

Govt waiting for fund for Joypurhat project

By Staff Correspondent

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khondaker Mosharrif Hossain told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the government was trying hard to mobilise funds from donor countries to implement the Limestone Mining and Cement Factory Project in Joypurhat.

The infrastructure development of the project has almost been completed at a cost of Tk 43.82 crore and we are now waiting for funds to implement the project," Dr. Mosharrif said in reply to a notice from his treasury bench colleague Golam Rabbani.

Dr. Mosharrif said, the government has already signed agreements to implement the Barapukuria Coal Mine Project and the Maddharpur Hardrock Project. The contracting firms would start work shortly, he added.

Speaking in an apparently dull house boycotted by the entire Opposition, he said infrastructure development for the Joypurhat project was taken up in 1979 after the signing of a 30 million dollar loan agreement with the Saudi Development Fund.

In 1981, a 45 million pound agreement was signed with a British firm — M/s Cementation Mining Ltd — to develop the lime mine. But the firms after completing the first phase of the work, demanded almost double the agreed amount for the second phase.

Teachers call hartal today

From Page 1 Col 5
phones were made at different parts in the city by the organisers.

The teachers' liaison committee is scheduled to announce its next course of action at a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club today at 3 pm.

The striking teachers yesterday brought out a procession from the Topkhana Road, where they had been staging a sit-in since Saturday morning and marching towards the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Police, however, stopped the processionists at the Bangla Motor crossing and the teachers demonstrated there for nearly two hours.

A nine-member delegation of the teachers' liaison committee then went to the Sangsad Bhaban handed over a memorandum containing their four-point demand to the Speaker and discussed with him their demands.

The delegation members later told the demonstrators at Bangla Motor that the Speaker gave them a patient hearing and expressed sympathy for the striking teachers. They also quoted the Speaker as saying that he would talk to the Prime Minister on the issue. Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Norman was also present at that time.

The delegation included Quamruzzaman, M Aktheruzzaman, Quazi Faruque Ahmed, Asadul Haq, Sheikh Amanullah, Hosne Ara Begum, Choudhury Khurshid Alam and Shahidur Rahman.

The agitating teachers returned to the sit-in venue in the evening.

The sit-in for an indefinite period was being staged to press home the demands including implementation of the national pay-scale for the teachers of private schools and Pabna businessmen call hartal today

PABNA, June 13: The business community of the town called a half-day hartal at the district headquarters for tomorrow to press their 7-point demand, reports UNB.

In support of tomorrow's hartal, they brought out a procession and held a rally in the town this afternoon. It was addressed by Abdul Kafi Sarker, Abdur Rahim Khan and Rezaul Hossain Mintu.

Workers can purchase

From Page 1, Col 7
board to select from amongst all existing PSUs, including the profit-making ones. The previous policy only allowed the privatisation of small and loss-making industries located in remote areas, in addition to stipulating the return of nationalised units to their local owners.

The new policy retains the open bidding process for the sale of the privatised units and opens up the way for the workers and employees of the units targeted for privatisation, to participate in the sale bids.

The workers and employees can purchase these units by adjusting their gratuity and provident fund dues.

In addition, a new modality of privatising PSUs was also approved, allowing for the sale of public shares of the units through the stock market.

The Privatisation Board has already initiated discussions with the Securities and Exchange Commission to finalise modalities of the sale of shares of units targeted to be privatised, the sources said. Initially, the board is planning to off-load the shares of Zill Bangla Sugar Mills, Osmania Glass Factory and Atlas Bangladeshi.

The terms of payment for the privatised units have also been eased to allow for greater participation in the bidding process, the sources added.

The bid money has been lowered to 2.5 per cent from the earlier five per cent. The



The Japanese business delegation led by its Deputy Leader Jiro Rokukawa visiting an industrial unit in the Export Processing Zone in Chittagong yesterday. — PID photo

Japanese team visits EPZs

From Page 1 Col 3
sports caps for export to United States.

The 40 member Japanese investment study mission organised by Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organisations) split into two groups in the morning and one visited the DEPZ while the other visited the Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) and Cox's Bazar.

The group to DEPZ was led by the Keidanren Mission leader Kazuo Haruna. Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh Shigeo Takenaka and senior officials from the Board of Investment (BOI) accompanied the team.

The Japanese, earlier in the morning, visited the Bangladesh Television (BTV) at Rampura in the city. The director general of the BTV Habibur Rahman, explained to the team BTV's programmes for modernisation, replacement of old and obsolete equipment and future expansion.

Haruna said that since the matter of replacement of old equipment was under negotiation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), "from the private sector we shall try to do what

Biman's twice-a-week flight to Ishurdi from July 3

From Page 1 Col 5
Biman Bangladesh Airlines will introduce twice-a-week flight to Ishurdi from July 3 in extension of its existing Dhaka-Rajshahi route, reports UNB.

Every Sunday and Wednesday, flight BG-481 will depart Dhaka at 7:15 am and arrive at Rajshahi at 7:55 am and will depart for Ishurdi at 8:25 am to arrive there at 8:45 am. Biman will then fly from Ishurdi at 9:15 am to return to Dhaka at 9:50 am.

With introduction of the planned STOL aircraft service to Ishurdi, Biman will cease its operation to that destination.

The lone 'tiger' in the House
By Staff Correspondent

The Minister for Forests and Environment, Akbar Hossain, yesterday dubbed himself a 'tiger' and told Parliament that besides him in the House, there are about 450 tigers in the Sundarbans.

In replying to a question from Shahiduzzaman (Bogra-2), the minister said the authorities are strictly following the 1973 Wildlife (Conservation) Rules to save the wild animals in the country.

He said the government has taken up a "tiger project" to raise the number of the species in the Sundarbans by protecting the cubs.

In quest of safe water
By Staff Correspondent

Ruling party MP Farida Rahman yesterday expressed concern that the MPAs were drinking contaminated water supplied from the tank of the parliament building.

She moved a notice in the JS saying the water tank was not treated for a long time and it was possibly infested with germs.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Pani allaying her anxiety and fears said that before every session the tank is properly cleaned and the water is tested at the Public Health Laboratory at Mahakali.

"The water is safe, you can drink it now," Pani quipped.

DPRK to withdraw from IAEA

HONG KONG, June 13: North Korea will immediately withdraw from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and will develop its nuclear programme independently of world scrutiny. Pyongyang's news agency said today, reports AFP.

Economic policy LDF protest rallies from June 17

By Staff Correspondent

Left-leaning political organisations today announced a 10-day campaign from June 17 against what they called the "subservient economic policy" of the government.

Speaking at a press conference in the capital, leaders of the Left Democratic Front a platform of eight left political parties, termed the budget "a document of BNPs' shameless surrender to the World Bank and IMF."

The LDF programme includes rallies and meetings across the country from June 17 until June 26 and demonstration on June 27.

Coordinator of the LDF Nirmal Sen, while reading out a written statement on behalf of the Front, criticised the budget saying the Finance Minister's claim on economic growth had no link with the realities.

"Our economy continues to nosedive, which is reflected in the poor growth of GDP and other sectors," he said.

Workers Party leaders Rashed Khan Menor MP and Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Mujahid Islam Selim of the Communist Party, A F M Mahbubul Huq of the BSD, Hasanul Huq Inu of the JSD and Dilip Barua of the Samyabadi Dal were present at the press conference and replied to different questions.

The team members expressed optimism about investment here, responding to the call by Chittagong chamber.

They also said that if KAFCO project was found successful, their country would look for new projects here to finance in future.

Earlier, president of the Chittagong chamber S M Abul Balam welcome the group.

The chamber president urged the Japanese team to make more investments in Bangladesh.

The other chamber members who took part in the discussion were Salauddin Kusum Khan, managing director of A K Khan company, Hedayat Hoysain, managing director of "Chittagong Steel Mill," Ali Ahmed, former chamber president and Mahmudul Huq.

The team later returned to Dhaka.

Power sector
From Page 1 Col 4
Power Development Board (PDB).

The Energy and Mineral Resources Minister told the meeting that the installed generation capacity of electricity of the existing plants is 2608 MW while the actual generation capacity is about 1800 MW.

"Generation of electricity is capital-intensive and high-risk area. It is imperative to effectively involve private investment with government's initiatives to ensure the catering of electricity demand of the country," he said.

Dr. Mosharrif, however, made it clear that "private investment does not mean, in any way, privatisation."

The prime objective of private investment is to enrich the government sector and ensure the achievement of the country's cherished development, he said.

Hasina asked to join JS debate

From RU Correspondent

One hundred and four teachers of Rajshahi University in a joint statement called upon the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina to take part in the debate on the issue of caretaker government with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Parliament to overcome the present political crisis. They also called for solving the crisis within the Parliament.

Sea resource
From Page 1 Col 5

rural markets, traders and other sources concerned said.

According to market sources, pomfret and Indian salmon (lakka) now sell at over Taka 100/- per kg as against Taka 60/- to 70/- per kg a month ago. Similarly prices of other sea fish and sweet water fish have also shot up. Besides, some unscrupulous fish traders in the city market, taking advantage of the supply shortage are allegedly creating an artificial crisis.

Meanwhile, with the stoppage of fishing by Sea Resources Ltd, a joint venture with a Thai fishing company — Hardford Ltd — the country also is being deprived of foreign exchange earnings of about Taka one crore a month as the company failed to export marine fish, sources say.

The company is now incurring a monthly production loss of over Taka four crore. If such a situation continues the company may collapse, rendering around 2500 employees of it, directly and indirectly, jobless, company officials feared.

Sea Resources Ltd used to supply around 800 tons of white sea fish to the market in the country every month, company officials said.

Port police, in a sudden raid on April 26, sealed two godowns of the company and by the middle of last month seized its fishing nets, spare parts of fishing trawlers, communication sets and other deep sea fishing equipment and shifted those to customs godown. Police said the equipment were seized as the company could not produce any valid documents. But company officials said police had already seized the equipment although it had valid documents for those.

All concerned are therefore requested to remove their empty and import FCL containers out from Chittagong Port at the earliest.

The Midnight File Strike paralyses Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD, June 13: Life was paralysed in the state of Kashmir today as people observed a strike to protest new Indian measures against Kashmiri separatists. Witnesses said banks, government offices, markets and shops remained shut in the five districts of Azad (free) Kashmir, the official name for the Pakistan-administered northern third of Kashmir, reports AFP.

Benazir accuses Sharif of slander

ISLAMABAD, June 13: Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today accused opposition leader Nawaz Sharif of slander and demanded damages for accusing her of tax evasion. "The leader of the opposition has attempted to malign the elected leader of the house by providing incorrect information about my tax returns," she told the National Assembly, reports Reuter.

Prokrichi strike today

From Page 1 Col 8
cadre members have been campaigning for realising their 17-point charter of demands which include complete restructuring of the present administrative system, handing over the executive power of the ministries to the respective ministers and formulation of the Rules of Business.

Meanwhile, several professional groups have expressed solidarity with the three-day Prokrichi programme.

The organisations are: The BCS (Health) Association, the Association of the Government Doctors in Family Planning, Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association, Bangladesh Water and Power Engineers Association, Public Works Department Engineers Association, Roads and Highways Department Engineers Association, T&T Board Engineers Association, Public Health Engineering Department Engineers Association, Dhaka WASA Engineers Association, Rural Electrification Board Engineers Association, BCIC Engineers Association, Bangladesh Steel Engineering Corporation Engineers Association, Bangladesh Food and Sugar Industries Corporation Engineers Association, BTMC Engineers Association, Petro Bangla Engineers Association, BIWTA Engineers Association, Atomic Energy Commission.

The Minister said an amount of Pound Sterling 98,000 of GSA, which is deposited with Biman, is expected to be adjusted by Biman after investigation.

He said 17 other approved GSAs were working for Biman in Tokyo. It also served show cause notices on five Biman officials and employees asking them to explain the delay in payment by the GSA. Bengal Trading was appointed a GSA in 1989. The Minister said an amount of GSA, which is deposited with Biman, is expected to be adjusted by Biman after investigation.

The Minister said an amount of GSA, which is deposited with Biman, is expected to be adjusted by Biman after investigation.

Earlier, leaders of the opposition parties and groups in Parliament held a closed-door meeting to review the latest political situation and discuss their next course of action.

The modalities of the proposed caretaker government and possible programmes for agitation came up for discussion at the meeting.

According to the meeting sources, the leaders concerned are yet to reach an agreement on these points. Another source, however, claimed that it would not be very difficult to reach a consensus on these issues.

Chaired by Sheikh Hasina, the meeting and the press briefing were attended, by among others, Awami League leaders Abdus Samad Azad, To-fael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim, Sudangshu Shekhar Haldar, Salahuddin Yusuf and Rahman Ali, Jatiya Party leaders Moudud Ahmed and Monirul Huq Chowdhury, Jamaat leaders Sheikh Ansar Ali and Maulana Abdus Sobhan, Ganatantri Party leader Surajit Sengupta and NDP leader Salauddin Qader Chowdhury.

Following the clash the authorities suspended all classes until June 21 and asked all residential students to vacate the hostels immediately.

Witnesses said that when hundreds of students took to the streets and blocked the movement of traffic, police baton charged the students to clear the road.

The agitated students exploded crackers, hurled brickbats and damaged at least eight vehicles during the melee.

Police picked up 41 people from the scene. Twelve of them were arrested for their alleged involvement in the clash and the rest were released, said police.

Whereas the Chittagong Port, despite limited capacity of the container Yards had been allowing Shipping Lines Consignees to keep empty & Import FCL Containers till its removal by them and whereas the number of empty and import FCL containers having increased beyond the holding capacity of the Port, it is no longer possible to allow storage of empty and Import FCL Containers for indefinite period.

In the circumstances, it is notified for information of all concerned that penal rent shall be imposed w.e.f. 01.07.94 at four times the usual scheduled slab rates on expiry of free time on all empty & Import FCL containers lying over 28 (twenty eight) days. It is pointed out here that penal rent shall be leviable on and from the date of imposition of the same and thereafter only and under no circumstances penal rent is leviable on the first slab.

All concerned are therefore requested to remove their empty and import FCL containers out from Chittagong Port at the earliest.

Chairman
Chittagong Port Authority

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 Kakrabi, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-963035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.