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# The Daily Star

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**Metropolitan**

Dhaka Day by Day

## DEPZ to make up for slow growth in CEPZ

**By A Special Correspondent**

The Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) is projecting that new investment in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) during the current fiscal year will total 2.9 crore dollars.

Actual investment in the CEPZ during July-December 1993 was 1.4 crore dollars. BEPZA expects another 1.5 crore dollars' investment in the remaining part of the fiscal year.

If the projection of 2.9 crore dollar new investment is correct, then it will constitute a 12 per cent increase in the annual investment level. The annual growth of investment in the CEPZ was around 56 per cent in the preceding fiscal year.

Bangladesh has two export processing zones which are currently operational. After the CEPZ, the second export processing zone is in Dhaka. The Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) was commissioned last June. Five foreign-owned units have already started commercial production in the DEPZ. Total investment by the five foreign investors is 47 lakh dollars.

BEPZA sources say, during the last six months, 12 other investors have taken initiatives to set up industries in the DEPZ. The DEPZ estimates that these investors will invest around 5.6 crore dollars. Eight of these twelve industries are either foreign owned or are joint ventures with foreign investors. If all of these investments materialise then total investment in DEPZ during current fiscal year will reach 1.2 crore dollars. This will mean that total investment in the export processing zones in Bangladesh will be 4.1 crore dollars.

In the last six months 1638 new jobs have been created in the CEPZ for Bangladeshi nationals. If expectations about new investment for the second half of the fiscal year are realistic, the DEPZ estimates

## BCS (Admin) cadre starts agitation today

Administrative officials will start agitation today to press the government to remove 'disparity' created in the cadre services through upgradation in non-administrative cadre services, reports UNB.

The newly-formed BCS Administration Action Committee announced a 14-day agitation programme from a three-hour-long meeting at the BCS (Administration) Academy where 500 officers of deputy and assistant secretary ranks were present, meeting sources said.

They gave the government up to February 7 to remove discrepancies in the salary structures, failing which the committee would announce greater action programme on February 8.

## 18-man steering committee formed 450 from 70 bodies to observe city polls

**By Staff Correspondent**

An 18-member national steering committee for observing the city corporation elections, 1994 was announced at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The unofficial committee was formed with Justice K M Sobhan and Dr Hamida Hossein as joint-convenors. Executive director of the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB), Masud Hassan Siddiqui, was elected member-secretary of the committee.

The steering committee also selected 450 members from 70 organisations of the CCHRB to observe the January 30 polls in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna.

Addressing the press conference, Justice Sobhan said, the Election Commission had permitted the steering committee to observe the polls and issued identity cards for its 450 members.

He said the committee would announce its primary observations about the polls at a press conference on January 31 and its detailed report within ten days after the polls.

Justice Sobhan said the committee had already started monitoring the election campaign through the electronic and print media. But he declined to say if any candidate

## CEC asks voters, candidates to help ensure fair polls

The Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf yesterday sought cooperation of all candidates contesting the January 30 elections to make it free and fair, reports BSS.

"Cooperation of the voters and the candidates is must for holding peaceful elections," Justice Rouf told a gathering of candidates at the Argaroon Community Centre here.

Justice Rouf said an atmosphere had been created in the country where people expect that free, fair and impartial elections would be held.

Election Commissioner Justice Mesbahuddin Hossain, Secretary, Election Commission, A Z M Shamsul Alam, and Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ahmed Nazmul



With just days to go for the January 30 city corporation polls, the demand for loudspeakers for campaigning purposes has increased manifold. — Star photo.

## Don't be misled by hoaxes: Khaleda

KHULNA, Jan 25: BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today told the people not to be misled by hoaxes and urged them to elect her party candidates in the upcoming city corporation polls for continuation of development works, reports UNB.

During the nine years of the autocratic regime only Tk 12 crore had been spent for the development of Khulna city while the BNP government had spent Tk 2.5 crore during the last two and a half years and will allocate Tk 187 crore more for its development, she told an election meeting at the Circuit House Maidan here this afternoon.

"You should not be enchanted by rhetorics... during elections political leaders make many tall talks; you have to keep your eyes and ears open to elect the right man for ensuring development of the city," the Prime Minister told the electorate.

"The BNP always fulfils its commitments... it is gradually implementing all its pledges given during the national elections," Begum Zia said.

In an oblique reference to the Awami League, the Prime Minister said the people had rejected those who established one-party rule in the country and they would again reject them in the forthcoming city corporation polls, scheduled for January 30.

"It's the BNP which established multiparty politics in the country and gave back the people their franchise. It also introduced direct elections to the city corporations to give democracy an institutional shape," she said.

Presided over by BNP president Nurul Islam, the meeting was also addressed by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Whip Ashraf Hossain, Farida Rahman, MP, Syeda Nargis Ali, MP, Zahiruddin Swapan and mayor candidate Sheikh Tayebur Rahman.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali was

## Rule issued for violation of DCC poll laws

A High Court Division Bench yesterday issued rule upon the Election Commission, the Ministry of Local Government, the Home Ministry and the Dhaka City Corporation to show cause on January 27 as to why they should not be directed to comply with the direction of the Election Commissioner touching upon the various acts of the election campaign of the candidates violating the laws and rules before the election of commissioners and mayor on January 30, reports BSS.

The Bench comprised Justice Mohammad Ismail-uddin Sarker and Justice Kazi Ebadul Huq.

The court may consider the prayer for injunction restraining the Election Commissioner from holding the election after the hearing of the petition on January 27.

Dr Mohiuddin Farooque, Secretary General of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association, filed the writ petition on behalf of the Association.

## India offers six proposals to ease tensions with Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Jan 25: India has offered a series of confidence-building measures, including a pledge that it will not be the first to make a nuclear strike, to ease acute tensions with Pakistan, officials said today, reports Reuters.

They said the list of six proposals was handed to Pakistani high commissioner Riaz Khokhar in New Delhi on Monday, shortly before Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto made a blistering attack on India over disputed Kashmir.

Diplomats said the Indian proposals, apart from the nuclear offer, were a repetition of previous ones and were unlikely to improve relations that have gone from bad to worse since a rebellion erupted in Indian-ruled Kashmir four years ago.

"Bhutto's speech was clearly aimed at building up Kashmir as an international issue and indicated that she had no intention of moving towards a deal with India at this stage," said one Western diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

"Kashmir is Pakistan's jugular vein, and we will not allow our jugular vein to be trampled under the feet of repression," Bhutto said in a televised address to the nation. "God willing, the day is not far off when Kashmir will be with us."

The Indian proposals contained no direct mention of Kashmir, a deeply emotive issue that has caused two of the three wars the neighbours have fought since independence from Britain in 1947.

They followed talks in Islamabad at the beginning of the year between the top diplomats of the two countries, that promised a start towards peace talks but delivered nothing but a repetition of well-known positions.

Pakistan said afterwards there was no point in further meetings until India halted its repression in the Kashmir valley, the heartland of the rebellion in largely Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state.

Police and hospitals have reported more than 15,000 deaths in the rebellion and

## Steps taken to return toxic fertiliser

Steps have been taken to return the consignment of toxic fertiliser to the United States, the exporting country, and the process is underway to take legal action against its suppliers and their local agents, reports BSS.

This was stated in an official handout issued here yesterday.

The handout said attention of the government has been drawn to the publication of baseless and misleading reports in a section of the press about the import of toxic fertiliser. A daily newspaper published a report on January 9 stating that no action has been taken against the persons responsible for the import of toxic fertiliser.

These reports have created confusion in the minds of the people and the government deems it proper to clear the confusion, the handout added.

According to the handout, the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) had imported 6000 metric tons of zinc oxy-sulphate fertiliser from the United States during the fiscal 1991-92. This fertiliser was accepted on the basis of certificate of an internationally reputed inspection company and the Bangladesh Agriculture

## Elect AL candidates for check & balance: Hasina

RAJSHAHI, Jan 25: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today called for creating check and balance in the government by electing opposition candidates to the city corporations, reports UNB.

"The government will have a fear and the mayors will not dare to resort to corruption if you can create check and balance in the administration," she told a huge election rally at the Shaheb Bazar Square here this afternoon.

Hasina alleged that the ruling BNP was intimidating people by saying that allocation for development works would be reduced if BNP candidates failed to win the elections.

"Development is a right of the people because they pay taxes. If they are deprived of their due rights, we know how to realise them," Hasina warned.

She urged the people not to be misguided by the propaganda of the ruling party and called for voting for her party candidates to ensure development.

The BNP is now out with a basketful of commitments, although it did not fulfil its

## BSP demands import of newsprint

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Bangladesh Sangbad-Patra Parishad (BSP) yesterday demanded that the import of newsprint be allowed, and excise and duties reduced because of the Khulna Newsprint Mills' failure to supply newsprint to the newspapers.

The parishad, in a meeting presided over by its president Kazi Shahed Ahmed at the Daily Sangbad office, also demanded proper and just distribution of government advertisements to the newspapers.

The meeting also demanded measures for publication of all advertisements through the advertising agencies.

The BSP will hold a meeting with the representatives of the advertising agencies regarding this issue on January 29. This meeting will also discuss timely payment of advertisement bills.

The BSP meeting was also attended by Enayet Ullah Khan, Mizanur Rahman Mizan, Ahmedul Kabir, Mahfuz Anam and Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Khaleda goes to Ctg today**

CHITTAGONG, Jan 25: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will arrive here tomorrow morning to join a day-long campaign in this port city in favour of her party's mayoral candidate for the Chittagong City Corporation Mir Md Nasiruddin. Begum Zia in addition to making extensive mass contact, is scheduled to address over a dozen election rallies at different parts of the city.

**Businessman robbed at N'ganj**

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 25: In a daring daylight hold-up, Tk 9 lakh 55 thousand was snatched from a businessman by a group of armed young men in front of bank here this afternoon. According to sources, four armed youths riding a private car exploded cocktails in front of the Janata Bank, Corporate Branch on the B B Road and snatched the cash from Khabiruddin Mollah, proprietor of Mollah and Sons, importers of cement at Pagla.



Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto inspecting a guard of honour after inaugurating her country's first police station exclusively staffed by women in Rawalpindi yesterday. — AFP photo

## Tk 35.70 cr Dutch grant for BRAC's edn programme

The Netherlands government will contribute 17.5 million Dutch guilders, equivalent to Tk 35.70 crore, for the extension of the BRAC's non-formal primary education programme, according to a press release.

The first instalment of 5 million guilders, equivalent to Tk 10.20 crore, was disbursed in December last year and the remaining 12.5 million guilders will be disbursed over the next two years, during which the BRAC's non-formal primary education programme is expected to be further expanded.

This grant reflects the Dutch government's commitment to support Bangladesh's efforts to achieve education for all by the year 2000.

## Private agency gets ZIA security job

**By Staff Correspondent**

A private agency has been engaged for strengthening security of the Zia International Airport in the backdrop of recent trespassing by stowaways and unauthorised persons.

Shield Bangladesh Ltd, the private security service agency, has already deployed 50 personnel — two supervisors and 48 guards — for this purpose from January 13.

A complement of 16 guards has been detailed on each floor of the ZIA terminal building, sources said. Before Shield, an Ansars battalion was deployed for guard duty.

Despite the appointment of Shield, two more persons were arrested yesterday while attempting to board an aircraft without passports or valid papers.

A source in charge of security at the airport said Shield was also in charge last year, but was withdrawn because their service was not found satisfactory. However, Shield authorities were not available for comment. The agency was appointed this time around through floating tenders.

Within 12 days of the appointment, two Shield guards came under attack from neighbouring villagers last night. The guards were reportedly beaten up severely.

**JS body meets**

Meanwhile the 23rd meeting of the JS standing committee on the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism yesterday discussed the overall security post

## Security agents beaten up at ZIA

**By Staff Correspondent**

Two security personnel of Zia International Airport were severely beaten up by villagers from neighbouring areas at 8.45 pm yesterday.

According to sources, two security personnel of a private agency Shield, engaged recently to strengthen security at the airport, were attacked by ten to 15 people from the nearby Bavania village near the Town Protection Embankment. The victims, admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, were in serious condition.

The security personnel tightened vigil around the airport after a man trespassed into ZIA and got on board a Biman aircraft. Accordingly, the villagers, who used to enter the airport premises from different points to collect grass for their cattle, were barred from entering the air