

Eight killed, 58 hurt in 4 road mishaps

By Staff Correspondent

Eight people were killed and some 58 others injured in six accidents on Dhaka-Aricha, Bogra-Nagarbari highways and in the capital yesterday.

Our DMCH correspondent adds, three people including a minor girl were killed in separate road accidents in the capital yesterday.

A ten-year-old girl, Rubi, was crushed under a truck at Shanirakha, Demra, in the morning while two others — a peon of the Information Ministry, Haris Uddin, 30, and one Heron Chandra Das, 45, were killed at Kalyanpur and Sayedabad respectively.

A minibus crushed Haris when he slipped off his staff-bus while returning home from the office around 3 pm.

All the three bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

UNB says, five people were killed and 58 others injured in four road mishaps on Dhaka-Aricha and Bogra-Nagarbari highways.

Police said one person was killed and 25 others were injured in a bus-truck collision near Dhaleswari Bridge on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Manikganj at about 11 am.

The dead was identified as Ramizuddin of Kashinathpur in Pabna district. He succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital.

Police said the accident occurred when an Aricha-bound minibus collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound truck.

The injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital and

Ganoshasthya Kendra at Savar. Another UNB report from Savar said one person was killed and 30 others were injured in a road accident at Savar on the Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday morning.

Police said Ekias, 14, died on the spot when a minibus coming to Gabtali from Nabinagar collided head-on with an Aricha-bound truck in front of Titas Gas office at 10 am.

Twenty of the injured were treated at Savar thana health complex. Ten others were sent to different hospitals in Dhaka. UNB Sirajganj correspondent said three people were killed and three others injured in two accidents on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway.

Habibur Rahman, 30, died on the spot when a Sirajganj-bound truck from Ullapara plunged into a roadside ditch at Brahmapakalia in Ullapara thana at 3 pm. Critically injured in the accident, Rafiqul, 29, died at Sirajganj General Hospital.

Two others injured — Sohrab Ali and Santosh Ali — were sent to hospitals in Dhaka. Shahidul Islam was admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital. All the dead and injured are day-labourers.

Police seized the killer truck. The driver and the helper of the truck fled. A case was lodged with Ullapara police.

Akka Ali, 53, died instantly when a truck ran him over at Sahebganj on the same road at 1 pm.

Separate cases were filed with respective police stations.

Haiti invasion averted

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tonight. There will be no invasion, there will be no planes coming in to bombard us."

Clinton's White House speech, broadcast on some Haitian radio stations, was met by sporadic bursts of semi-automatic weapons fire, witnesses said.

He said the accord enabled him to recall 61 air force troops already en route to Haiti for an invasion air drop of paratroops. He said the Haitian junta signed the accord after being told the planes were being loaded.

Although Clinton said the junta would step down by October 15 at the latest, after Haiti's parliament had passed an amnesty law, he did not say they would leave the country as US officials had previously said.

BCS (Econ) demands upgradation of 117 posts

A section of BCS (Economic) officials yesterday demanded the upgradation of 117 posts to Senior Scale from the Selection Grade, like the BCS (Admin) Cadre, reports UNB.

The demand was made at a meeting of Assistant Chiefs and Research Officers of the Economic Cadre at the Planning Commission in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. A 31-member action committee was also formed, said a press release.

The meeting observed that 1,048 posts of BCS (Admin), including 548 of Selection Grade, were upgraded to Senior Scale on September 7 last but the posts of BCS (Economic) Cadres were not upgraded.

It decided to observe a two-hour work stoppage from 11 am everyday beginning September 29 if the demand was not met by then.

CEC leads citizens' march at Tongi tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rauf will lead a 'citizens' march' at Tongi tomorrow to encourage the local people to take an active part in the voters' registration process for the 'model polls' in Tongi Municipality, Election Commission (EC) sources said.

The elections in Tongi Municipality, likely to be held in November, will be the second model polls to test some measures for an entirely corruption-free election.

The measures, which were first put to test in the Dapunia Union Parishad elections April 30, included issuance of identity cards to the voters and voters' clubs comprising local people conducting the elections.

About 50 per cent of the one lakh and seven thousand voters of Tongi Municipality have so far been enlisted for the elections and issuance of identity cards to them is also going on.

Meanwhile, the EC has decided to launch a campaign among the people of the area to make them aware of their voting rights and the importance of active participation of all in evolving a fool-proof electoral system.

Religious groups plan agitation

Sammilita Sangram Parishad, an alliance of 13-pro-Islamic organisations, staged a rally in Dhaka yesterday demanding Islamic rule in the country and a law to punish the anti-Islamic elements, reports UNB.

It also announced programmes for "Secretariat gherao" on October 12 and "DC office gherao" on October 10 to press home its 11-point demand that includes a ban on 'anti-Islamic' newspapers, restriction on NGO activities and declaration of 'Kadianis' non-Muslims.

Blaming the government for its 'anti-Islamic' stance, the Parishad leaders told the rally at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque that they would continue their movement until it was ousted and the 'rule of Islam' established.

Prime Minister offers dialogue

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Begum Zia said the Opposition action has jeopardised democracy. Local and foreign entrepreneurs are scared and feel discouraged to invest even though opportunities have been created through attractive industrial and investment policies. This threatens loss of prospective employment opportunities.

"Such actions (of the Opposition) can neither promote democracy nor the development of the economy," she added.

Begum Zia said she firmly believed that the people want democracy to flourish and the process of development to go on uninterrupted. She left it to the people at large to judge how the Opposition programmes of hartals and agitation were helpful for the growth of democracy and the national economy.

The Prime Minister, in her 20-minute address, narrated the achievements in different sectors during the last three and a half years of her government.

"Bangladesh has reached the crossroads of national development. We don't have much time to prepare for entering the new century," Begum Zia said.

Many developing countries, she said, have been engaged in ceaseless efforts to improve the lot of their peoples and the future generations by drawing on the fruits of political stability.

"We cannot afford to tread on the suicidal path of anarchy, slowness, instability and unrest if we want to establish Bangladesh as a dignified country in the comity of nations."

The Prime Minister reminded that democracy in any country could not be realised on the spur of a moment. It is the outcome of long, arduous and united efforts.

She called for tolerance, empathy and mutual understanding for realising the goal of giving democracy an institutional shape — "a pledge that we all made to the nation."

"Political stability and uninterrupted peace are the most essential preconditions for poverty alleviation and development," Begum Zia pointed out.

"Unitedly we had embarked on a journey towards democracy and development but it pains me that some of us are trying to abandon the path before we could reap the harvest."

She said that in the practice of democracy, there might be differences of opinion but there was no scope for conflict.

The people are the final arbiters in a democratic system, the Prime Minister said. "The more we realise this truth, the more will it be good for democracy."

She said that the present government, elected through a free and fair election acclaimed worldwide, should in no way be equated with an illegal autocratic regime.

The Prime Minister recalled the different government measures to give democracy an institutional shape in the last three years. The press enjoys full freedom; and the judiciary is also fully independent.

She said holding of free and fair elections is one of the preconditions in giving democracy an institutional shape. "We have no difference of opinion with regard to this objective, but we differ on how to go about it."

Begum Zia said that on behalf of her party and government, they had already proposed strengthening the Election Commission and introducing voter identity cards and fool-proof voting procedure to ensure free and impartial elections.

She said that since her government assumed power, elections to union parishads, pourashavas and city corporations, and bye-elections to Parliament were held in unprecedented free and fair atmosphere.

Development and construction work of 6747 kilometres of roads have been completed during the last three years. Some 220 permanent bridges, including some large ones like the Daudkandi, Mohananda, Nazipur and Meghna bridges have been constructed in addition to 4000 metres of bailey bridges and 500 culverts.

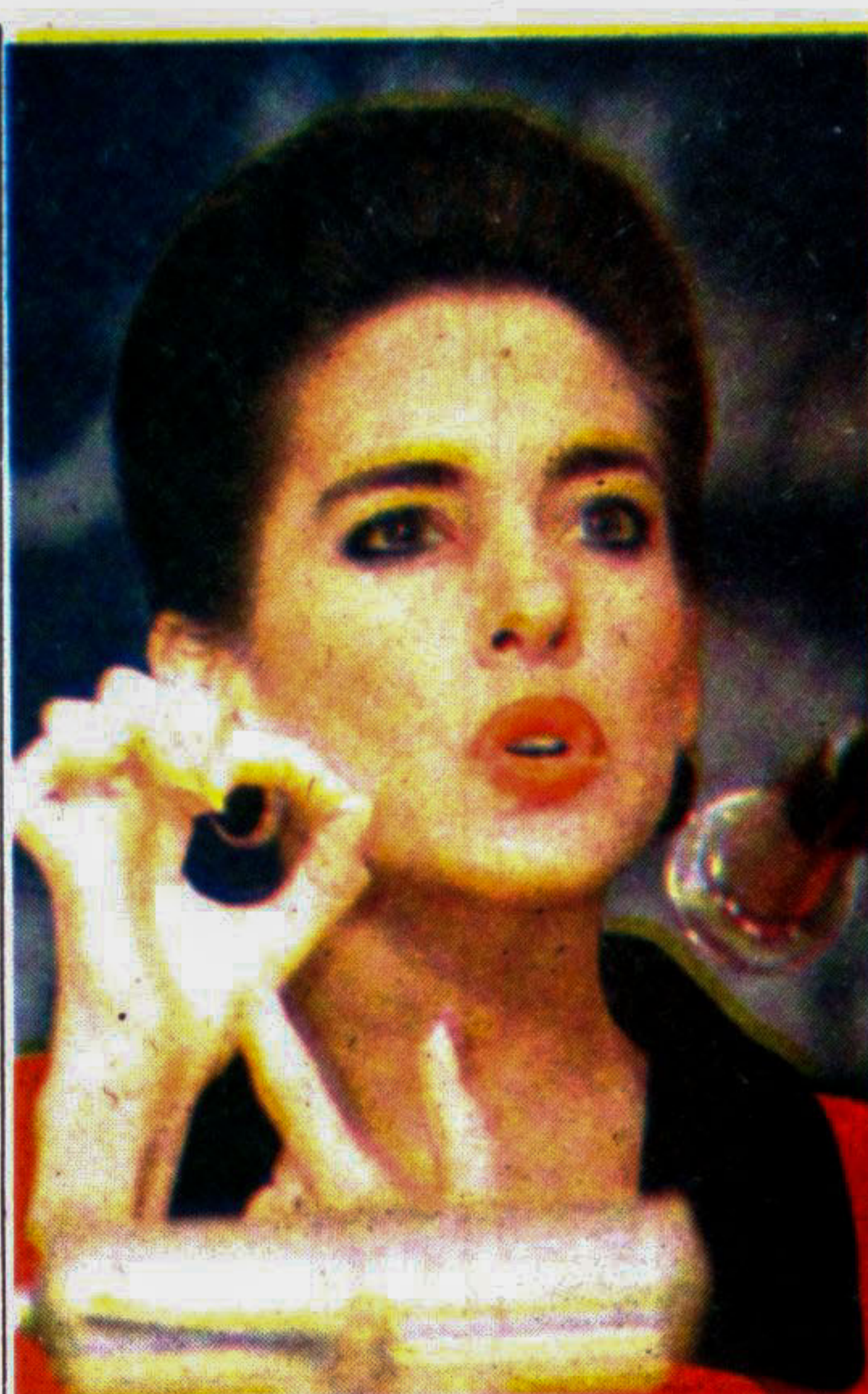
Besides, construction of the second Buriganga bridge and the Dhaleswari bridge have been taken up.

Construction of the Jamuna bridge has been started and expected to be completed by 1998, she said.

The Prime Minister said: "We are on the road towards self-reliance by restoring discipline in the economic sector and reducing foreign dependence."

As a result of the government's ceaseless endeavours in the last three and a half years, she said, the foreign exchange reserve currently stood at a very satisfactory level. The per capita national income also has risen to 226 US dollar and the economy grew by five per cent.

Bangladesh, for the first time, has succeeded in implementing 94 per cent of its annual development programme (ADP), Begum Zia added.



Heather Whitestone, Miss America 1995, explains how she uses sign language and reads lips during a press conference in Atlantic City Sunday. Whitestone lost her hearing when she was 18 months old, but says she has never let that stand in the way of achieving her goals. — AFP photo

Anyakuu meets Hasina again

Visiting Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeke Anyakuu called on Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina for a second time yesterday at her official Minto Road residence, reports BSS.

Chief Anyakuu came to conclude his Sunday's unfinished discussions which continued for more than ninety minutes in a very cordial and congenial atmosphere yesterday. The talks were very fruitful, an AL press release said.

BCL leader stabbed

By DMCH Correspondent

The president of the Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League of the Dhaka College was stabbed by a group of miscreants on the college campus yesterday morning.

The victim Mizanur Rahman, 24, a student of the Management Department, received stab injuries in his left hand and was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

About her government's sincerity in strengthening democracy, Begum Zia said the government had passed a Bill providing for an independent Parliament Secretariat.

To ensure the Opposition's participation in running the state, she said, the government is continuing its efforts to make the parliamentary standing committees effective.

"All these prove that there is no lack of our sincerity in the practice of democracy."

Begum Zia put up a catalogue of her government's achievements in the fields of education, agriculture, health, communication and physical infrastructure.

She said the country has almost reached self-sufficiency in food. Industrial production has also increased by nine per cent in the last two years.

To reach health care facilities at the doorstep of people, the government has completed 31-bed health complexes in 367 thanas. Expansion of 100-bed hospitals in new districts and 250-bed ones in old district headquarters was going on rapidly.

Begum Zia said that in last three years, five new government medical colleges and two private medical colleges have been established. Some 2,180 doctors have been appointed. All district and 185 thana hospitals, and some others have been supplied with ambulances, X-Ray machines and other modern equipment.

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Unruly youths injure drama artistes

A number of spectators including four drama artistes were injured when a section of unruly youths attacked the Mahila Samity Auditorium at Bailey Road in the city during the staging of a play yesterday evening, reports BSS.

According to a press release of the Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, the attack followed protests by some artistes against unruly activities of a section the audience, mostly youths.

A case has been filed with Ramna thana in this connection, the federation said.

Nasiruddin Yusuf, president of the federation, the umbrella body of theatre artistes, said in a statement that a section of indiscipline youths have been creating problems for the drama artistes as well as the spectators in the area for some time. Their attitude and behaviour were indecent and provocative, he alleged.

Yusuf urged the authorities concerned to take appropriate measures against such activities of the terrorists and called upon the drama artistes to be vocal against them.

Opposition view

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sugar-coated and well-drafted speech tactfully avoided the core problem of caretaker government for which the Opposition has been agitating for a long time."

"We have repeatedly cleared our position. Let the government bring a Bill for caretaker government, take steps for its passage We will join the House," said Zillur adding that the ruling party was yet to take any initiative towards that direction.

Jatiya Party leader Maudud Ahmed MP said, "I don't think that her (the Prime Minister's) speech will make any change in the Opposition's stand."

He said, "This is nothing new. This is what they have been saying for last few weeks." However Maudud said, "We will study the speech and consult with other Opposition parties If necessary we will give further reaction."

Referring to the move for the government-opposition dialogue, the JP leaders said a reply to Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury's letter was sent by Abdus Samad Azad on behalf of the Opposition. "We're now expecting their reply."

Jamaat-e-Islami General Secretary Maulana Matur Rahman in his brief reaction said, "We find nothing new in her speech."

The Midnight File

10 Kashmiri militants shot dead

SRINAGAR (India), Sept 19: Indian security forces shot and killed 10 Muslim militants in renewed violence in the troubled Kashmir valley, the police said today. Seven of the guerillas were killed in heavy fighting with Indian troops, who sealed off about a dozen hamlets in the north Kashmir district of Baramulla overnight after an ambush, police sources said, reports AFP.

Syria welcomes fresh ME peace process

DAMASCUS, Sept 19: Syria today welcomed a fresh Middle East peace mission by the United States and urged Washington to present new proposals to break a deadlock in its negotiations with Israel. Official newspapers repeated President Hafez Al-Assad's statement that Syria was ready to meet the "objective requirements" of peace.

Work stoppage

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to 1 pm for three consecutive days beginning October 8 across the country unless their demands are met by October 7. They also warned of a tougher action programme after October 10.

Non-gazetted employees from different government offices joined the rally in processions from various parts of the city. The employees at the secretariat also joined the rally en masse. Picketers wearing red badges were also posted in all the gates around the secretariat to deter any employee from getting in.

The processions and the rally caused severe traffic jams in all roads leading to the city centre.

Presided over by Syed Mohiuddin, convenor of the Liaison Committee, the rally was addressed by, Salehuddin Selim, and others.

The demand list of the non-gazetted employees includes primarily financial benefits, seeking 30 per cent dearness allowance from July 1, 1994, free gas and electricity upto 200 units for the employees, Tk 200 conveyance and Tk 300 medical allowance per month.

The employees also seek to do away with the derogatory designation like lower division clerk and to stop retrenchment of employees and to dissolve the Nurunnabi Committee, mandated to suggest ways to re-organise government offices.

Int'l Day of Peace today

The International Day of Peace will be observed in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world today, reports BSS.

Tk three lakh snatched

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers snatched three lakh taka from the manager of a cigarette dealer in the city's Nazimuddin Road yesterday afternoon.

The muggers exploded crackers and waylaid the manager of Mahmood Traders — Bhashan Chandra Das — when he reached Nazimuddin Road from his Begum Bazar office in the afternoon.

The manager and three other staff of the office were going to Magbazar Branch of the Pubali Bank in a car to deposit the day's turnover.

Witnesses said, the muggers broke open the windshields of the car and looted the money at gun-point and fled through a busy by-lane.

Anyakuu's proposals

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comment on the Opposition reaction to his reported proposals.

Asked whether he meddled in Bangladesh's internal politics during his visit as a C'wealth secretary general, he said: "There is no contradiction between my coming here as a secretary general and discussing with the leaders of this country the ways in which the C'wealth can contribute to this country's political and socio-economic development programmes."

"It is entirely up to you to say, which I would not necessarily agree, that my visit was solely for one of the many subjects that we discussed."

In reply to another question, Anyakuu said that an application from Cameroon seeking membership of the C'wealth was now pending consideration.

মাননীয়া প্রধানমন্ত্রী সমীপে রত্নানীমুখী তৈরী পোশাকশিল্পের দাবীসমূহ বাস্তবায়নের আবেদন।

মাননীয়া প্রধানমন্ত্রী,

রত্নানীমুখী তৈরী পোশাক শিল্পের সমস্যাদি সমাধানকল্পে বিভিন্ন সময়ে সংশ্লিষ্ট মন্ত্রণালয় ও বিভাগে আমরা বার বার অনুরোধ জানিয়েছি। সমাধানের আশাস ও পেয়েছি, কিন্তু অতীত পরিচালিত বিষয় সমস্যার সমাধান দূরের কথা, আরো নিত্য নতুন জটিলতার সৃষ্টি হয়েছে, ফলশ্রুতিতে গত অর্থ বৎসরের তুলনায় এ অর্থ বৎসরে তৈরী পোশাক রত্নানী আয় ২১% হ্রাস পেয়েছে।

হাজার হাজার কোটি টাকা বিনিয়োগকৃত, ১০ লক্ষাধিক নারী পুরুষের কর্মসংস্থানকারী এ শিল্পকে রপ্তা শিল্পে পরিণত করার চেয়ে বন্ধ করে দেয়া শেষ বলে আমরা মনে করি। আমরা নির্দিষ্ট বসন্তে পরি বিশ্ব বাজারে রত্নানী বৃদ্ধি করা আমাদের সমস্যা নয় বরং নিয়ন্ত্রিত সমস্যাই হচ্ছে এ শিল্পের অস্তিত্ব রক্ষার ক্ষেত্রে একমাত্র হুমকি।

নিরুপায় হয়ে নিম্ন বর্ণিত সমস্যাবলী আপনার সরাসরি হস্তক্ষেপের মাধ্যমে সমাধানের জোর দাবী জানাচ্ছি। আপা করি আপনার সরাসরি হস্তক্ষেপে আগামী ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে এ সকল সমস্যার সমাধান হবে অন্যথায় অস্তিত্ব রক্ষার পক্ষে আমাদের বিকল্প পথ বেছে নেওয়া ছাড়া গন্তব্য থাকবে না।

- ১। ১০০% রত্নানীমুখী তৈরী পোশাক শিল্পের একগুণি মূল্যের উপর শিল্পীনির্ভর বিরোধী ০.৫০% উৎসকর কর্তন রহিত এবং পরোক্ষভাবে আরোপিত VAT প্রত্যাহার করতে হবে।
- ২। কাটমস-এর জটিল পদ্ধতিসমূহ সরলীকরণের মাধ্যমে পোশাক শিল্পের সকল আমদানী ও রত্নানী কার্যক্রম সহজ করতে হবে।
- ৩। রত্নানীমুখী পোশাক শিল্পে রত্নানীকল্পে ব্যবহার্য নেচারাল গ্রে-সহ সকল প্রকার কাপড় ও অন্যান্য আনুষঙ্গিক প্রযাদি বন্ডেড ওয়ার হাউজের আওতায় আমদানীর ক্ষেত্রে সকল প্রতিবন্ধকতা দূর করতে হবে।
- ৪। রত্নানী বৃদ্ধির স্বার্থে এবং প্রতিযোগী রত্নানীকারক দেশসমূহের সাথে প্রতিযোগীতায় টিকে থাকার জন্য প্রচলিত মূল্য সংযোজনের হার কমিয়ে আনতে হবে।
- ৫। কারখানা বিমা কভারের ক্ষেত্রে বাধ্যতামূলক ট্রাড/সাইক্লোন শর্ট বাতিল করতে হবে।
- ৬। বিমান ও অন্যান্য বায়বাহী এয়ারক্রাফট-এর মালপরিবহন ক্ষমতার বৃদ্ধতা হেতু রত্নানী বৃদ্ধির স্বার্থে বিমানপথে এয়ার কার্গো এক্সেসের ক্ষেত্রে মালবাহী এয়ারক্রাফট চার্জের হার অনুমতি দিতে হবে।
- ৭। চটগ্রাম সমুদ্র বন্দরে মালামাল খালাস এবং জাহাজীকরণের যন্ত্রপাতির অপ্রতুলতার কারণে আমদানী ও রত্নানী ক্ষেত্রে অহেতুক বিলম্ব দূরীকরণের আত ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।
- ৮। দৈনন্দিন গড়ে অধোবিত্ত ৩/৪ ঘন্টা লোডশেডিং-এর কারণে রত্নানীমুখী পোশাক শিল্পে উৎপাদন ব্যাহত হওয়ার ফলে রত্নানী আদেশ বাতিল হয় এবং মজুরী অসামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ হয়। তাই লোডশেডিং বন্ধ করতে হবে। রত্নানীমুখী পোশাক শিল্পের ক্ষেত্রে পিক আওয়ার বিদ্যুৎ ব্রেট প্রত্যাহার এবং এলটি লোড ব্রাড ৫০ কিঃ ওয়াট হতে ১০০ কিঃ ওয়াটে উন্নীত করতে হবে। বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগের অহেতুক হ্রাসনি বন্ধ করতে হবে।
- ৯। দেশের সর্বত্র অবস্থিত রত্নানীমুখী পোশাক শিল্পকে ইপিজেড এলাকায় প্রদত্ত সকল সুযোগ সুবিধা দিতে হবে।
- ১০। অস্বাভাবিক হারে বৃদ্ধিকৃত ব্যাংক চার্জ কমাতে হবে।
- ১১। রত্নানীমুখী পোশাক শিল্পে ব্যবহৃত রং, পিউমিক স্টোন ও কোমিক্যাল বন্ডেড ওয়ার হাউজ পদ্ধতিতে আমদানীর ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।
- ১২। পূর্ব ঘোষিত আমদানী নীতির অনুসরণে ব্যাক-ট্যু-ব্যাক এলসি খোলার পূর্বে জাহাজীকরণকৃত কাঁচামাল আমদানীর সুবিধা পূর্ণবাহাল করতে হবে।

বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রত্নানীকারক সমিতি (বিজিএমইএ)

বনমী ইন্টার হাউজিং লিমিটেড এর আবাসিক প্ল্যান

টেলিভিশন ভবনের উত্তর-পূর্বদিকে অবস্থিত প্রকল্পটিতে ইতিমধ্যে প্রায় ৯০০টি প্লট উন্নয়ন করে সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদেরকে হস্তান্তর করা হয়েছে। বর্তমানে প্রকল্পটিতে নতুন জমি উন্নয়ন ও প্লট বরাদ্দ চলছে। শহরের কেন্দ্রস্থলে অবস্থিত অভিজাত বনমী প্রকল্পে প্লটের আয়তন: ৩.০০, ৩.৫০ ও ৫.০০ কাঠা। প্রকল্পটিতে প্রয়োজনীয় সব ধরনের নাগরিক সুবিধা থাকবে।

আপনার পছন্দের প্লটটির জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন।

এছাড়াও শহরের কেন্দ্রস্থলে নিম্নলিখিত প্রকল্পগুলিতে প্লট বরাদ্দ চলছে:

পল্লবী দ্বিতীয় পর্ব: পল্লবী প্রধান সড়ক থেকে (১১½ বাসট্যান্ড) ১ কিলোমিটার পশ্চিমে বোটনিক্যাল গার্ডেন সংলগ্ন। প্লটের আয়তন: ২.৫০, ৩.০০, ৩.৫০ ও ৫.০০ কাঠা। গোড়ান: বাসাবো/মাদারটেক এর শেষ প্রান্তে। প্লটের আয়তন: ১.৭৫, ২.০০, ২.৫০ এবং ৩.৫০ কাঠা।

যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা:

ইন্টার হাউজিং লিমিটেড

ইসলাম চেষ্টার (৪র্থ তলা) ১২৫/এ, মতিঝিল কমার্শিয়াল এরিয়া, ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ

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