

Law to save sick units demanded

Owners of the country's sick industries have urged the government to enact a sick industries rehabilitation law to save their industrial units from ruin, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference organised by Bangladesh Sick Industries Association here yesterday, they also demanded that the interest rate for industrial loan, including running capital loan, be fixed at maximum five per cent.

Sarkar Abdus Sattar, general secretary of the association, read out a written statement at the press conference at a local restaurant. Its president Tajul Islam and treasurer Giasuddin Ahmed were present.

Sattar said the Sick Industries Rehabilitation and Reviving Cell, established in 1991, identified 1,556 industries as sick and recommended specific steps for their rehabilitation.

But, he said, the recommendations of the cell were not even partially implemented. The association demanded a government decision for a timeframe of 90 days

to implement the recommendations.

Blaming a section of bank officials for recovering loans from the sick industry owners under a special law concerning financial loans, he said that this step is one of the main causes of the country's industrial backwardness.

Nixon's condition critical

NEW YORK, Apr 20: Former US President Richard Nixon was in a critical condition in hospital here today, doctors said, after relapsing from the major stroke that left him paralysed on one side and unable to speak, reports AFP.

Nor'wester

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barely a minute, the Met Office source said.

"It was the severest nor'wester recorded during the season that began early this month," the Met official said.

Normal life came to a near halt during the 90-minute storm which was accompanied with hail and heavy downpour. In the capital and its adjacent areas people scurried for safer places.

Major city roads were submerged, some going under knee-deep water because of poor drainage. Other roads were blocked by uprooted trees.

There were no reports of any house collapses but many trees were felled near the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the Curzon Hall, High Court, Nilkhet, Dhanmandi, Sutrapur and Uttara areas. Electricity supply was disrupted in some parts of the capital for several hours.

Airport sources said a UN mission flight that carried 213 Bangladeshi soldiers from Rwanda was caught in the storm.

"It hovered over the city at high altitude and landed at 5:05 pm after the weather settled," one airport official said.

The other flights were on schedule, she said.

Met Office Deputy Director Sajedur Rahman told The Daily Star that the stormy weather would continue for another two to three days.



Leaders and activists of the Awami League assembled in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office in the city as part of their country-wide gherao programme. — Star photo

Govt teachers threaten strike from Apr 30

Government secondary school teachers yesterday threatened to go on strike from April 30 which will deepen further the crisis created by non-government school and college teachers, reports UNB.

The non-government school and college teachers have been boycotting classes since April 18.

Bangladesh Government Secondary Teachers' Association (BGSTA) at a rally in the city yesterday announced they would go on strike from April 30 to press home their 10-point demands. The demands include a separate directorate for secondary education and recognition of assistant teachers as first class gazetted officers.

There are 316 government and about 11,000 non-government secondary schools all over the country where about seven lakh students are set to appear in SSC examinations beginning May 2.

Addressing the rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon, General Secretary of the Association Md Nazrul Islam said the government should ensure regular payment of salary to the teachers. He said it was inhuman to stop salary on flimsy grounds and

demanding punishment for those responsible for withholding salary.

Presided over by BGSTA President Md Abdur Razzak, the rally was also addressed by Sardar Saiful Islam, Abdur Rahim, Maleka Begum, Md Shamsul Haq and Mahiuddin Ahmed.

Goods worth \$ 26m to be exported to Russia this yr

Bangladesh and Russia yesterday signed a letter of exchange for export of Bangladeshi goods to Russia for repayment of Russian credit for 1994, reports BSS.

According to the letter of exchange, goods worth US dollar 26.50 million will be exported to the Russian in 1994 against the Russian credit received by Bangladesh.

Russia (former Soviet Union) has so far provided Bangladesh with a total credit of US dollar 518.00 million which are being repaid in goods.

Letter of exchange to this effect is concluded each year between the two governments. The repayable amount of Russian credit for the year 1994 is US dollar 26.50 million.

One shot in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A young man, Fakir Asaduddin, suffered severe bullet wounds at East Rampura in the city late last night.

Asaduddin was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition, but the attending doctors on emergency duty referred him to the chest diseases hospital at Mohakhali.

No details were available until midnight last night.

Task force

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bers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and Latifur Rahman, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

Talking to The Daily Star, Mahbubur Rahman said, "This is a good sign on the part of the government to constitute this follow-up team. It is a healthy departure from the normal practice."

However, he observed that the recommendations of the task force must be implemented and adequate budgetary provision should be kept for exchange of delegations, publicity of the country abroad and other related matters.

He also said reforms should be effected in the agencies which would be involved in executing the follow-up actions.

AL, JP gherao DC offices

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition political activists yesterday staged demonstrations in front of the district administration offices across the country to press home their demands which include resignation of the BNP government and holding the next general elections under a caretaker administration.

Separately organised by the two top opposition parties — the Awami League and the Jatiya Party — the country-wide demonstrations were held peacefully, according to reports received at The Daily Star office last night.

In the capital, AL leaders of the district and city units led a procession from the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office at 11 am.

The processionists, chanting anti-government slogans, marched upon the Johnson Road office of the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka and squatted on the road.

The main gate of the DC's office was locked and traffic police halted vehicular movement through the area. Riot police, who followed the procession, also guarded the AL activists during their hour-long agitation.

District AL chief Shamsuddoha Khan Majlish and the party's city branch leaders including Ivy Rahman, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Advocate Kamrul Islam, Faye-uddin Mia and Salahuddin Badal addressed the gathering.

The speakers charged the BNP government with unbridled corruption, nepotism, inefficiency and 'vote dacoity' and demanded its resignation.

They also demanded early elections under a caretaker government and called on all to observe the April 26 nationwide hartal to force the government accept the Opposition demands.

Similar programmes were also held in different district headquarters.

Our Sherpur Correspondent adds: The workers of AL and its front organisations under the leadership of Matiya Chowdhury, MP, gheraoed the DC office from 11-30 am to 1-30 pm.

213 Bangladeshi troops return from Rwanda

A batch of 213 armed forces personnel returned home yesterday from Rwanda via Kenya and the Maldives following a UN decision, reports BSS.

They came on a special UN chartered flight.

The team comprised 12 officers, eight JCOs and 189 other ranks of the Bangladesh Army, two naval personnel and two BAF personnel belonging to the Bangladesh Military Contingent in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR).

The United Nations has started removing troops pending formal decision by the Security Council to evacuate the UNAMIR.

The remaining members of the Bangladesh Military Contingent, who will also be brought back home soon, are safe and sound.

Capital flight

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matter," a share broker said, requesting anonymity. As a natural consequence, they were becoming victim of speculative deals, thereby allowing the foreign investors to profit more than they could gain normally.

The foreigners have done a lot of studies on share trading and they have the capacity to utilise that knowledge. Moreover, they have the money to back their conviction in share trading, the broker said.

They want to know about the profitability and the most recent reports to understand the latest market trend before purchasing shares of any company, the broker added.

Another expert alleged that the local investors have very little access to the primary market of shares. The foreign investors have been making larger margins of profit by purchasing shares at very low prices from the primary market. He said the SEC would have to look into the matter.

He also alleged that some companies have been issuing shares at phenomenally high premiums. The SEC should also take measures in this regard, he observed.

The chairman of the SEC, talking to The Daily Star, recently had said that presently the commission has been playing only a monitoring role, although in principle, it is a regulatory body.

In fact, the country lacks adequate laws for preventing abnormal behaviour of the share market, he had said.

However, the SEC authorities have been monitoring the situation in the capital market with caution. Measures are also being taken to formulate appropriate laws for fair trading in the share market.

The Midnight File

Rao's statement concerns Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Apr 20: Pakistan today expressed its deep concern at a recent statement by Indian Premier Narasimha Rao declaring that India will not give up its nuclear option under any circumstances. This statement made to India military commanders on April 13 is the clearest manifestation of India's intention to persist with its nuclear weapons programme, said a foreign office statement issued here today, reports Xinhua.

Talks to select Hosokawa's successor fail again

TOKYO, Apr 20: The drawn-out process to name a successor to Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa ended again in failure today after the socialists rejected a compromise on tax reform. Negotiators from the parties in the ruling bloc were to meet again on Thursday to see if they could agree on a policy platform, a pre-condition for forming a new government, most probably under Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, reports Reuter.

Aid Club pledges \$2.1b

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The government policy of encouraging private investment in labour-intensive export-oriented industries, increased spending on education and health and activation of fisheries and livestock sector and rural micro-industries are all directed towards reduction of poverty, he said.

The British delegation opened discussion on public administration, saying administrative inefficiency was a key contributing factor in preventing faster growth and poverty alleviation.

The British delegation also referred to Bangladesh's system losses in the power sector and shortfall in implementation of Annual Development Programme (ADP).

Introducing the subject of private sector development, the US delegation said without faster reform and liberalisation Bangladesh would lose the chance of benefiting from the present window of opportunity.

The US delegation also said Bangladesh could ill-afford the haemorrhage of scarce public resources through the inefficient state-owned enterprises' mounting losses arising out of excess manpower and bad management.

During discussion on these topics, the speakers agreed that Bangladesh had made highly commendable progress in the area of macro-economic management and a policy framework that could help attain higher growth and quicken poverty alleviation.

Without this Bangladesh would not have reached the

present window of opportunity, they said.

Some speakers said Bangladesh's international image got a substantial boost from these achievements.

However, there was a widely shared dissatisfaction about poor implementation of the good policies of the government.

It is ironic that although Bangladesh now has more internal resources allocated for poverty reduction, not all of it was being properly used due to administrative inefficiency, they noted.

A number of speakers urged the government to give priority attention to power sector issues to improve the chances of attracting foreign investment.

The Aid Group members also attached a very high and urgent priority to administrative reform.

3 die in Ctg water tank collapse

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 20: At least three persons were killed and 20 others injured when a water reservoir collapsed this morning behind the Jahur Hawker Market here, police said.

The injured were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Kotwali police recovered the bodies and sent for postmortem. The reservoir had developed a crack and collapsed when overfilled, police said.

Resist autocratic forces

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"They talk about poverty alleviation, but do not want it. They don't want development of the country, education of the people. That is why they are resorting to hartals and strikes, damaging vehicles and destroying public property."

The Prime Minister said her party programmes and policies aimed at people's welfare, boosting production and rendering service to the nation.

"We have succeeded in boosting rice production. Now we want to build industries. We are disbursing loans for this sector. From now on, the government will only assist while the people will be the owners of mills and factories," the Prime Minister told the meeting.

She warned of action if anyone created problems or obstacle during loan disbursement and called upon the people to avail of the opportunity being offered by the government.

She observed although the government had reduced the

price of fertiliser, dishonest traders were selling fertiliser above the government rate. The government will take alternative measure to distribute fertiliser at government rate, she assured the peasants.

She said her government had undertaken massive development programmes for North Bengal to ensure development in the underdeveloped region. She mentioned the Jamuna Bridge and assured that extraction of coal and hardrock at Baropukuria and Mahayapara would begin in June.

Landslide kills two in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 20: Two people were killed in a landslide at Debarra near Lankhen Bazar here this afternoon, police said, reports BSS.

According to Doublemoo-ring police, when a group of people were digging earth for the construction of a madrasah near Garibullah Shah Mazar, suddenly a big chunk of soil from the upper parts of a hill collapsed on them.



The government secondary school teachers brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding the status of Class One gazetted officers for all assistant teachers. — Star photo

Opposition: JS session

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polls under a caretaker government.

Replying to a question, Nasim said, "as of today, there is no congenial atmosphere for the Opposition to return to the House." The Opposition was committed to making Parliament effective but the government was out to destroy parliamentary democracy by dishonouring various commitments made in the House, Nasim remarked. In this connection, the Opposition Chief Whip blamed the Cabinet ministers for unparliamentary behaviour, the Prime Minister for showing an indifferent attitude towards the sessions of Parliament, and the entire ruling party for dishonouring the Opposition demands, including independence of the judiciary, passage of the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill, etc.

When asked whether the Opposition was united over the boycott of the next Parliament session, Nasim told newsmen that they would continue discussions. The opposition leaders would meet again on the 25th of this month, the Chief Whip said.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Hasina is learnt to have told her colleagues in the opposition, during yesterday's meeting, that she had come forward to cooperate with the ruling BNP in running both the government and Parliament, but the government had failed to reciprocate.

Hasina observed that she had had enough humiliation

from this government.

Sources in the meeting told The Daily Star that Hasina, although speaking in favour of boycotting the Parliament proceedings, was really interested in seeking the opinions of the other opposition party leaders.

JP leader Moudud Ahmed told the meeting that both the AL and his party had already made it public that it would be difficult to sit in Parliament with an MP coming through 'vote dacoity' in Magura, sources said.

After such announcement it was difficult to return to the House, especially, when the government itself created various obstacles for the Opposition to attend the JS session, Moudud observed.

The JP leader also favoured the proposed caretaker government.

Jamaat leader Sheikh Ansar Ali is learnt to have opposed the idea of a Parliament boycott on the ground that it would isolate the Opposition from the people. Ansar Ali also said the Opposition should utilise the Parliament floor to mount pressure on the government to meet the Opposition's demands.

Suranjit Sengupta of the GP felt that the opposition parties should also try to make the parliamentary standing bodies effective and assert their demands from the Jatiya Sangsad floor. He, however, told the meeting that the GP would not go against the decision of the major opposition parties, meaning the AL and the JP.

Shamsuddoha of the GF informed the meeting that his party was yet to decide whether the GF legislators should remain outside the House during the next session. But the Forum was in favour of making Parliament effective, he said.

Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers' Party left the city for the United States yesterday while Moulana Obaidul Huq of the Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) was not in the city.

Chaired by Sheikh Hasina, the meeting was attended by Abdus Samad Azad, Mohammad Nasim and A K M Jahangir of the AL, Moudud Ahmed and Anwar Hossain Manju of the JP, Sheikh Ansar Ali and Moulana Shakhwat Hossain of the Jamaat, Shamsuddoha of the GF, Suranjit Sengupta of the GP and Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury of the NDP.

Ctg polytech instt closed sine die

CHITTAGONG, Apr 20: The authorities of the Chittagong Polytechnic Institute today closed the institute sine die following a clash between JCD and the Shibir activists, reports BSS.

The classes of the institute had resumed today after a month of closure.

Police said students of the two rival organisations clashed today in which at least 15 were injured.

Bhandari satisfied

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ing situation in the CHT was favourable for starting the next phase of repatriation Bhandari replied with a smile "We are happy and satisfied with what has been done for the returnees by the Bangladesh government."

However, the process of repatriation will resume only if the refugee leaders, who are scheduled to visit here on April 25, were satisfied with the rehabilitation of the returnees, the governor added.

He said it was a new change in this region as two things were happening in Bangladesh — one, the Myanmar refugees are going back home from Bangladesh, and two, the Chakma refugees are also returning to their homeland in Bangladesh.

Later at a meeting with tribal returnees at the Dighinala Shishu Academy, Bhandari said that the Indian Government and he himself would do everything to facilitate the return and rehabilitation of the tribal refugees.

He advised the returnees to contact the government officials here to sort out the initial problems faced by them.

"You should have a positive approach to your difficulties because, at the first stage after return you are to get a roof and then go for other works," Bhandari said replying to some grievances placed before him

which included delay in getting money to buy oxen for ploughing.

Bhandari also said that the Chakma refugee problem was an internal issue of Bangladesh.

He told the returnees that during his meeting with the Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Zia she assured him of ensuring safety and security to tribal people.

The meeting was addressed by Kalparanjani Chakma MP, Aniruddha Chakma on behalf of the returnees, M A Mannan, Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry and Yar Mohammad, DC of Khagrachhari.

After the meeting Bhandari went to Boradum village of Dighinala where he talked with a 45-year-old returnee — Kamala Devi — in front of her newly-built house.

Kamala, who returned home in February along with three other members of her family, informed the Tripura governor that she was now feeling happy to be back home.

Bhandari also visited Panchhari, before returning to the Khagrachhari Circuit House where he had lunch. He was scheduled to stay overnight at the Circuit House and attend a cultural show organised in his honour.

He is scheduled to leave for Tripura tomorrow morning via Ramgarh by crossing the Feni river by boat.



Bangladesh Shilpa Bank

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6. On acceptance of offer, the successful bidders/tenderers shall have to deposit 50% of the bid or tendered money within 7 (seven) days and the balance within 30 (thirty) days from the date of acceptance of tender. In case of failure in making payment of the bid amount within stipulated time, the earnest money or the tender money (as the case may be) shall be forfeited and the mortgaged property may be resold. The project assets will be handed over to the successful bidder (s) by the bank on fulfillment of the conditions.
7. Tenders will be opened on 07-5-94 at 12-30 PM at the aforesaid department in presence of the tenderers (if any). For further information, if any, the undersigned may be contacted. Bidders may purchase the above mentioned movable and immovable property in a lot or separately.
8. The BSB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender/offer without showing any reason.

D-274

Asstt General Manager
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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrai, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.