

# High-powered team off to Malaysia Move to end complexities in manpower export

The government yesterday sent another high-powered delegation to Malaysia, the second in three weeks, to resolve the complexities in manpower export arising out of illegal influx into the ASEAN country, reports UNB.

The five-member team, headed by Labour and Manpower Secretary Dr Harun-ur Rashid, left Dhaka for Kuala Lumpur on a three-day mission.

Malaysia, the second largest manpower market for Bangladesh, is learnt to have put an unofficial embargo recently on recruitment of workers from here alleging huge illegal immigrations.

As the government took firm stand to resume export to Malaysia, the latest delegation is expected to assure the authorities there of plugging the illegal conduit of migration from Bangladesh.

Besides, the delegation is likely to discuss ways to be taken by the Malaysian authorities to restrict unauthorised entries of Bangladeshis into the fast-developing country.

Discussion will also take place on reduction of current rate of emigration charge, ensuring job security of Bangladeshis and increase in export of manpower from

Bangladesh in consonance with the recent changes in the overseas recruitment policies of the government of Malaysia.

The delegation also included Joint Secretary at Home Ministry Syed Anwarul Islam, Managing Director of Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Service Ltd (BOESL) Mamtazuddin Ahmed, BOESL General Manager SM Ibrahim Hossain and Director of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) Shakhawat Hossain.

## Eliadah

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yesterday. Advocate Obaidur Rahman Mostafa counsel for Eliadah said that his clients release had been stayed without any defence as he could not appear for her due to non-availability of her *sokalatnama* from the Dhaka Central Jail authorities.

A HC Division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hoque and Justice Mohammad Nurul Islam on August 9 last ordered release of Eliadah after reducing her life sentence to two years rigorous imprisonment which she had already served.

# Moyeen on five-yr plans

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people, by the people and by organising the people," Moyeen Khan told officials, economists representatives of different United Nations bodies and donor organisations and envoys of different countries present at the open discussion held at the Planning Commission premises.

The state minister pointed out that the three main components of the Perspective Plan would be people's participation, emphasis on investment and creation of a permanent transparent institution for faster implementation of different programmes at the local level.

The discussion highlighted six different draft documents on the Perspective Plan prepared on the basis of counselling sessions at district headquarters and sectoral reviews by different ministries and departments, Moyeen Khan said.

The state minister said that all the five-year plans in the past followed different models. "But these complex, detailed and refined models did not come of any use to speak the truth, those had no impact in reality," he asserted.

"The success of development plans and programmes cannot be ensured without

suggestions from and integration of the masses at the grassroots level," the state minister said.

He noted that the 15-year Perspective Plan was a simple document having no economic theory or model and it was prepared for the common man.

Planning Commission Member Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, presenting the executive summary of the Perspective Plan, said it has drawn a clear guideline for creating an exploitation-free society by meeting the basic needs of the people in the next 15 years.

The GDP growth rate should be sustained at 7 per cent up to 2000 in order to achieve the targets of the Perspective Plan and it should be increased to 8-10 per cent between 2000 and 2010, he said. "In this case, keeping the present incremental capital output ratio constant, 18-20 per cent of the GNP should be invested (till 2000). After 2000, it should be increased to 22 per cent," Dr Alamgir said.

The discussion highlighted rural and urban health and education, development of institutional and infrastructural framework, allocation of necessary resources for different prioritised sectors and the role of private and public sectors.

# Talks of democracy

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"I feel sorry for the country that despite all talks of democracy and accountability, we're not yet ready to be democratic and accountable in our attitude."

Rahman, coming down heavily on misuse of national exchequer at various stages, said: "The whole culture is that the public money is no money."

Political and executive functionaries should respect limited resources of the people and ensure their appropriate spendings, Rahman said.

The minister blasted various ministries for demanding extra-budgetary allocation in between budgets. "Immediately after the budget, they start asking for additional allocation. Then what is the need of budget?"

Rahman did not even spare Parliament members, as he pointed out that hundreds of telephone bills of MPs remained unpaid. "They have to be accountable prior to expecting it from others."

Speakers at the seminar organised by the BCS: Audit and Accounting Association were critical of traditional approach of auditing and suggested revision of the whole system in conformity with the modern and democratic norms.

The finance minister disapproved of the standard of auditing and accounting in the country, calling them "archaic and out of date." "I'm even horrified to see my own ministry's accounting system," he said.

Rahman said audit objections were sometimes "mere routine exercise and mean-

ingless." Monetary and fiscal policies of the country, viewed Rahman, should not be guided by political and economic short-termism.

In tune with the Finance Minister, Chairman of Public Accounts Committee in Parliament LK Siddiqui, the special guest at the seminar, stressed reforming the traditional auditing approach to end the mishmash. Auditors should evaluate the "value for money" in their auditing approach, he said.

Siddiqui also spoke in favour of the suggestion that the Office of the Auditor General should be administratively independent.

Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh KM Hossain suggested that the Office of C&AG be made administratively independent as of other constitutional bodies like the Public Service Commission, Election Commission and Parliament Secretariat.

Unless administratively independent, the C&AG cannot work properly. Hossain expressed concern at the authorities' inaction towards bringing the defaulting officials to book as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee.

Syed Amir Ul Mulk, Additional Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, presented the key-note paper.

BCS: Audit and Accounting Association President M Hafizuddin Khan and Secretary General Zakir Ahmed Khan also addressed the seminar.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a discussion on 'Bangabandhu and Post-75 Bangladesh' organised by the Bangabandhu Parishad at the Engineers' Institution in the city yesterday. — Star photo

# 3 die in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Three people were killed in separate incidents of food poisoning, road mishap and electrocution in the city yesterday and the day before.

Salek Bhuiyan, 45, owner of a rod-cement shop and seven others were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital last evening as they fell sick after a feast at his Green Road residence. Salek died of food poisoning, doctors there said. The seven others were released after first aid. The maid who had prepared the food fled away after the incident. Salek's family sources said.

Nurul Islam, an army personnel, injured in a road accident, died at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Saturday evening. Islam, while riding on a cycle, was hit by a minibus near Shoura police box under Cantonment police station.

Dulal, 22, an auto mechanic, was electrocuted while working at his workshop at Khilgaon yesterday.

In another incident muggers snatched two gold necklaces from two rickshaw passengers and stabbed one of them, Masudur Rahman, in front of the DMCH last night.

# 25 DU senators demand radio, TV programme on Aug 15

Twenty-five senators of the Dhaka University yesterday urged the government to broadcast special programmes in radio and television on August 15 to commemorate Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

The signatories include Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Ramendra Krishna Majumdar, Prof Md Harun-ur Rashid, Prof Sayed Modasser Ali, Nilufar Begum, Advocate Sayed Reazur Rahman and Md Manjurul Islam.

# Lankan leaders urged to halt public appearance

COLOMBO, Aug 13: Leading Sri Lankan politicians believed to be on a hit list of Tamil Tiger rebels have been urged to halt public appearances after last week's blast in the capital, newspapers and defence officials said today, reports Reuter.

The dead included a driver, a helper, a businessman and a pedestrian.

Businessman Aminuddin, 30, died when a truck overturned near Aminbazar at 4 am. Four others including the driver of the truck were injured.

Akkas Ali, 28, helper of a truck died on the spot when the truck fell into a roadside

# US-Russia talks begin Fresh fighting in Bosnia, Croatia

SOCHI (Russia), Aug 13: Russia's Foreign Minister and US President Bill Clinton's National Security Adviser began talks on former Yugoslavia today and both sides said they hoped to find common ground, reports Reuter.

"We are not expecting disagreements," Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told reporters before meeting Anthony Lake. "On the contrary, our efforts are moving in the same direction."

Meanwhile, fresh fighting erupted in Bosnia and Croatia.

In central Bosnia, government forces backed by tanks and artillery attacked north from Bugojno towards the Serb-held town of Donji Vakuf and gained ground, UN officials said.

In Croatia, Serb gunners rained shells on areas near the historic adriatic port of Dubrovnik and Croat artillery pounded Serb positions in the nearby coastal mountain

range. UN spokesman major Greg Thompson told Reuters that peacekeepers in central Bosnia counted more than 3,000 tank and artillery rounds going out from government positions.

"The Bosnian army has made advances to the south of Donji Vakuf," he said. "They've moved up a few kilometres but we can't say whether they've gotten into Donji Vakuf or beyond."

Capturing Donji Vakuf would give government forces control of the main road linking Kupres and Bugojno with Travnik and improve their access from the coast to the central Bosnian heartland.

UN military observers expressed surprise at the amount of armour involved in Saturday's assault and speculated their allied Bosnian Croat forces might be supplying equipment to support the government attack.

# 4 killed, 18 injured in road accidents

SAVAR, Aug 13: Accidents on the Dhaka-Aricha highway today claimed the lives of four people and injured 18 others, police said, reports UNB.

They said some 14 trucks skidded off the road, which became dangerously slippery due to rains in last 24 hours.

The mishaps also caused serious traffic jam on the busy highway throughout the day. Police could remove only seven vehicles.

The accidents occurred at Barbara, Kalampur, Joypura, Srirampur, Mutipara under Dhamrai thana and Boliapur, Hamayetpur, Salehpur, Aminbazar, Jorpul and Turag under Savar thana.

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Businessman Aminuddin, 30, died when a truck overturned near Aminbazar at 4 am. Four others including the driver of the truck were injured.

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# Hasina

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The Indemnity Ordinance was promulgated after the assassination of Bangabandhu, to prevent trial of those who killed him and his family members. Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana survived the August 15, 1975 killings as they were abroad.

Hasina blamed the ruling BNP for 'ignoring' people's rights and resorting to 'despotism' to stay in power. "How does Parliament remain effective after the resignation of 147 MPs?" she asked.

The AL chief said her party want to establish a sound democratic system in which people would be the only source of power. "And for this, we are demanding general elections under a neutral caretaker government," she said and asked whether democracy was safe in the hands of those who wanted to stay in power 'violating the Constitution'.

The Awami League leader alleged that the government was suppressing the opposition parties.

She said during the BNP rule, the number of people under poverty line was increasing, while a section of people were becoming wealthy. But how long the smaller group of people can protect their wealth keeping the majority deprived? she asked.

"The deprived and the distressed would one day raise their heads to establish their rights," she warned and recalled Bangabandhu's steps to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor.

Referring to Prime Minister's speeches regarding her government's development work, Hasina said a war-torn country (as after the independence) could not be compared with the country now. But, she said, Bangabandhu's government had brought the situation under control within a short period.

In 1975, when the AL was in power, the growth rate was 7 per cent which was never attained by any successive government, she said. The percentage of landless people has now risen 70, as against 37 in 1975, unemployed youths from 15 to 45 and that of people under poverty line from 49 to 86. "Is this called development?" she asked.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury, prominent journalist Obaidul Haq, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir and Dr S A Malek also spoke on the occasion, while poets Syed Shamsul Haq, Asad Chowdhury and Nurul Huda recited their self-composed poems. Chairperson of the Bangabandhu Parishad poet Sufia Kamal could not attend the discussion for her illness.

# Proposed political alliance announces manifesto

By Staff Correspondent

Three left leaning political parties — the Ganatontri Party, the Communist Kendra and the Gona Azadi League yesterday announced the manifesto of their proposed alliance.

"Upholding the spirit of the liberation war, promoting democratic values, non-communalism and social development are the main objectives of the alliance," said the leaders of the political parties at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

The leaders vowed to revive and implement the principles of the 1972 Constitution.

The Daily Star response to the clarification: The Daily Star stands by its report.

# Opposition

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this month, a grand rally in early September and a 72-hour hartal in the middle of September. The mainstream opposition parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, will also support the four-day (September 17-20) rail-road barricade by industrial workers. The barricade programme was announced last week.

Leaders of the three parties met separately yesterday to prepare the draft programmes which would be approved by the central committees of their respective parties. Yesterday's meetings follow a joint meeting of the leaders of the three parties Wednesday where they discussed identical programmes for agitation. Before finalising those tomorrow, the assigned leaders of the three parties will exchange views.

Leaders of the parties are unlikely to meet again because the AL wants to avoid criticism, already made by its pro-liberation political allies, sources in the party said.

The AL strategy also aims at building better understanding with the pro-liberation parties and professional groups supporting the AL, party sources said. The AL is planning to seek support of professional groups, trade union bodies and student organisations in its agitation.

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"One cannot be empowered in decision-making if one is not economically independent," she said.

# The Midnight File

## Israeli cabinet okays self-rule accords

JERUSALEM, Aug 13: The Israeli cabinet approved today partial accords to extend Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank, an official spokesman announced. Seventeen ministers voted for, Energy Minister Gonen Segev voted against and Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet and Interior Minister Ehud Barak abstained, reports AFP.

## Rain triggers floods

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rounding areas for the last two days caused flash floods in most of the low lying areas.

The Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway has been cut off due to floods on an area of one kilometre of the highway. About three feet of flood water has engulfed the vast area of the road blocking hundreds of vehicles on either side.

About 30,000 people in 25 villages under the Cox's Bazar district were marooned by the floods. Nearly 87 mm of rainfall was recorded there during the last 24 hours.

Our Sylhet correspondent adds: With continuation of rains and onrush of water from the hilly areas across the Indian borders, four thanas of the district have been severely affected.

The direct road communication between Gowainghat and Jafflong remained snapped for the second consecutive day.

The river Dhoti was flowing 16 cm above the danger level at Comanyganj point while the river Gowan was flowing above 54 cm above danger level at Gowainghat, and the Sari was flowing above the danger mark.

## PWD clarifies

By Staff Correspondent

The Public Works Department (PWD) yesterday said its programme for filling up part of the Dhamondi lake for construction of government flats went through all procedural formalities and was not taken up discretely.

A report published in the August 7 issue of The Daily Star had said that the project was taken up "discretely without public participation".

The executive engineer of PWD Division II in a clarification said the scheme was prepared as per a govern-

ment decision to construct 40 flats on this land for officers of Judicial Department. After getting fund from the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, tenders were floated by PWD Division II for site-filling and for construction of buildings. The report in the paper that steps were taken discretely without public participation is far from facts."

The Ministry of Information had floated tenders in some national newspapers for the work. A total of 117 tenders were received, the clarification said.

The site-filling work was started. But after objections from some local residents, the work has been suspended temporarily for final decision on the matter.

The lake was earlier handed over to the Fisheries Department for pisciculture and the lakeside land to the Dhaka Municipal Corporation for development. Any allegation that the PWD was responsible for polluting it is not true, the clarification said.

The Daily Star response to the clarification: The Daily Star stands by its report.

## Taslima's case

### Resumption of hearing stayed for 8 weeks

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday further extended for eight weeks the stay of the High Court judgment for resuming trial hearing of the case against Taslima Nasreen.

Justice Latifur Rahman of the Appellate Division, acting upon a prayer on behalf of Nasreen moved by Dr Kamal Hossain, granted the prayer for extension of stay till October 8 in his chamber.

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hoque and Justice Mohammad Nurul Islam earlier stayed for two weeks the operation of its judgement rejecting Nasreen's prayer for quashment of the proceedings against her.

## Kashmiri rebels

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take to free the other four hostages." Internal Security Minister Rajesh Pilot told Reuters.

"We had been restraining ourselves from any direct action, in consultation with the concerned embassies," Pilot said.

But the brutal killing and the threat to murder the other four hostages greatly increased pressure on authorities to try to rescue them.

"We have a general idea of the place where these people are held up," a senior Jammu and Kashmir official, speaking in Delhi, said. "We have maintained a kind of surveillance, and Al-Faran has been getting in touch with us from time to time."