

Showcause on diesel importer

Star Report

The Third Assistant District Judge of Chittagong yesterday issued a show cause notice on a private sector importer of diesel oil after the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) filed an application on Saturday seeking an injunction on the import.

Meanwhile, the government continues to remain in a quandary about ways to reconcile the differences between the Import Policy of 1993-95, the Petroleum Policy of 1993 and the Petroleum Act of 1974.

It is learnt that the Ministry of Commerce has prepared a draft to add a condition for the import of diesel.

Imported by Q C Petroleum Ltd, the consignment of over 16,000 tons of high-speed diesel oil arrived at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port on December 27. Subsequently, the company paid all import duties for clearance of the imported diesel, but at the last moment the Customs Department refused to allow the discharge of the consignment.

Earlier, the BPC issued a show cause notice on the importer for having allegedly violated the Petroleum Act of 1974. But the private company replied, to the Energy Ministry, the regulatory authority and not to BPC, that it did not violate any laws by importing the consignment of diesel.

The legal action by the BPC was prompted by a decision taken in an inter-ministerial meeting on January 2 asking the corporation, to take action under the Act of 1974. Again, on January 5, Chittagong Customs sent a notice to the importer asking for a 'no objection certificate' (NOC) from the Energy Ministry for discharging

CAAB employees postpone programme

By Staff Correspondent

The employees of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh have postponed their day's demonstration programme following a successful meeting with the chairman.

CAAB chairman Air Commodore Shamsher Ali assured the leaders of the employees that the Authority would review the plan to reduce the overtime allowance. A meeting in this regard has already been held at the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the chairman reportedly told the leaders.

Noble charity auction in city promises novel French flair

By Staff Correspondent

An unusual auction, for a charity, scheduled to be held in the city later this week, promises to add a touch of the famous French flair and style.

For the connoisseurs of good perfumes and jewellery, it would be a rare occasion to bid from a wide collection of the top-of-the-line French products worth about 1 lakh US dollars.

At the personal initiative of the French Ambassador Jean-Michel Lacome and especially his wife Myriam Lacome, some 30 world class French manufacturing companies will put up their products at the auction next Thursday and Friday.

In a press briefing yesterday ahead of the auction — to help the orphans of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity — the French Ambassador and his wife told newsmen that for the past seven months they have been working on the project.

Wife of the Finance Minister Duree Samad Rahman and the wife of the Information Minister and Secretary General of the Manabik Shahajah Bastabian Sangstha Advocate Sigma Huda will attend the auction as the chief guest and the special guest respectively.

The famous French names that are likely to go on sale in the city include Cartier International, Dupont, Bourgeois, Pour Chanel, Christian Dior, Gemo, Ligne, Poco Rabane, Givenchy, Roger Et Galet, Christian Lacroix and many others.

Drug traders' strike begins today

Drug stores of the country will go for a two-day strike from today to press home their 5 point demand including waiving of increased 50 per cent license renewal fee and all increased fees, reports UNB.

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PM's instruction to reduce system losses

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night instructed the authorities concerned to launch special drives for reducing system loss of the Power Development Board (PDB) and Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA), reports BSS.

The Prime Minister also instructed the officials of the two agencies to take stern actions against those who were involved in power pilferage and giving illegal electric connections.

Begum Zia was presiding over a three-hour review meeting on the progress of the annual development programme (1993-94) projects under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources at the International Conference Centre in the city. Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain briefed the meeting of the progress of the ADP projects.

3 new envoys to Bangladesh

By Staff Correspondent

Three foreign envoys will arrive in Dhaka shortly to take up their assignments as heads of their respective missions. The agreements in this connection have already been signed, it was learnt yesterday.

Michael Drury will be the new Representative of the European Community (EC) in Bangladesh. The EC Representative holds the rank and courtesy title of ambassador of the 12-member EC. Drury is an Irish national.

Jong Kyou has been named the new ambassador of South Korea to Bangladesh. Sunthorn Vidhyameth will be Thailand's new ambassador.

Border confce with India today

A five-day border coordination conference between Bangladesh and India begins in New Delhi today, reports BSS.

The Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Major General Mohammad Anwar Hossain, leaves here for the Indian capital this morning leading a 13-member delegation to attend the conference.

The labour attaches in the Bangladesh missions are also expected to be in Dhaka on January 22 for a special meeting and briefing by the Ministry of Labour and Manpower.

In London, the Prime Minister had made a call for dedicated and concerted efforts in the sphere of trade promotion by the country's diplomats, terming it 'economic diplomacy.'

She also recently appointed a leading entrepreneur — Moshed Khan — as a special envoy to bolster the export drive. More plans for a serious push on the international trade front are learnt to be on the anvil.

Meanwhile, a move is underway by the ministries of Finance and Commerce to expand the activities of the 17 commercial wings in the country's missions.

The new-born baby, missing earlier from the post delivery bed of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, was found yesterday in Rupganj on the outskirts of the city.

Police arrested a senior nurse Habiba Begum, 35, for allegedly stealing the child from the hospital.

Medical sources said the arrested nurse Habiba confessed to the hospital's ward master that she removed the child from the delivery bed.

This particular party even alleged subtle rigging in the

BUET guard beaten to death

By Staff Correspondent

A security guard of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology was beaten to death by a group of unidentified youths yesterday afternoon.

The victim, Wahid, 50, came under attack of the armed gang at around 2:00 pm near his quarters at Palash on the BUET campus.

Wahid succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital four hours after the incident.

Police said Wahid allegedly molested two minor girls in his room early yesterday. When the girls complained to the local people, some of them became enraged and carried out the attack.

The investigating officer was not available to comment when contacted last night.

The body of the victim was sent to the DMCH morgue.

3-day strike

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strike from the same day to press home the 21-point demands of the doctors. The negotiations between the government and the BMA leaders, held on January 8 and 9, failed to solve the problems.

Meanwhile, the coordination council of the agitating government officials and the professionals, including engineers, agriculturists and doctors, (PROKRICH) yesterday decided to advance the date of the organisation's conference of representatives from February 4 to January 22.

Meanwhile, a press release of the association of the Education Cadre of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) said the current degree final examinations of the university will be exempted from the strike programme.

The press release, however, called on the association members, not involved with the examinations, to observe the strike.



The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) brought out a procession in the city yesterday.

The Midnight File

IAEA to transfer uranium from Iraq to Russia

BAGHDAD, Jan 9: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts are preparing the transfer of a second batch of Iraq enriched uranium to Russia. UN sources said here today. The team is working at a site near Baghdad and hopes to complete its mission by the end of January, the sources said without specifying the quantity involved, reports AFP.

Fresh fighting in Kabul

KABUL, Jan 9: Fresh fighting erupted in Kabul today ending a 30-hour ceasefire. Two people were killed in Meroyan district, the scene of some of the worst fighting last week, sources said, while others reported that fighting also resumed around noon today (0730 GMT) in Kabul's volatile southeastern districts, reports AFP.

Dhaka to relay BBC

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The process of concluding the agreement is now underway, they said, adding that the agreement will be initially for one year, which can be renewed.

According to a source in the BBC, its executives are now working with the aim of signing the agreement within this month and for commencing the relay in February.

A proposal of the Information Ministry to allow BBC for the purpose has already been approved by the Cabinet last month.

Following the agreement, the BBC will be permitted to relay its programmes everyday for a total of nine hours 45 minutes, staggered over different sessions. The programmes will include the English BBC World Service and the Bangla programmes of the Eastern Service.

The BBC programmes, broadcast from Bush House, London, are usually received in Bangladesh. But, with the planned relay in Dhaka, the programmes will be more clearly audible within a radius of 25 miles from the transmitting point.

The BBC will arrange everything for the relay and will supply equipment needed for receiving the signals relayed via the AsiaSat communication satellite. The BBC will also pay Radio Bangladesh rent for using the transmitter on an hourly basis in addition to bearing the cost of power for the relay.

However, the Shahbagh transmitter will also continue broadcasting development and welfare-oriented local programmes.

Strike at Osmany hospital

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 9: Patients suffered much in the M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital here as the Cass III employees of the hospital began a 48-hour strike this morning to protest the 'illegal' transfer of an employee.

Deben Sikder

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involved in the Communist Movement for more than half a century. He made significant contribution to the Peasants Movement in Chittagong in the fifties, and later in the trade union movement of the country till his last days.

Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia

blasted the AL leadership for

holding the AL leadership for

allegation of vote-rigging and

alleged that the party did not

believe in fair balloting, rather

it preferred to win elections

through unfair means.

We will discourage buying

private cars but encourage

mass- transport system,' he

told an election rally at Gopibagan.

A nominee of some left political groups, Khan is contesting the mayoral election with 'Wheel' as his symbol. Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Memon MP, CPB leader Mujahid Islam Selim, Abdulla Sarker of BSD and Dilip Barua of Samyabadi Dal addressed the meeting presided over by Ganatantri Party leader Nurul Islam.

Khan was critical of blocking

the city traffic for the

passage of the Prime Minister and ministers. He said that it was not fair that the Prime Minister and ministers would drive through the streets by keeping the citizens waiting at the crossroads.

Foreign aid

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200 million dollars for the

coastal embankment project

and other schemes.

Japan will reopen some old

projects in addition to its

Jamuna Bridge involvement.

The increase in commitment

reflects that the donors are

taking more interest in seeing

that the country gets on its feet

regarding infrastructural develop-

ment,' a highly placed source in the Finance Ministry said.

The country has achieved

macro-economic stability over

the years and a number of

structural reforms have been

implemented with success,' the

source said. 'These have made

the donors confident about the

country's ability to use project

and commodity aid.'

Against the backdrop of a

global aid situation where the

former communist countries are

drawing a big chunk of Western

aid, the higher commitment of

the donors for Bangladesh

seems to be a significant phe-

nomenon, experts feel.

To keep the global overview

in favour of Bangladesh, the

country's implementation ca-

acity has to be improved dra-

ctically,' Finance Ministry

said.

As the country's economy

expands, the GDP rises, the

country would need substantial

amount of foreign aid for in-

frastructural development to