

Local fabric export

Move to ease procedure for cash incentive

By Sohel Manzur

Efforts are being made to simplify the procedure of implementing the cash incentive programme for the fabric exporters of the country, according to official sources.

A five-member committee headed by Vice Chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Anisul Haq was formed recently to recommend ways for simplification of the procedure.

According to the sources, the exporters who are not entitled to get the facilities under the bonded warehouse and the duty drawback systems were brought under the 'alternative arrangement' to enable them to compete in the world market.

It, however, became difficult for the exporters to avail themselves of the cash benefit because of procedural complications created by a circular issued by the Bangladesh Bank in April this year, sources concerned said.

The Bangladesh Bank issued the circular following some allegations of fraudulence in the process of providing cash benefits to the fabric exporters.

According to the allegations, some people were getting the benefits of alternative cash incentive by showing fake documents to the banks with which they opened L/Cs. The changes made in the procedure through the circular was to check fraudulence.

An investigation is also being conducted by the Bangladesh Bank to find out those involved in the fraudulent acts.

Under the 'alternative cash incentive' programme launched sometime last year, the exporters of local fabrics, along with the manufacturers of export-oriented fabrics, were entitled to get 25 per cent of the total export value as cash incentive. They used to get the money from the Bangladesh Bank through their negotiating banks with less formalities before issuance of the circular.

But the circular made the procedure complicated and time-consuming affecting the exporters seriously. Under the new system, applicants for the cash incentives have to fill up some forms and get the recommendations of those concerned with the export of the products. But, in most cases they do not act properly since they would not be benefited by recommending receipt of the cash incentives. It is alleged.

The matter was raised at a meeting of the task force for export on June 5. The meeting, after discussing the problems of exporters and the scope of fraudulence, suggested formation of a committee to find out an appropriate way to simplify the procedure as well as check the fraudulent acts, sources said.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina exchanged views with the editors of national dailies at her Minto Road residence in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Western envoys laud gov't's achievements

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman yesterday had "informal exchange of views" with the envoys of some important western nations, including the ambassadors of the United States and Japan, reports UNB.

The Foreign Minister also met with the ambassadors of France, Germany and Belgium at his official residence at New Eskaton yesterday afternoon.

Although the agenda of the meeting could not be known, the sources believed that the discussions centred round Bangladesh's foreign policy directions and domestic issues.

The envoys reportedly appreciated the achievements of the government in different sectors of national development as well as the points of success of the country's foreign policy.

The envoys, it was learnt, held out assurances of continued support to the government's efforts for giving institutional shape to democracy in the country.

Sources said the meeting was part of a routine interaction and the Foreign Minister is expected to hold similar exchange of views with the envoys of other countries.

Hasina: Accept demands

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ment, which is the product of an election under a caretaker government, should fear to go to polls under a similar political arrangement.

She said if the government fears that the election under a caretaker government is being demanded to catapult me to power or to help me get elected easily, I can make bold to say that I shall not seek next election." She hastened to add: "I am Bangabandhu's daughter. What more do I have to ask for."

When her attention was drawn to the widespread public demand for a dialogue between the Opposition and the ruling party to break the present political stalemate, Hasina asked what could be the basis for such a dialogue.

She said the Opposition would like to hold talks on election under a caretaker government. But the government made it clear it would discuss anything except the caretaker government issue. So, there is apparently no basis for dialogue between the government and the Opposition.

When Hasina was suggested a series of reforms in the existing electoral system to provide for free and fair election, Tofael Ahmed, who was assisting his party chief, said that under the existing electoral system the Election Commission had ample powers. "But the commission is unable to exert itself or exercise its authority due to executive interference."

Tofael made a pointed ref-

erence to by-elections in Bhola, Magura-2, Mirpur parliamentary constituencies and to a number of municipal elections to show glaring cases of executive interference in favour of the party-in-power.

Hence, he said, any further attempt at reforms in the electoral system will be an exercise in futility.

In the course of "informal exchange of views between the editors and the Opposition leader, the painful predicament of some of the newspapers, which were alleged to have incurred the wrath of the government, came under discussion.

The Opposition leader was apprised of the impending hartal on June 30 to whip up sentiments against newspapers representing progressive pro-democratic and pro-liberation forces.

She was told that taking advantage of the situation, the administration might crack down on at least five newspapers, namely the Janakantha, Bhorer Kagaj, Bangla Bazar, Akker Kagaj and Sangbad. It was feared that the government may even close down these newspapers.

Hasina said the whole nation was passing through a crucial phase of its history. She urged the pro-liberation and pro-democratic forces to close ranks and take steps cautiously.

She said the Opposition parties were passing through trials and tribulations. "Let us all unite and work together for realisation of the common objectives."

Borhan Ahmed granted bail

The District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday granted bail to executive editor of the daily Janakantha Borhan Ahmed but rejected the prayer of its advisory editor Toab Khan, reports UNB.

Judge Abdus Salam passed the orders in a criminal miscellaneous case filed by the two journalists against the rejection of their bail prayers by the CMM Court on June 8 just after they had been arrested in a criminal case filed by the Officer-in-Charge of Motijheel thana, Nurul Alam, for publishing an alleged objectionable post-editorial.

Moving the bail petitions Advocate Khandaker Mahbub Hossain said it is a political case. "The government has fled the case to harass the accused."

After hearing both sides, the court allowed Borhan Ahmed to go on bail upon a security bond of Tk 1,00,000.

The Midnight File

US to seek mandatory arms embargo on North Korea

UNITED NATIONS, June 15: The United States on Wednesday announced that it would seek a mandatory arms embargo against North Korea as a first phase of sanctions to force it to accept full nuclear inspections. US Ambassador Madeleine K Albright told reporters that she began consultations on a proposed US draft resolution on sanctions that also would give North Korea a grace period, reports AP.

Delhi sends 4 more battalion of BSF to Kashmir

NEW DELHI, June 15: Four more battalions of the border security force have been rushed to Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir as the authorities said that a major offensive was in the offing to crush foreign mercenaries entrenched in strategic heights. This was stated in the Rajya Sabha by the Minister of State for Internal Security Rajesh Pilot who said the government planned to put up permanent posts at six strategic passes on the Pir Panjal range dividing Kashmir valley from the sprawling Doda district, reports PTI.

PM: Plant more trees

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here.

In view of the alarming situation, the Prime Minister added, emphasis has been given to tree plantation in the area for checking the desertification process.

She said the countries with higher forest resources are more developed and also rich in other resources. "Once our country was also rich in forest resources but these are declining fast to meet the demand of increasing population — for new houses, hats, bazars, towns and industrial units."

Begum Zia said the government is ready to extend its all out cooperation to resolve any difficulties experienced by private initiatives regarding tree plantation.

"Tree is one of the main resources in our rural areas. The renewable tree resources play an important role in alleviating poverty, improving environment and creating job opportunity in the rural area."

She mentioned that due to unplanned felling of trees, an acute shortage of trees as firewood and for other household and economic uses is persisting in the rural areas.

"We have identified tree plantation as an important national programme and taken initiatives, for the first time, to directly involve the people from all walks of life in the campaign."

To make the tree plantation campaign a social movement, she added, the government has introduced the Prime Minister's Trophy for Tree Plantation since 1992.

Begum Zia said to make the programme a success, various committees have been formed at thana and district levels. Discussions will be held in the capital and also at thana and district levels to create awareness among the people. Besides, tree fair will be held in Dhaka and Rajshahi, and the people will be provided with improved saplings at cheaper rates.

She asked the rural women to take advantage of government facilities and set up nursery, poultry and dairy farms in every house.

Referring to the proposed national budget for 1994-95, Begum Zia said the government has withdrawn all taxes from essentials for the interest

of the common people. The government has also reduced the prices of fertiliser, diesel and agricultural equipment for the development of agriculture and also to protect the interest of farmers.

The inaugural function was also addressed by Forest and Environment Minister Akbar Hossain, State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haq, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Whip Prof Shahjahan Miah, Prof M A Hafiz MP, Begum Lutfunnessa Hossain MP and Chief Conservator of Forest M Mozammel Huj.

Local leaders put forward various demands and requested the Prime Minister to resolve their problems soon.

Begum Zia assured that the Bahapur Bazar would be upgraded as municipality, adequate number of tubewells provided to ensure pure drinking water in Gomostapur thana and construction of Parbatipur-Gomostapur and Kamsat-Gomostapur-Porsha-Sapahar roads expedited.

Earlier, Begum Zia inaugurated a Tree Fair and planted a 'neem' sapling at the Enayetpur High School premises.

JMB cost

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for four years to complete the bridge by 1998.

The project has been divided into four components: the main bridge with a width of 18.5 m, 16 km long eastern approach road, 14 km long western approach road and river training works, which would include two 128 m long viaducts and 2.2 km long guide-bands along both sides of the river to protect the base of the bridge from erosion.

The bridge would also have provisions for a gas pipeline, metre gauge railway line and the east-west second power inter-connector.

Agriculture Minister Majidul Haque, LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan, Religious Affairs Minister Keramat Ali, State Minister for Planning Dr. A Moyn Khan, secretaries concerned, members of the Planning Commission and officials of the Jamuna Bridge Authority also attended the ECNEC meeting.

Prokrichi action plan

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This means the functional cadre members will not give preferential treatment to them," explained a senior Prokrichi leader. He declined to be named.

Sources indicated that the professionals' body was planning to demand announcement on the local government elections by September and strengthening of the Election Commission. The Prokrichi core group meeting discussed how they would react to the possible failure of the special cabinet committee in coming up with any solutions despite the government's earlier announcements.

Meanwhile, the second day of the 72-hour strike of the professionals passed off peacefully yesterday, according to the sponsors.

All the front organisations of the Central Action Council yesterday held a representatives meeting in support of their planned rally today, where they are expected to announce their next action programme.

The rally will be followed by a procession which would hand over a memorandum to the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad.

Meanwhile, the central leaders of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council yesterday called on the Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at her Minto Road residence.

BCS Coordinating Committee president M Abu Hena, BMA president Dr M A Majed, honorary secretary general of

the IEBM Ibrahim Mia and secretary general of the Krishibid Institution Javed Iqbal briefed Hasina about their demands and the on-going campaign for democratisation of the bureaucracy.

A statement from the Awami League, without giving any comment, said Hasina gave a patient hearing to the demands of the Prokrichi leaders.

BCS Coordinating Committee secretary general M Ruhul Matin, IEB vice president A N H Akhter Hossain, BMA secretary general Dr Gazi Abdul Haq, and Awami League leaders Tofael Ahmed, Amir Hossain Amu, Shahi A M S Kibria, Prof Abu Sayeed, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin were present, among others, at the meeting.

Govt ready

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Telecommunication Minister Tariqul Islam and State Minister for Education Principal Younus Khan were also present at the press conference.

"Because of financial constraints we can not fulfil the demands right now but we will fulfill it gradually," the Education Minister said.

He also said if the government pays 100 basic salary of the non-government teachers, it will cost the government about Taka 168 crore in addition to the Tk 700 at present.

If the government gives all the benefits as enjoyed by teachers of government schools and colleges, the expenditure stands at Tk 1500 crore, he said.

Thai FM arrives tomorrow

Saroj Chavanaviraj, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, arrived here from Bangkok yesterday leading a nine-member Thai delegation to the senior officials level meeting of the fifth session of the joint commission on cooperation between Bangladesh and Thailand, reports BSS.

The Thai Foreign Minister, Prasong Soonsiri, will arrive here from Bangkok tomorrow for the joint commission session.

'Boat case' against Ershad transferred

A High Court Division Bench yesterday ordered transfer of a corruption case involving alleged misuse of government funds amounting to about Tk 33 crore against former president H M Ershad from the Court of Divisional Special Judge, Dhaka, to the Senior Special Judge, Dhaka for trial, reports BSS.

The bench comprised Justice Naimuddin Ahmed and Justice Mahafuzur Rahman.

A criminal revisional application was filed before the High Court on behalf of Ershad for transferring the special case against him from the Divisional Special Judge, Dhaka to any other court.

The trial of Ershad in this case (Case No 19 of 1993) known as Boat Case began in the Divisional Special Judge's Court and formal charges were framed against Ershad and a Japanese national on April 11.

Land dispute in N'ganj leaves one dead

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, June 15: A man was killed this morning at the Mondalpara area when a group of people attacked him following a dispute over land demarcation.

According to family sources, the victim, Kazi Habibur Rahman, had a long dispute with his neighbour Amin over the demarcation of their landed property.

Earlier Amin along with his associates allegedly attacked Habib on June 3. Habib lodged a case with the Narayanganj thana against his attackers.

Amin and his associates continued to put pressure on Habib to withdraw the case, but he refused.

Amin made the second attack on Habib today when he came to understand that Habib would not withdraw the case. Habib's wife Najma Begum said, adding that the group equipped with lethal weapons beat him up, and at one stage, they hit him on his head with a stick. Habib fell on the ground and became senseless.

He was declared dead on arrival at the Narayanganj General Hospital.

Police arrested two of Amin's relatives, Khandaker Hasanur Rahman and Nurul Islam, for interrogation.

Woman held from DU campus

By Staff Correspondent

The Ramna police picked up a woman from in front of the Jashmuddin Hall of Dhaka University at about 3 pm yesterday.

According to the police, the lady identified herself as Srabani and a student of the Jagannath University College.

Srabani was taken to the police custody last night.

The cause of her arrest was not known.

BDR, mob clash

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Meantime, BDR had to open fire as about 8-10 thousand angry people gheraoed the 60 border guards. The BDR men also resorted to lathicharge. Some 62 shots were reported fired in the air during the violence.

BDR said they arrested three people with 10 maunds of Indian salt from the scene.

The BDR men fled the scene firing guns.

The Deputy Commissioner and the Police Super visited the spot and the hospital to see the condition of the injured.

Tension mounted in the area.

About a month back, smuggled Indian cows were also seized from the hat, creating tension in the area.

Cabinet body

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Minister Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mian, Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam and State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haq, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman was also co-opted into the committee recently.

Earlier on June 6, the Communications Minister held an informal meeting with the Prokrichi leaders at his office.

The committee is mandated to recommend the reform measures after studying a UNDP report on administrative reorganisation and the report of a secretary-level committee.

Half-day hartal observed in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, June 15: A half-day hartal was observed in Sylhet today demanding withdrawal of the increased rates of gas and to stop irregular supply of electricity.

Shops and educational institutions remained closed. All types of vehicles also remained off the streets.

The hartal was called by the 'Action Committee for Resistance against increased Gas Bill,' while different political parties and local socio-cultural organisations extended their support for the call.

A protest meeting was held at the Paura-point during the hartal hours. The hartal, however, passed off peacefully.

World congress on endoscopic surgery begins today

Dr Sardar Abdun Naem a specialist in laparoscopic surgery, left Dhaka on Tuesday night for Tokyo to attend a three-day world congress on "endoscopic and laparoscopic surgery" beginning in the Fliato city of Japan today, reports BSS.

Japan Society for Endoscopic Surgery (JSSES) and International Federation of Endoscopic Surgery (IFES) organised the congress where Dr. Naem, a surgeon in Birdem, will present a paper on his experience in the field of laparoscopic cholecystectomy in Bangladesh.

Prof. Motiur Rahman of Birdem will also attend the congress as an observer.

Surgeons from different parts of the world will attend the congress.

Opposition out to grab power

From Page 1 Col 4

national savings, foreign exchange reserve and revenue earnings had increased significantly in the past three and a half years. The stock exchange also did brisk business.

"The country is now moving towards self-sufficiency," he claimed.

He said the BNP government had brought the country's economy to a prestigious position from a zero-level in just three years.

His speech was punctuated with repeated cheers from his party colleagues. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was present in the House.

Finance Minister Rahman said a responsible opposition did never support each and every demand of any group without examining the demands objectively.

He said the teachers are being used as political tools. During the last two years, the non-government teachers had got an 80 per cent rise in their salary following the implemen-

tation of the new pay scales and time scale. Now they are demanding more, he added.

The Finance Minister said, the budget allocation for the education sector in Bangladesh is higher than in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan. Some 5,060 secondary school and college buildings and another 15,346 primary school buildings are being constructed and reconstructed throughout the country during the current financial year.

The development budget for the education sector in the coming financial year has been proposed at Tk 980 crore as against Tk 600 crore in the outgoing year.

He claimed, the social sector did never get such high allocation after 1947 and said "a silent revolution is on in the country."

He appealed to the teachers to go back to their educational institutions with the proposed benefits.

The Finance Minister termed the supplementary

বাংলাদেশ তার ও টেলিফোন বোর্ড

Digital থেকে ISD তে রূপান্তর সংক্রান্ত একটি বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

\* সম্মানিত ডিজিটাল টেলিফোন গ্রাহকদের নিকট বিলের সাথে ইতিমধ্যে পাঠানো ফরমে আবেদনের প্রেক্ষিতে ১লা জুলাই '৯৪ থেকে ঢাকার প্রায় ৮০০ টেলিফোন Non-ISD থেকে ISD-তে রূপান্তর করা হচ্ছে।

\* নতুন আইএসডি গ্রাহকদের অতিরিক্ত বিলের সম্ভাবনা রোধকল্পে একটি ব্যবহারবিধি (পুস্তিকা) পাঠানো হচ্ছে এবং গ্রাহকদেরকে পুস্তিকাটি দেখে কলরোধ প্রণালী ব্যবহার করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। যদি কেউ কোন কারণে পুস্তিকাটি না পান-তাদেরকে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর থেকে তা সপ্তাহ করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

\* এই রূপান্তরের জন্য গ্রাহকদেরকে কোন চার্জ প্রদান করতে হবে না এবং সকল আইএসডি গ্রাহককে ১লা জুলাই থেকে বিদ্যমান নির্ধারিত মূল্যমাত্রা মাসিক ১০০০/- টাকা প্রদান করতে হবে না।

\* আবেদনকারীদের মাঝে যে সকল গ্রাহক এই রূপান্তর চান না - তাদেরকে ১লা জুলাই '৯৪ এর পূর্বে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী(ফোনস) এর দপ্তরে লিখিতভাবে আপত্তি জানাতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

\* তাজুদ্দা, পরবর্তী পর্যায়ে যারা এ সুবিধা পেতে আগ্রহী হবেন তাদেরকে জেনারেল ম্যানেজার - এর (টাকা টেলিযোগাযোগ অঞ্চল) দপ্তর থেকে নতুন ফরম সপ্তাহ করে আবেদন করতে অনুরোধ করা হ'ল।

গ্রাহক সেবাই আমাদের দক্ষা  
বাংলাদেশ তার ও টেলিফোন বোর্ড

ডিজিটাল/১০২৭-১৫/৬  
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প্র.কৃ.চি.-বিসিএস কেন্দ্রীয় সংগ্রাম পরিষদ

আজ ১৬ই জুন '৯৪ বৃহস্পতিবার, সকাল ১০টায়

ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স ইনস্টিটিউশন প্রাঙ্গণে-

মহাসমাবেশ

সকল সদস্য দলে দলে যোগ দিন

বাংলাদেশ তার ও টেলিফোন বোর্ড

NWD থেকে Non-NWD তে রূপান্তর সংক্রান্ত একটি বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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