

BRAC to help remove poverty in Vietnam

By Staff Correspondent
The Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Hunger Eradication and Poverty Alleviation (HEPA) Commission of Vietnam yesterday to work jointly on different programmes.

The BRAC would provide staff assistance, consultancy and training support for HEPA and the two organisations would work jointly to mobilise funds to implement the poverty alleviation project undertaken by the Vietnamese organisation.

The leader of the visiting delegation of HEPA Vice President Nguyen Chi Nam and the Director, Programmes of BRAC, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, signed the MOU in the city. The Vietnamese delegation, now on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, will visit the BRAC's programmes. The team will also discuss the project, submitted by BRAC last year to HEPA, for eradication of hunger and poverty of one lakh families in Ho Chi Minh city of Vietnam.

Head-on collision of trains averted in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, Feb 9: A head-on collision between two passenger trains at Rangpur Railway Station was averted this afternoon as passengers screamed for help.

When a local passenger train which was running towards another waiting at the Rangpur station, screeched to a halt, the distance between the two was only about one hundred yards.

At least 30 passengers were, however, slightly injured as they jumped out of the running train to escape a possible accident.

All staff of the Rangpur station, including the station master fled soon after the incident and police took control of the station after an unsuccessful gherao bid by the angry passengers.

The passengers alleged that due to wrong signalling by the station staff, a train coming from Ramna, Kurigram, took the wrong track, where a Trestle-bound train was standing.

Transport strike in southern region today

JESSORE, Feb 9: A 24-hour transport strike will be enforced tomorrow in 12 routes of the southern region of the country, reports UNB.

The strike has been called by the owners and workers' associations of the region in protest against the damaging of a number of vehicles near the Islamic University campus.

They also threatened a 48-hour strike from February 16 if the authorities fail to take any action against the students involved in the outrages.

Transport owners also demanded compensations for the damaged vehicles and urged the authorities to ensure security for the transport workers as well as passengers.

Fulbright dead

WASHINGTON, Feb 9: Former Senator William Fulbright, a key figure in US foreign policy for three decades died here today of a stroke at the age of 89, his wife said, reports AFP.

Fulbright served in the US senate from 1945 to 1974, representing the southern state of Arkansas. His views on world affairs influenced a generation of American leaders, including another Arkansas, President Bill Clinton.

From 1959 to 1974 the Democrat headed the senate foreign relations committee, and became a voice of moderation during the height of the cold war.

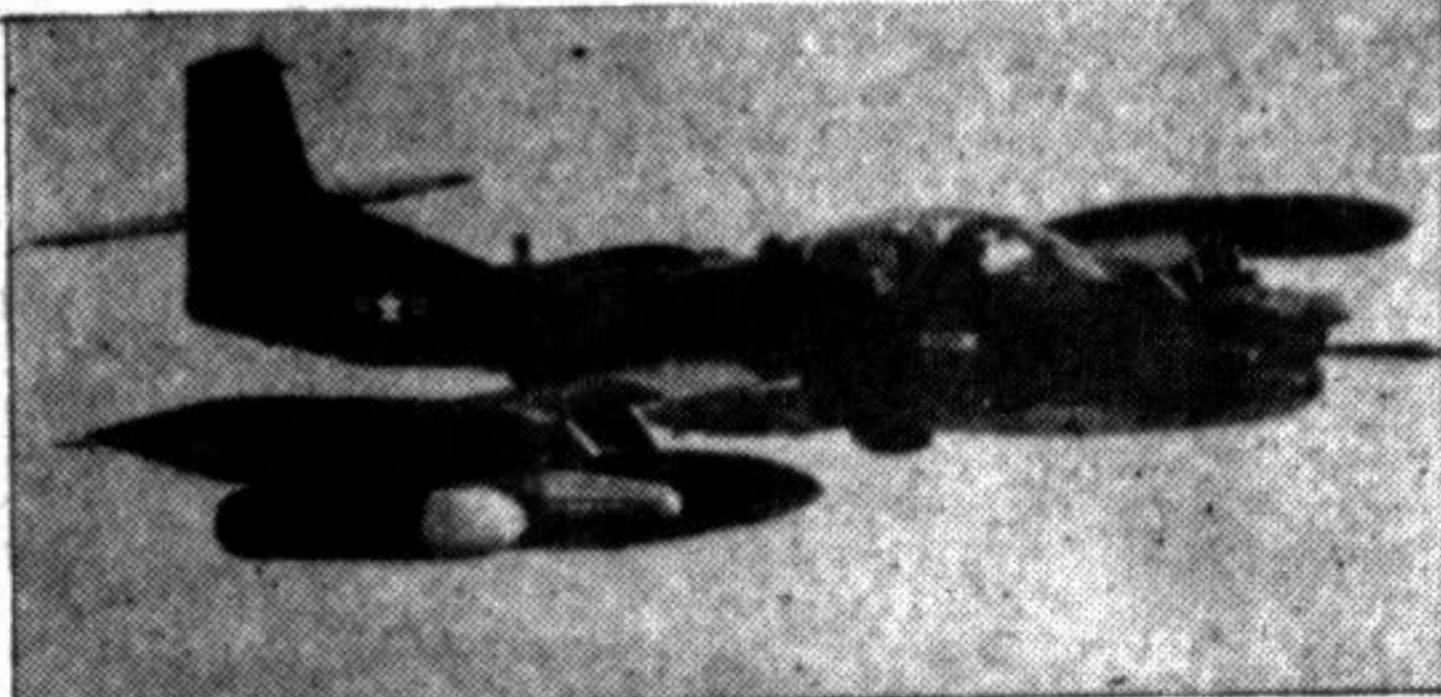
Moudud

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be "unrealistic and meaningless." The JP leader said adding, "We have nothing to say if any one files a case on his own initiative."

Moudud, however, said that returning to the post of the Chief Justice after assuming the political post of President was a "wrong decision" by Justice Shahabuddin.

He said, his party had given a "note of dissent" on the issue when Parliament took the move to pass the 11th amendment to the Constitution.

The JP leader alleged that Justice Shahabuddin did not maintain his neutrality as the head of the government as he played a discriminatory role with the Jatiya Party and its leaders, including former president H M Ershad.



A T-37-B primary jet trainer which will be transferred to the BAF under the US excess defence articles transfer programme. — ISPR photo

Five projects involving Tk 1126 cr okayed

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) yesterday approved a Tk 625 crore road construction project to build 1,330 kilometres of regional highways and feeder roads, reports UNB.

The ECNEC also approved the Tk 358 crore Coastal Embankment Rehabilitation Project (phase 2) for construction of embankment along the 700 km coastal line from Teknaf to the Sundarbans at a meeting with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

The road project includes construction of four regional highways and 35 feeder roads, and 116 metre bridges across the country. The regional highways will be 18 feet wide and the feeder roads 12 feet.

The government will bear all expenditure of the project from its own resources.

Major roads included in the project are: 78 km Rajapur-Kathalia-Bamna-Patharghata road, 63 km Charkhali-Tushkhali-Mathbaria-Patharghata road, 61 km Pirojpur-Nazirpur-Matbhanga-Patgati-Gopalganj road, 72 km Rajbari-Pangsha-Kushitia road, 65 km Betgram-Tala-Paikgacha-Koirabazar road, 51 km Naogaon-Atrai-Natore road, 54 km Lakshimpur-Ramgati road, 54 km Jamalpur-Dhama-Kamalpur-Roumanj road, 56 km Kishoreganj-Katadi-Bhairab Bazar road, 42 km Jinjira-Keramanj-Dohar road, and 45 km Sirajganj-Belkuchi-Enayetpur-Shahjadpur road.

Nadir Naam Madhumati Appeal against censor board decision rejected

By Staff Correspondent
The high-level government film censor appeal committee has rejected the appeal against the decision of the Censor Board on the "Nadir Naam Madhumati".

The Censor Board had raised objections to ten scenes and dialogue sequences of the film, based on the War of Liberation. Its director, Tanvir Mokammel, appealed against these objections on October 30.

After three months on February 6, the appeal board informed Mokammel that, of the ten objectionable scenes and dialogues, the appeal board considered nine of those should be censored. Otherwise, the Censor Board would not approve the film for public viewing.

However, Tanvir Mokammel refuses to censor these sequences.

Heroin worth Tk 1 cr seized

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Feb 9: The Chittagong Sea Customs recovered one kg heroin worth Tk one crore from a Pakistani flag carrier vessel, "Ocean Envoy", today and arrested two persons in this connection.

Acting on a tip-off, Customs officials raided the ship at jetty number 11 this evening and recovered the heroin from the engine room.

They also recovered contraband medicine worth Tk one lakh. Captain of the ship Md Tarek Tabassum and chief officer Rashid Mohammad were arrested and handed over to the Port police.

Taslima's case: Next hearing Mar 11

By Court Correspondent
The hearing of the case against controversial writer Taslima Nasrin has been adjourned till March 11 upon a prayer from the prosecution.

The Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, A K M Kamaluddin, passed the order yesterday.

Taslima was represented in the ACMMs court by Advocate Idrisur Rahman. She faces charges of hurting the religious feelings of the Muslims of the country in an interview, published in an Indian daily.

Earlier, on January 10, the High Court had rejected a prayer for quashment of the case against Taslima. But it observed that the trial court should have the sanction of the government under Section 188 of the Criminal Procedure Code to proceed with the case.

Jet trainers

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Terry Bates of the US Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force is heading a team which will carry out the transfer, supported by members of the US Pacific Air Forces Headquarters in Hawaii.

US Ambassador David N Merrill said: "The United States is pleased to be able to help Bangladesh meet its need for a new entry level jet trainer with technology appropriate and cost effective for Bangladesh."

Lt Colonel James Dunn, the US Defence Attache, termed this "the most significant transfer of military equipment ever from the US to Bangladesh."

DU girl students call strike Feb 19

By DU Correspondent

The resident female students of the Dhaka University have called a day-long strike on the campus February 19 to press home their four-point charter of demand.

The demands include keeping the hostel gates open in the evenings in line with the timings of the central library and withdrawal of the 'system of monitoring attendance (roll call) at the ladies' dormitories.

The female students also demand waiving of such restrictions as requiring permission of the local guardian and application for reporting late at the hostels at night.

Representatives of female students from three residential halls of the university, at a press conference yesterday afternoon, also announced their next course of action.

They will exchange views with the student leaders today and with different forums of the university like the teachers' and officers' associations, the teachers' representatives to the Senate and Syndicate and the provosts of different hostels tomorrow.

3 new MPs

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Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman Patal and Whip Abdul Karim were present on the occasion.

Another BNP MP-elect, Shahjahan Mia, who won the by-election in Brahmanbaria-6 constituency, did not take oath yesterday.

The four seats fell vacant following the deaths of Wali Ashraf (BNP) from B'baria-6, Sirajul Haq (BNP) from Shepur-3, Principal Eunus Khan (BNP) Bakerganj-6 and Abu Baker (Jamaat) Natore-3.

The newly-elected independent MP Mahmudul Haq is the son of late Sirajul Haq, who died late last year in a car accident on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

The by-elections were boycotted by the major opposition parties.

PM: Edn week

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tion and food for education programme. Besides, she said, special importance has been given on woman's education and stipend and free education for girls introduced in the rural areas.

She said opportunity has been expanded to spread education through establishment of private universities. Government is encouraging the role of the private sector, she added.

The function was also addressed by Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar and Education Secretary Irshadul Haq.



Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali administered the oaths of office to three newly-elected members of Parliament at a ceremony at his Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. —PID photo

Jute, textile sector strike to be tackled

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allow the workers to create "chaos" on the streets, causing suffering to the people.

Asked whether the government would take action to tackle the barricade programme, the Jute Minister only said, "why not."

The minister, however, said, "My doors are open... anybody can use my good offices to find out an amicable solution through talks between the workers and the private mills owners."

Hannan Shah said that he along with the Textile Minister, earlier, held a meeting with the CBA leaders of the public sector jute mills. They said they would not join the barricade programme since most of their demands had already been met, he added.

"We have met almost all demands of the workers of public sector mills and the government is actively considering giving the workers 10 per cent dearness allowance,"

said the Jute Minister. He also said he visited the Nishat Jute Mills at Tongi in the city suburb yesterday afternoon where the workers told him they would not participate in the barricade programme.

During the meeting with private sector CBA (collective bargaining agents) leaders, Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali said the government was committed to improving the lot of the masses, including the workers of mills and factories.

The CBA leaders stressed the need for implementation of wages commission award in their mills. They alleged that mill owners were not willing to enhance their facilities despite satisfactory production in the mills and their capability to increase the same.

The minister said the enhancement of financial benefits of the workers is related with the increase of production in the mills and increase of pro-



Italian actress Sophia Loren and actor Marcello Mastroianni embrace each other after receiving the "Golden Camera" award of the German magazine "Hoer Zu" for their lifetime achievements in cinema in Berlin Wednesday. — AFP photo

Writs in High Court

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Mustafizur Rahman, did not tally with the specimen signatures kept in the Parliament Secretariat. Both the resignation letters did not bear any date either, the affidavit said.

Akhতারuzzaman has been absconding and Mustafizur Rahman informed the Speaker that he did not submit any resignation while Maj Gen (ret'd) Mahmudul Hasan of the JP said that he had decided not to resign although his resignation letter was found in the folder.

Such discrepancies and the failure of the members to appear before him made it imperative to verify the genuineness of the letters, the Speaker maintained.

Further explaining the cause of delay, the Speaker said he fell sick and was hospitalized on December 31.

Almost all the resignation letters assigned similar reason — the alleged failure of the ruling party to amend the Constitution to hold the next elections under a neutral, caretaker government — which, he said, is contrary to the provisions of the Constitution and Rules of Procedure.

The Speaker maintained that even after the handing over of the three folders, negotiation between the ruling

party and the opposition parties 'continued as part of an endeavour to resolve the constitutional crisis bound to follow such resignations.

Barrister K S Nabi, the lawyer for Sheikh Hasina, and Barrister Abdur Razaque, counsel for Matiur Rahman Nizami, objected to the filing of the affidavit-in-opposition, saying it was submitted after the hearing of arguments on the maintainability of the writ.

Meanwhile, as the hearing on the writ resumed yesterday, Jamaat leader Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami's counsel argued that the court should not involve itself in matters of political and social disputes.

Supporting the submissions of K S Nabi and Moudud Ahmed, he said the petitioner did not qualify as an aggrieved party in his writ petition.

Barrister Razaque further argued that the petitioner did neither file nor enclose any copy of the resignation letters submitted by 147 opposition members of Parliament.

He pleaded for rejection of the writ.

The court resumes hearing on Sunday.

The Midnight File

2 Christians to die in Pakistan for blasphemy

LAHORE (Pakistan), Feb 9: A Pakistani court here today handed down the death penalty to two Christians, including a teenager, for blaspheming the Prophet Mohammad (SM). Court officials said. Salamat Masih, 14, and Rehmat Masih, 44, were convicted by Judge Mujahid Hussain after a trial lasting more than a year in this, predominantly Muslim country, reports AFP.

Pakistan instals seismic station

ISLAMABAD, Feb 9: Pakistan said today it had installed a seismic station that could monitor nuclear tests in neighboring countries, including arch-rival India. But a foreign ministry spokesman told reporters the station, set up recently at Chakwal in central Punjab province under an international seismic monitoring network, was not aimed against any country, reports Reuter.

Legal notice against partisan use of BTV

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh Television (BTV) and the Ministry of Information are to be sued by a group of lawyers who seek to see the state-controlled electronic medium cease as a propaganda machine.

The Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) yesterday issued a legal notice upon the government, asking it to ensure that BTV was not used by the government, the ruling party and their allies without giving due coverage to the opposition. BELA sources said.

They said that the legal notice followed allegations of continued partisan exploitation of the BTV, which had created a negative impact and utter mistrust in the minds of the viewers.

The notice was served upon the Secretary, Ministry of Information, Chairman of the National Broadcasting Authority and the Director General of BTV.

The notice also set a deadline of 10 am Sunday, February 12, for compliance. BELA sources said.

Abducted schoolboy found dead in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, Feb 9: A schoolboy, abducted from village Rathinampur under Sadar Thana 12 days ago, was found dead in an abandoned well in the village yesterday.

The body of Kamol, 12, a student of class VI and son of one Shurendranath of the village was recovered last night. Family sources said.

The Kidnappers had demanded Taka 60,000 as ransom and threatened to kill him if their demand was not met by February 8.

Earlier yesterday, the BEA held a meeting with representatives of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Association, the Bangladesh Jute Spinners' Association and the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association.

High price of salt

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were using SIP. The study further found that production of iodized salt was only 4670.02 metric tonnes (MT) or in other words only 19.45 per cent of the total salt production.

UNICEF sources said out of the 265 salt mills in the country 234 have already been provided with SIP.

SIP would be set up at eight of the rest 31 mills, very soon, six other mills have been inspected and visiting the other 16 began on February 4.

The first SIP was installed on August 31, 1993. Installation cost of one SIP is 30,000 US dollars. Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) designed the SIP having a capacity of eight MT per hour. Two Bangladeshi companies are manufacturing these machine and installing at the salt crushing and refining factories.

According to the UNICEF survey none of the salt mills was found to be utilising their full capacity for salt iodination. Most of the iodized salt were produced by only 10 factories located at Narayanganj, Dhaka and Khulna.

The survey said average wholesale prices of medium quality non-iodized and iodized salt per kg at factory level were reported to be Taka 7.00 and 8.00 respectively in September last year. The prices have now shot up to Taka 8.50 and 10.00 respectively.

A paper titled Promotion of Iodized Salt to Eradicate Iodine Deficiency Problem prepared by the UNICEF made some suggestions for making the government's Universal Salt Iodination (USI) programme a success.

These suggestions are: More promotional materials such as leaflets, brochure, stickers need to be supplied, more bill boards need to be fixed at different public places to create awareness, market committee members should be oriented on Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD), local BSCIC offices should be involved more in monitoring iodized salt sold in the market, government should take action

পত্রিকা এজেন্টদের প্রতি নোটিশ

দি ডেইলী স্টার পত্রিকার যে সমস্ত এজেন্টগণ ডিসেম্বর '৯৪ মাসের বিল এবং এর পূর্বের বকেয়া টাকা পরিশোধ করেন নাই, তাদেরকে সম্পূর্ণ বকেয়া টাকা ২৫শে ফেব্রুয়ারি, ১৯৯৫-এর মধ্যে পরিশোধ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে। অন্যথায় বার্থ এজেন্টদের এজেন্সীতে পত্রিকা সরবরাহ বন্ধ এবং বকেয়া টাকা আদায়ের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা গৃহণ করা হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ
দি ডেইলী স্টার
ফোন ৪ ৫০০০৯১ (সেরাসবি)
ফোন ৪ ৫০০০৯২-৯৮ (পিএবিএস)