

CJ opens legal edn institute in city

By Staff Correspondent

Chief Justice MH Rahman inaugurated the Bangladesh Bar Council's Legal Education Institute in the Old High Court building yesterday.

Speaking at the inauguration, the Chief Justice cautioned that lawyers cannot sit back and ignore negative views on the legal profession. He said that there was a need to develop legal services in Bangladesh, as has been done in other countries.

Dr Shahdeen Malik, Coordinator of the Human Rights Training Programme for Lawyers, said that the occasion was "modest in terms of fanfare, but not modest in terms of significance for the legal community of the country." He also said that the institute would not have been possible without former Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed who designated the site.

Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, Chairman of the Bar Council's legal education committee, noted that the current legal education was completely dependent on the university and the part-time efforts of the law colleges. He said that although the Bangladesh Bar Council conducts examinations it did not so far conduct course. He observed that even the Bar Council in England has taken up the responsibility of education which it did not traditionally have.

Dr Kamal Hossain said that the quality of legal education has been suffering. It was no longer possible to expect a pupillage or articulated clerkship with a senior lawyer to provide



With less than three weeks left for the festival, Eid shopping is picking up in the city. This picture was taken yesterday at the New Market. — Star photo

Agri-rehabilitation

The drought affected districts while recharging of the underground water table was lower by 0.5 to 3.0 metres.

The task force report estimated that of the 22,117 LLPs being used for irrigation in 36 districts, 4,677 would be affected due to the low surface water level during the March-April lean period. Of these, double-lifting would allow the use of only 1,553 LLPs while the rest would remain unused, it said.

The report feared that the underground water table would recede by 7-15 metres in comparatively higher areas of the 32 drought affected districts during the March-April period. This would hamper irrigation by placing 89,819 of the 2,16,763 STWs outside the suction limit.

However, it said that 70 per cent of the affected STWs could be used for irrigation by deep-setting their engines 3-5 metres below the surface.

For the same reasons, the report said, 43,236 of the 51,898 MTWs being used for irrigation in the 32 districts are also likely to be rendered inoperative. But the deep tubewells in operation are unlikely to be affected by the fall in the underground water tables, it added.

As a contingency measure, the report recommended a Detailed Agricultural Extension (DAE) to minimise the effects of the shortage of irrigation water on the country's food-grain output during 1994-95.

To stabilise the level of food production, it suggested ensuring the supply of chemical fertilizers and fuel to the farmers at a 'justified' price.

The report also called for ensuring the supply of electricity for the irrigation pumps and recommended that appropriate steps be taken to resolve the problem of arear bills owed to the Power Development Board and the Rural Electrification Board.

The DAE should take steps to educate farmers about double-lifting and deep-setting irrigation pumps, and to convince the farmers to cultivate alternate crops which do not require irrigation water, the

Ex-mayors sued

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programme but the corporation failed to pay Tk 6 crore as bills for the work due to the fund diversion by former DMC mayor Nazim Rahman.

A similar charge against MA Mulek said he diverted Tk 6 crore from the flood control programme to pay bills to contractor for other works.

Kazi Zafar

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the sources of his income of Taka 22,82,629.

The press release said Zafar had acquired that amount beyond known sources of income. Besides, he had submitted a false statement without mentioning five shops in his paternal assets in Khulna city.

The case is under investigation, the release added.

Shibir, JCD clash at RU: 20 hurt

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 11: At least 20 students of the Rajshahi University were injured in a clash between activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) this evening.

Witnesses said the ICS activists also ransacked and set fire to more than 30 rooms at the Habibur Rahman hall of the university.

Hundreds of resident students left their respective halls tonight, apprehending further violence.

Of the injured, six were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

The ICS activists raided Habibur Rahman Hall at about 9 pm and ransacked and set fire to rooms for more than an hour, according to hall sources.

Earlier, in the afternoon, the Shibir activists had an altercation with JCD workers at the 'Suhrawardy' Hall where they went to occupy a room.

Witnesses said a large number of crackers were exploded and shots fired on the campus during the violence.

A tense situation was prevailing on the campus when this report was filed at midnight.

Hasina

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country's legitimate share in the Ganges water from India.

"She (PM) went to New Delhi, met with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao but forgot to raise the important issue of Farakka," the AL leader told the reception.

She accused the Prime Minister of having sold out Bangladesh's interests to India by signing "Push-in, Push-back" accord with Rao that resulted in the deportation of Bengali speaking Indian nationals to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has now been made a market of India from where everything, starting from onion and garlic, is being smuggled into the country, Hasina said.

Hasina said at least three general elections should be held under a non-partisan neutral caretaker government in the interest of sound election system and democracy.

The Awami League chief left Dhaka for Washington late last month to attend the Breakfast Prayer at the invitation of US Senate and the House of Representatives.

On various problems, being faced by Bangladesh in the United States, she said the government had failed to look into the matters.

The Awami League chief said Bangladesh expatriates in America could contribute to the economic development had there been a suitable environment in the country.

Progress of voters' list, ID cards reviewed

A high-level meeting held at the National Economic Council (NEC) Bhaban yesterday reviewed the progress made so far in the preparation of data-based voters' list and issuance of identity cards, reports BSS.

Presided over by Finance Minister M Salfur Rahman the meeting was attended by the Minister of State for Establishment Aminul Huq, Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf and senior secretaries of the government.

The meeting discussed at length various aspects of the data-based voters' list and issuance of identity cards to the voters and took a number of decisions to expedite the whole process.

Under the decisions, the Establishment Division would provide necessary accommodation for the thana-level Election Commission (EC) office and put necessary manpower and other logistic supports to election officials so that they could initiate their work within a week.

The Establishment Division was asked to depute at least 60 to 70 officers under the EC forthwith for their orientation with the process.

The meeting suggested creation of a separate post with the rank of Secretary or Additional Secretary under the EC to look after the task.

The meeting decided to carry out the process of registration of voters' list and identity cards with laminated photographs simultaneously to save time and money and evade error.

For giving further impetus to the whole process, the task regarding the preparation of voters' list and issuance of identity cards will be contracted out to the reputed computer firms of the country equipped with latest technology and software.

Speaking on the occasion, the Finance Minister explained the importance of the preparation of the voters' list and issuance of identity cards. He hoped that with the application of modern technology and since the task could be completed within five to six months and the expenditure, too, would come down.

Hanif blames govt

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programme will not be enough, and an intensified regular routine work to keep the city clean and free from the mosquito menace will continue.

The Mayor sought support of all the city dwellers for keeping their private lands clear so that it does not become breeding grounds for the mischievous insect. He also invited youth fronts of all political and social organisations to assist in this regard.

Refuting an allegation of using ineffective medicines to kill mosquitoes and destroy the larvae, Hanif pointed out that the medicines were tested and passed by two government laboratories before being used. "Even then, I will request the government to constitute an investigating team to look if the chemicals used were up to the standard."

About offering a terrorism-free city to the people, another major pre-election commitment, Hanif once again emphasised coordination between the police administration and the DCC.

Asked if there has been any move in this regard, Hanif greeted that in spite of forming anti-terrorism committee in the wards comprising eminent local people and representatives from all parties in a number of thanas, there has been no headway.

"It has to be a joint effort of the police and the corporation," he said, adding that "Fixing the status of the ward commissioners is also a vital point."

Recalling with gratitude the Prime Minister's assurance for extending support from other

Maj Gen Ejaz new BDR chief

Major Gen Ejaz Ahmed Chowdhury took over as Director General of the Bangladesh Rifles yesterday, said an official announcement—reports UNB.

He replaces Major Gen Mohammad Anwar Hossain.

General Chowdhury was



Maj-Gen E A Chowdhury born in village Phulbari of Golapganj thana in Sylhet district on January 1, 1945.

He passed the BSc Examination from Dhaka College in 1966 and joined the Pakistan Military Academy in 1967. He was commissioned with graduation (arms group) in the infantry on April 19, 1969.

General Chowdhury took part in the war of liberation in 1971 under the 2nd East Bengal Regiment and received a special certificate from the commander-in-chief for extraordinary performance.

Medicine market

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drugs in a bid to compel the BCDS to withdraw its month-long boycott of Rhone Poulenc.

The meeting with Health Minister Kamal ibne Yusuf was attended by President of BASS Saiman F Rahman and President of BCDS Sadekur Rahman. They also agreed to hold a joint meeting at the office of the Aushadh Shilpa Samity Tuesday to discuss the Rhone Poulenc issue, the drug dealers' commission and some other problems.

Joint Secretary of Health Abdur Rouf and Director of Drug Administration Prof Mahmud Hasan also attended yesterday's meeting.

The drug dealers started boycotting the products of Rhone Poulenc in Sylhet, Dhaka and Chittagong in phases from December last when the company appointed a distributor without a drug licence, according to the BCDS.

The BCDS, a platform of some 27 thousand licensed drug dealers in the country, had also been demanding for the last two years an increase of commission from the BASS, which represents some 208 drug manufacturing companies.

The rate of commission for drug dealers, as fixed by the government, presently stands at 16 per cent. The BCDS demands this rate be increased to 20 per cent. It also claims that some of the drug manufacturing companies were not paying commission for more than five to six per cent.

The annual sale of drugs in the country is over Tk 900 crore. Of the total 5 to 15 per cent are imported. The rest, some 2,000 items, are produced by the local and multinational companies in the country.

DU female students reiterate demands

By DU Correspondent

The resident female students of the Dhaka University yesterday reiterated their four-point demand.

The demands include keeping the gates of their halls open in the evening in line with the timing of the Central Library and waiving of such restrictions as permission of the local guardian and submitting application for reporting late at the halls at night.

The female students discussed their problems with the authorities of the halls yesterday.

The Midnight File

Sessions in BCCI case adjourned till Apr 5

ABU DHABI, Feb 11: The Appeals Court on Saturday adjourned sessions in the BCCI case until April 5 to provide even more time for the return of key defendants to Abu Dhabi. The two suspects are currently serving prison terms in the United States and Britain, reports AP.

Fierce fighting in Bihar

SERAJEVO, Feb 11: Fierce fighting broke out today between Bosnian government forces and Bosnian Serbs in the area of Bosanska Krupa, a Serb-held town east of Bihac, northwest Bosnia, UN officials said. Earlier UN spokesman reported fresh artillery battles for control of water supplies to Bihac town and at least one civilian killed when two 120-mm shells fired by Serbs landed 200 metres from a UN base in the town, reports AP.

City traffic in neglect

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the fact that its unbridled growth in numbers has been the single most important factor in bringing the city traffic to the present state of stifling.

Far from suggesting that rickshaws should be withdrawn, one can make an extremely strong case of putting a ceiling on their total numbers. It is totally inexplicable as why this is not being done. For, if authorities will not do so, nature will. All traffic will come to a virtual halt when too many rickshaws will compete for too little road space, and nothing will move. There is also the need to keep the bus stands away from road junctions. Often one sees a traffic jam just at the crossings without any traffic down the roads on any side. This is because of the intersections being jammed by bus stops — both authorised and unauthorised.

Some road must be declared "No Parking" zones. This single step will clear several roads, and considerably reduce traffic congestion in several central areas of the city. Green Road is a victim of illegal parking. Perennial traffic jams in some roads can be removed by clearing the sides that seem to be under permanent repair work. There are also unplanned placement of permanent and semi-permanent garbage pits, which take up much more space than is intended, and create huge blockage for traffic.

What we need are long-term, medium-term and some immediate steps to address this, what is now a totally unbearable problem. Long-term issues are for the planners to address. But the process which we know is in progress, must be put in the fast gear. For medium-term efforts, we urge that an immediate meeting between all the concerned departments and bodies, including the DCC, police department, traffic police, the Home ministry, RAJUK and others be held. They should chalk out, on an emergency basis, some steps that can be taken within the next few months to smoothen the city traffic.

As for the immediate steps, we suggest the following:

- a) All intersections, and 50 yards in every direction, should be made "No Parking" zones;
- b) Full length of roads, road sections, and designated areas be made "No Parking" zones;
- c) Selected roads be made "One Way" thoroughfares;
- d) Some areas may be designated as pedestrian shopping areas, where no vehicles should be permitted;
- e) Special parking areas be designated in popular shopping zones;
- f) Rickshaws should not be permitted to carry more than two passengers. This puts lives at risk;
- g) Rickshaw vans should not be allowed to carry oversized goods — like long pipes or steel rods — that choke or dislocate traffic.

To enforce the above we suggest using the help of the Rover and Boys Scouts, UOTC, National Cadets Corps and the Girl Guides. These organisations of young men and women, with the help of city police and traffic police, should be able to ameliorate the current impossible traffic situation in the city. These measures should be adopted during the Eid shopping season, not only to help the traffic, but also to help shopping. Let us not forget that a good Eid shopping is extremely important for the economy.

Jute, textile workers

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productivity.

The workers' go on with their agitation programme. But we shall not allow anybody to disrupt normal life," the minister said.

He, however, hoped a large number of workers, particularly those of the public mills, would not join the programme since most of their demands including payment of bonus was met.

But the workers' leaders said they want the minimum wage of Tk 950, implemented in the public sector mills, for the private sector mills.

The private mill owners suggested that CBAS submit a charter of demands to the management and settle those through bilateral and tripartite negotiations.

The minister appealed to the workers not to do anything contrary to the recognised labour practice, particularly in the month of holy Ramadan.

Earlier, at a meeting with the Labour Minister, the owners of private sector jute and Textile mills said they were not opposed to increasing the wages of the workers provided this was linked to increased

PM happy

From Page 1 Col 5

Bari.

Also present at the meeting were Defence Secretary Hasimur Reza, Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed, Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Abu Saleh, Mohammad Naim, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Islam, Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Hafiz Hossain Chowdhury, Additional Foreign Secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed, Principal Staff Officer to the Prime Minister Major Gen. Subed Ali Bhuiyan and Commandant of the DSCSC Major Gen Mostafa Kamaluddin.

JMB compensation rules abused: Action urged

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maining land acquisition and handing over of those are bound to be delayed.

The WB mission comprising Alf Jerve, a resettlement specialist, visited Bangladesh in November and December last to supervise among other things, the implementation of the Revised Resettlement Action Plan for the Jamuna Bridge Project. The mission visited resettlement sites both on the east and the west of the under-construction bridge and later met the JMB officials including its Executive Director Mohammad Ali.

The mission said that land acquisition was hampered by large-scale attempts by landowners and other local people to manipulate the compensation for structures to be paid by the office of the DC, the report said.

These activities seem to be managed by influential people who provide the finance and critical information needed and may also implicate people involved in the project in different capacities. Many Project Affected Persons (PAPs) take part in the operations but also people outside the affected area have been found to set up new structures," the mission noted.

The report mentioned some instances of fraud and malpractices in connection with the compensation for lands acquired by the JMB.

"The WB report said, the L-shaped area 'E' was handed over to the contractor on November 2, 1994. The area originally had few homesteads but with the acquisition of the critical area, several households moved to this area, partly to lands they owned but mostly to land they rented.

It further said several outsiders arranged for construction of structures there. The DC's list of awardees for structure compensation had 570 names and the total approved budget for compensation of structures is about Tk 60 million. This equals an average compensation of Tk 105,000 per awardee for structures only. A homestead in this floodplain area will normally have 3-4 structures at a total replacement value ranging from Taka 5,000 to 30,000.

The mission report stated that this area was surveyed by BRAC in October-December 1993 and their report and database provide detailed records of the situation before these malpractices started. BRAC registered a total of 251 households to be relocated of which 100 were uthulis (homeless). Forty six per cent of these reported that they wanted to move to the JMB resettlement site. The total number of houses to be removed were recorded at 722 with a total floor area of 120,5000 sq. feet. BRAC estimated the value of structures at Tk 8.8 million.

The Resettlement Unit of the JMB has so far paid

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টার্ণ ওভার কর কমিশন

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