

DU committee to look into female students' demands

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities have formed a high-level committee to look into the demands of the resident female students including amendment to existing proctorial rules and regulations.

The committee will make recommendations after reviewing the demands. The female students recently submitted a memo to the Vice-Chancellor.

The four-point demand included keeping their hall gates open until the DU central library is closed in the evening and repealing the rule requiring prior permission for reporting to halls late at night.

The 15-member committee of the university was formed with the National Professor Dr Saifa Ahmed as the chairperson and the Public Relations Officer of the DU Md Nurul Islam as the member secretary.

The other members of the committee are Provosts of Rokeya, Shamsunnahar and Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree

halls. Prof Akhter Imam, Dr Nileema Ibrahim, Prof Hamida Akhter Begum, Prof Nazma Chowdhury, Prof Sultana Saq, Prof Khaleda Salahuddin, Prof Jubeda Gulshan-Ara, Prof Rasheda Begum and principals of Eden Girls University College and Siddeswari Girls College.

The committee will review the legitimacy of the demands of the girl students, monitor the consequent reactions at various levels of the society and discuss the matter with the guardians.

Body to probe Mirpur garments factory mishap

The government has constituted a committee to inquire into the fire incident in MS Poster Industrial Garments at Mirpur on Saturday in which several workers were killed, a Commerce ministry press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Editorial on Page 4

Apart from ascertaining the cause of the mishap and the persons responsible for the tragedy, the committee would put forward suggestions and recommendations to check further occurrences of such incidents.

KM Saleheen, Director, Export Promotion Bureau and Nurul Huq Sikder, Vice-President, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) will act as convener and member of the two-man inquiry committee which will submit its report within seven days.

N'ganj gunfight

From Page 1 Col 8
hired mastan. Of the injured, 13 were admitted to different hospitals in Dhaka and Narayanganj with bullet wounds.

Witnesses said, an armed gang, allegedly led by one Alauddin Hajj, occupied the Alf Steel Re-rolling Mill at Kutubail under Fatulla thana early today. Later, at 9 am fierce fighting erupted when their rivals, led by Mahub, came for recapturing the mill.

Arjun Singh

From Page 1 Col 5
and expelled party leader, Mrs Surma Satpathy besides Champatray.

The PCC (I) had already expelled from the party 49 rebel candidates for contesting against the official party nominees.

Former minister, Jugal Kishore Patnaik, former deputy speaker, Chinatamani Dyan Smantara and former MLAs, Kanganli Charan Panda and Srikanta Panda, though not present at the meeting, had sent messages expressing their support for the cause of the rebels, Champatray claimed.

Meanwhile, Arjun Singh today described the AICC-I chargesheet as vague, claimed his expulsion was "pre-determined" and asserted he had at no stage accused the prime minister of a "cover-up" in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

200 hurt in clashes

From Page 1 Col 7

Seven others were admitted to Midfort Hospital with injuries while about 50 were given first aid at different hospitals and clinics.

Some 50 people were injured in another clash between police and workers of Taj Jute Mills at Demra at about 9:30 am.

Police said, they went into action as the workers tried to damage vehicles and create obstruction on traffic movement. They also picked up three people from the spot.

Our Correspondent in Narayanganj says: Police obstructed a procession of the workers of Adamjee Jute Mills on Narayanganj-Demra road in the morning.

Police fired at least seven teargas shells and five rubber bullets and resorted to baton charge to disperse the angry labourers.

Strike was observed at Adamjee Jute Mills, Laxminarayan and Chittaranjan Cotton Mills and production in these mills remained suspended.

According to reports received in Dhaka last night, workers of Goalanda Textile Mills came under police action when they brought out a procession in protest against arrest of 16 fellow workers. Police lathicharged the processionists resulting in injuries to some 20 people. Of them, two were stated to be in critical condition.

Our Staff Correspondent in



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia talking to Bangladesh ambassador to Japan SM Rashed Ahmed during the inauguration of the Satellite Earth Station and International Trunk Exchange in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Country's 3rd satellite station

From Page 1 Col 8
ration to cope with a tough competition in the high-tech world of Twenty First century.

To face the challenges, Begum Zia said, her government had undertaken an integrated package programme on education, health, employment, production and development.

"Development of telecommunication network is part of that endeavour. We are building a solid infrastructure," she told the function, attended by ministers, MPs, diplomats and senior officials.

The Prime Minister observed that communication technology has a crucial role to play in facing the challenges of the new century and said the government was opening up various sectors of the economy to modern technology and private investment.

Begum Zia said her government had placed the telecommunication sector in the private sector in order to expand telecom facilities.

The government had already handed over cellular phones, paging, trunking, riverine and thana-level

telecommunications system to the private sector, she said.

The government has also taken up adequate measures to modernise telecom system. "Now a consumer can connect international link with digital phone free of cost."

The Prime Minister said international telecommunication linkage had increased manifold during the last four years. In 1993-94, the number of international calls from Bangladesh totalled 6.7 million while the number was only 1.7 million in 1989-90 during the previous regime. The number of calls from abroad to Bangladesh was 20 million in 1993-94.

Similarly, whereas Tk 758 million was earned from this sector in 1989-90, the amount rose to Tk 2.19 billion last year. This radical improvement has occurred due to infusion of fresh dynamism into the country's economy, she observed.

The Prime Minister said appropriate plans were being implemented for developing and expanding the telecom service. The government is trying hard to ensure a

telephone for every 250 people by 1997. Currently there is one telephone for every 500 people in the country.

After assumption of office, the present government provided 74,000 additional telephone connections throughout the country.

Within December this year, one lakh new connections in Dhaka, 50,000 in divisional headquarters and 22,500 in district headquarters would be added to the network, Begum Zia informed.

Besides, modern digital telephones have been introduced at various places of the country, Begum Zia said, adding, "We have taken more measures for giving new three lakh connections within the next three years and another eight lakh by the year 2000."

Begum Zia inaugurated the new Satellite Earth Station through direct talk with the Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan, SM Rashed Ahmed, from the stage.

Later, the Prime Minister unveiled the plaque of the station and went round it.

Prisoner files case against jail authorities

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 12: An under-trial prisoner has registered a case against the authorities of Habiganj district sub-jail accusing them of corruption.

Mosharrar Hossain Manju, in jail for the last few weeks, lodged the complaint verbally with the Assistant Sub Judge and the Sessions Judge, Habiganj when produced before the court today. The court asked him to register the complaint in writing. He did it accordingly. Manju alleged that the jail authorities had been misappropriating the money sanctioned for supplying food to the inmates of the jail.

DU students protest killing

By DU Correspondent

A group of youths damaged at least four motor vehicles on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting the killing at the Rajshahi University.

Witnesses said, the unruly youths stopped the movement of vehicles for a while near the TSC road crossing in the afternoon.

Ministries may seek Tk 1000 cr

From Page 1 Col 4

mand how the money is spent. Implementation of Annual Development Programme (ADP) projects has improved to 32 per cent during the first six months of the current fiscal compared to 26 per cent during the corresponding period of 1993-94, he pointed out.

However, he acknowledged that qualitative improvement in implementation is yet to reach the desired level. "Qualitatively we haven't had as much success as the quantitative improvement in project implementation. It is not up to the desired level," he said. "But we have set an upward trend."

Chaired by President of the Forum, Moazzem Hossain, Editor of the Financial Express, the meeting was held at the National Press Club.

The State Minister for Planning also acknowledged the flaws in the targeted plans and talked about the newly initiated participatory planning process.

The ADP targets, he said, are mostly set casually as many are unrealistic. "I have already proposed a new approach for the Fifth Five Year Plan, where I have suggested that instead of having a set target let us look into our needs and priori-

New station doubles int'l tele-links

The country's third Satellite Earth Station and the second complete digital International Trunk Exchange installed at Mahakhali in the city went into operation yesterday, reports UNB.

With the commissioning of the new satellite station, telecommunication linkages with the rest of the world has now been doubled, according to T&T officials.

Installation of the digital standard-A Earth Station was completed five months ahead of schedule.

It was built with an estimated cost of Tk 646.83 million, of which the World Bank provided Tk 366.2 million. The installation work began in late 1992.

Presently this new station has a capacity of 2,600 trunk circuits (1300 international and 1300 domestic) which would eventually be raised to 16,000.

The country so far had only 522 international circuits through the two existing earth stations at Betbunia and Talibabad. Following setting up of the new station, the number of international circuits rose to 1822.

The new satellite earth station is equipped with 16 metre dia dual feed cassegrain type antenna and 700 watt high power amplifier.

With the installation of the Digital Circuit Multiplication Equipment (DCME), the station's capacity may be increased 4 to 5 times, if necessary. There are 1980 circuits besides the DCME in the new satellite earth station.

The country's first satellite earth station (INTELSAT Standard 'A') was established in June 1975 at Betbunia in Rangamati district while the 2nd earth station (INTELSAT standard 'B') was established in January 1982 at Talibabad in Gazipur district.

For prompt handling of the telephone traffic of these two earth stations, an automatic international trunk exchange (ITX) was established at Mahabazar in Dhaka in 1983. This ITX is equipped with 1200 trunk circuits — of which 540 are international circuits and 660 domestic circuits.

Work is now going on to install the fourth Satellite Earth Station with 100 circuits for establishing direct communication between Sylhet and London.

The first part would outline the socio-economic setting, the second would consist of basic policy strategies and goals, the third would look into macro-sectoral issues and the fourth part would explicitly take into account the local level input.

The next five-year plan should not be an economic document but a conceptual one reflecting the socio-political and economic setting in the country," he added.

The minister hoped that by the end of the next five-year plan period, the country would be sufficiently self-reliant, which, he said, would also enable the country to deal more effectively with the unwanted conditionalities of the donor community.

"But everything will critically depend on sustaining real democracy in the country," Dr Khan added.

Earlier, Moazzem Hossain, in his brief welcome address, pointed out that the casualness of setting the ADP targets would reflect the lack of political commitment and wondered if there was any scope to have parliamentary debates in formulating the five-year plans.

The secretary general of ERP, Shamsul Huq Zahid, later read out a vote of thanks.

The next five-year plan

Journalists' memo to information minister for 5th Wage Board

A delegation of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) met the Information and Commerce Minister M Shamsul Haq at his office in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The delegation included among others the Acting President of BFUJ Manzoor Ahmed, Secretary General Amanullah Kabir and DUJ President Zahurul Haq, and General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, President of Jessore Journalists Union Fakir Showrat and General Secretary Mahitul Islam Nanttu were present.

The journalist leaders submitted a memorandum to the Information Minister for constituting the Fifth Wage Board. During the discussions they exchanged views on the overall situation in the newspaper industry and the problems being faced by the journalists in discharging their professional responsibilities.

The Minister listened to the problems of the journalist leaders sympathetically and assured them that he would extend all cooperation in solving the professional problems of the journalists, a PID handout said.

Besides, an eleven-member delegation of Bangladesh Journalists' Association called on the Information Minister yesterday. During the discussion the leaders of the association apprised the Minister of the problems being faced by them. He assured them that he would extend all cooperation in solving their genuine demands.

Prokrichi memo to CEC for free, fair polls

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council yesterday submitted a memorandum to Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf suggesting some steps for free and fair elections.

The five-point recommendation of the council includes empowerment of the Election Commission (EC) and stopping the practice of appointing the administrative officials as returning officers.

The council also suggested that the officials from judiciary could be recruited as returning officers if the EC had staff shortage to carry out the charges.

PM: Summit

From Page 1 Col 8
social integration.

NGO representatives and social workers will also participate in the summit.

Sources say, the Bangladesh Prime Minister will also attend the meeting of the nine most populous nations due to be held in Copenhagen on March 10.

NZ minister

From Page 1 Col 5
with Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman and meet other ministers.

Trade links and economic cooperation between the two countries are at a low level and Bangladesh officials and businessmen are likely to be briefed on the issues.

Imports from New Zealand mainly include dairy and animal products and leather while Bangladesh's exports are limited to jute, yarn and twine and some textiles. Exports to New Zealand were worth 2.7 million US dollar while imports 3.4 million US dollars in 1993-94.

A chamber official said, the visit might result in setting up a joint chamber with New Zealand.

DCC flyovers

From Page 1 Col 5

Government and Rural Development (LGRD), under which the DCC functions, has recommended approval of the feasibility study. "As soon as we get the approval, we shall start our work," said the official.

The proposed sites of the flyovers are Jatrabari intersection, Malibagh level crossing, Fulbaria crossing, Khilgaon crossing and the intersection near Hotel Sonargaon.

Meanwhile, the Roads and Highways Division has also submitted a project concept paper (PCP) to the authorities concerned for the construction of two flyovers — one at Maghbar intersection and the other at Mahakhali crossing.

The proposal for the two flyovers remains on the priority list, sources said. The PCP shows the construction cost to be about Tk 100 crore.

The DCC is implementing a Tk 2.80-crore "crash programme" of the Planning Ministry to construct four overbridges (foot-overs) in the city.

The project, expected to be completed by the end of April, also includes extension of the Farm Gate overbridge

The Midnight File

Delhi begins troops deployment in Bihar

NEW DELHI, Feb 12: The Indian government began deploying large contingents of troops today to Bihar ahead of staggered polls next month in the violence-prone eastern province, national television station said. Hundreds of paramilitary troops have been deployed in the opposition-ruled state's southern region of flush out Maoist rebels and crush private armies of feudal landlords who oppose the upcoming polls, it said, reports AFP.

Mandela fails to persuade 11 party members not to resign

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 12: South African President Nelson Mandela failed today to persuade 11 ANC members not to resign from the executive of the party's Women's League headed by his estranged wife Winnie. He stepped in to try to resolve the controversy, holding four hours of talks with the 11 women who announced their decision to quit on Saturday, citing bad leadership, undemocratic practices and unaccountability in the organisation, reports Reuter.

Hearing of writs

From Page 1 Col 7

was politically motivated and malafide and the appearance of the Speaker after nearly 20 days of the issuance of the rule only speaks that the Speaker, the ruling party and the petitioner have worked in connivance in delaying the effect and thereby to frustrate the constitutional and democratic process in the country.

Earlier, former judge Maksudul Hakim, appearing for the government, said nothing would be achieved by "running out of Parliament". The demand for a caretaker government cannot be achieved by resigning from Parliament, he added.

The government counsel, defending the role of the Speaker, said the Speaker is the sole authority to examine the genuineness and voluntariness of the resignation letters.

There is also no provision in the Constitution for en bloc resignation, he pleaded, referring to the December 28 submission of resignation by 147 Opposition MPs.

He said demand for holding elections under a caretaker government is contrary to the provisions of the Constitution. The government also denied the opposition parties' claim that the demand for a caretaker government is a popular demand.

Maksudul Hakim prayed to the court for ignoring the allegation of involvement of the ruling BNP with the case because the ruling party as not been made a party to it.

He termed the petition premature since it came before the Speaker could take any decision regarding the resignations.

On Thursday, Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandaker, in a private capacity, filed an affidavit for the Speaker and Parliament Secretary, while Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan filed the affidavit for the government.

Submitting yesterday on the affidavit on behalf of the Speaker and Parliament Secretary, Wadud Khandaker said that the writ is not maintainable as the petition was not filed by any aggrieved person.

"The Constitution has given the right to the Speaker to examine the resignation letters,"

RU gunfight

From Page 1 Col 4

Besides trading about 300 gunshots and exploding 150 crackers, the activists of the two sides ransacked about 100 rooms at Madarbox Hall, some 30 at Habibur Rahman Hall and about 20 at Suhrawardy Hall, beat up many students and set fire to furniture.

The losses at the three halls were initially estimated at about Taka 50 lakh.

The stick-wielding activists of the ICS brought out a procession carrying the bodies of the two victims and later demonstrated in front of the official residence of the Vice-Chancellor, protesting his orders closing the university indefinitely.

The VC, Prof Mohammad Yusuf Ali, ordered the closure as the armed clash was going on at about 9 in the morning. The VC got his order approved by the Syndicate that met later.

Campus sources alleged that police on duty on the campus remained silent spectators when the rival students groups clashed using firearms. BDR was later deployed on the campus. None was however arrested in connection with the clash.

The Syndicate, at its meeting with the vice-chancellor in the chair, demanded that the Chancellor of the universities form a judicial committee to probe the matter. It condoned the deaths of two students, expressed sympathy for the members of their families and sought cooperation of all the teachers and students to restore normalcy on the campus.

The RU was last closed for an indefinite period on February 6 last year following a gun-battle between activists of the ICS and the All-Party Students Unity (APSU).

Former presidents of the DCCI Abdur Rob Chowdhury and M Yunus and its directors were also present at the press briefing.

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday condemned the killing of police havildar Abul Hashem in Lalbagh area on Saturday, reports UNB.

New DCCI chief

From Page 1 Col 4

have also failed to change the rural socio-economic condition, he added.

For this, the DCCI chief said, the administrative machinery of the government was responsible. The policies were not implemented properly by the "primitive bureaucratic structure."

"A structural reform of the administration has, therefore, become a must which should ensure inter-alia, due accountability at all tiers of the bureaucracy and economisation of unproductive bureaucratic manpower."

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