



Laila Kabir new Employers' Assoc president

By Staff Correspondent

Laila Rahman Kabir has been elected President of the Bangladesh Employers' Association (BEA) for the term 1994-95.

She is also the Chairperson of the Bangladeshi Cha Sangsad, a post she has held for the last two years.

Laila Kabir has been involved in different forums in her capacity as the Bangladeshi Cha Sangsad chief and a vice-President of the BEA.

She was the deputy leader of the employers' group in the Tripartite Labour Consultative Committee, which is the apex forum on labour matters. Mrs Kabir was also a Member of the National Labour Law Commission.

Besides, GM Chowdhury, Managing Director of Glaxo Bangladesh Ltd has been elected vice president of the BEA.

Ten newly-elected members are: Kamaluddin Ahmed, Iftekharul Alam, Syed Mohsen Ali, Tapan Chowdhury, Rashidul Hasan, M Aminul Islam, Syed Rezaul Karim, M Morshed Khan, Abdul Awal Mintoo and AKM Shamsuddin, said a press release.

JMB construction

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management consultant have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the co-financiers — the World Bank (IDA), Asian Development Bank and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECD) of Japan.

Agreement with the management consultants will be finalised in the first week of this month to meet the deadline for completing hundred per cent of the conditionality by August 16, the last date of declaring loan-effectiveness.

The meeting was also informed that as a result of continuous negotiations, the government had been able to lower the cost of the country's single-largest civil engineering project by Taka 502 crore.

The project involves a cost of about Tk 4000 crore. The project profile of the bridge was approved in the ECNEC meeting on May 19, chaired by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. Until then the much talked about project had no legal base, the handout said.

President over yesterday's meeting, the chairman of the committee, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed directed the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Authority (JMPA) to make the project a self-sustaining and independent one.

The minister also directed the Roads and Highways Department to immediately conduct feasibility studies for constructing bridges at Doarika and Shikarpur under Barisal district to fulfil commitments made by the Prime Minister.

Members of the standing committee Shahidul Huq Jamal, MP and Mojibur Rahman Sarwar, MP attend the meeting.

Road and Road Transport Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat was also present.

More investments in manufacturing sector stressed

By Staff Correspondent

More investments in manufacturing and service sectors are urgently needed to overcome the poverty circle and the national budgets should address the macro and micro issues relating to investments.

This was observed by speakers at a seminar on the budget and related issues in the economy of Bangladesh organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) held at its office yesterday.

Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam, who was the chief guest at the seminar, in his brief speech said that to create more employment opportunities, further investments have to be made in all sectors with priorities determined by the planners.

"We are exposing our economy to the world economy which is throwing our businessmen to face the global competitive environment. But at the same time, this is also bringing new opportunities to our entrepreneurs," he said.

Jamal Uddin Ahmad, Vice-President of South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), said that although the financial management of the government had been well, further management perception and skill were needed to transform the society.

SAARC meeting ends

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issues.

The Foreign Minister termed the 14th Council meeting "useful and very successful."

"His (Pakistan foreign minister's) observation came before the meeting started and I am making the comment after the meeting," the Council Chairman said.

He said one of the most important outcome of the meeting was the ministers' agreement to carry forward SAPTA (South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement).

The Foreign Minister further said that the meeting of the inter-governmental group (IGG) of experts on trade liberalisation would be held in Islamabad in September next. "We are hopeful that with this meeting, negotiations on trade concessions under the SAPTA would be completed."

He said that special attention was given to the need for review of all SAARC institutions and programmes, particularly in view of the fact that SAARC is completing its first decade in 1995.

Mostafiz said that the report of the first meeting of the finance/planning ministers of SAARC of poverty alleviation will be taken up at the next SAARC summit. "So will be the case with the reports of the SAARC ministerial meeting on the disabled and the ministerial meeting on youth," he added.

The Foreign Minister said it has also been agreed that the SAARC countries would seek to coordinate further their position in respect of major international conferences.

The Council has adopted a report for submission to the next SAARC summit, Mostafiz said. The Standing Committee comprising foreign secretaries has been asked to hold a special meeting during the next Council conference.

This special meeting will address SAARC organisational and programme-related matters along with other specific issues.

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