 waterfowls representing 11 species were observed at the zoo lake which was about 40 per cent less than the previous year.

The bird watchers apprehend that the drop in the number of visiting waterfowls was due to human presence around the lake.

Nature Conservation Movement (NACOM) coordinated the census in association with Asian Wetland Bureau and International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau.

Global 500 award laureate Prof Kazi Zakir Hossain, former vice-chancellor of Agricultural University, Prof Aminul Haque and Country Representative of International Union of Nature (IUCN) Malek Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

He arrived in Amman from Tunis on Thursday after talks with Arafat that failed to limit his power.

AFP says: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin today did not rule out categorically a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for full peace with Syria.

Asked by military radio about his position if Syria made such an offer, Rabin replied: "I have to date spoken only of a withdrawal from the Golan, and that's my position."

Anisuzzaman and S M A Rashid from NACOM briefed the guests on the history and achievement of the census programme while F R Molla conducted it.

KNM logging

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Another obstacle to the privatisation drive is workers' agitation in the targeted units.

Recently, prospective buyers were not allowed to enter even the Bangladesh Blade Factory premises. "Total political commitment of the government and the opposition parties is needed to make the privatisation drive a success," the government source said.

Opposition from some of the line ministries to the divestment initiative is also causing problems, he added. "Some of the ministries often ask the Board to go slow; there is a lack of enthusiasm for implementing the government's policies," the official said.

However, the Privatisation Board official pointed out that at least 15 public sector units would be ready for privatisation by this month, including the Shyampr and Panchagar Sugar Mills, Metalex Corporation, Bangladesh Cycle Industries, National Tubes, Bangladesh Blade Factory, Khulna Hardboard Mills, Lira Industries and the Sharmin, Kohinoor, Kishoreganj, Barisal, Madaripur, Noakhali and Bangladesh Textile Mills.

Under the technical assistance project for the Privatisation Board, both local and foreign consultants would be retained, along with hiring additional employees and procuring office equipment.

The illegal sales have increased and many industries, other than newspapers, have been sanctioned newsprint illegally by those unscrupulous employees. These industries are selling the papers in the markets according to their wishes. This had destabilised the prices," they said.

He said, risk management is a critical aspect of Treasury operations and in order to minimise the risks, a bank has to ensure profit earnings by the customers.

Boycott violators of election rules: Kamal

By Staff Correspondent

Dr Kamal Hossein yesterday called upon all not to vote for the candidates who would violate election rules and the code of conduct in the forthcoming city corporation polls.

Dr Kamal, president of Gono Forum, was addressing a press conference at the Segun Bagicha ahead of the Forum's launching a programme for a violence-free society.

It is an acid test for the government ... We have seen in the past how elections were rigged," said Dr Kamal.

He alleged that the law and order situation in the country had deteriorated alarmingly and this had adversely affected the education sector and discouraged entrepreneurs from investing in Bangladesh. To improve the law and order situation in the country both the government and the opposition should work together to reach a consensus on the issue in the next session of Parliament.

The Gono Forum has collected over three lakh signatures against terrorism. A memorandum with the signatures would be submitted to Parliament on February 10 after a grand rally of the Forum to be held near the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) at 2 pm on the day, said Dr Kamal.

DU teachers strike today

By DU Correspondent

The teachers of the Dhaka University will observe a token strike for one hour from 10 am today to protest the government's reported initiative to amend the University Ordinance.

However, a second round of negotiations between the parties is scheduled for 11 am today.

However, all the examinations scheduled for today will be exempted from the strike programme, a DUTA press release said.

Meanwhile, the Ganatantrik Chhatra Olkya (GCO) protesting the move to amend the University Ordinance 19