

# \$10.5m WB credit for non-formal education project

The World Bank yesterday announced a 10.5 million US dollar credit for a non-formal education project in Bangladesh which will provide literacy to some 2.5 million adults, reports UNB.

The credit came from the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank's concessional lending affiliate, for the project to provide "second-chance" education to the illiterate adolescents and young adults aged 15-24.

A World Bank press release said despite government's efforts to expand access to primary schooling, low literacy rates prevailed throughout Bangladesh.

In 1994, gross primary enrollments remarkably reached nearly 100 per cent. However, less than half of those who enroll in primary school complete the five-year cycle.

Of those who have completed primary schooling, observed the World Bank, less than half achieved sustainable literacy levels. The large illiterate population — estimated to be around 40 million — poses a serious constraint on the government's efforts to curb the population growth rate and increase labour productivity.

Through the project, the World Bank together with the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) as the lead agency will help realise this goal.

The total project cost is 51 million dollar of which the ADB will provide 26.7 million dollar, the Swiss Development Corporation 3.8 million dollar and the government 10 million dollar.

The beneficiaries will be selected from the 30 districts with the lowest literacy rates which, by implementation, are also likely to the poorest districts.

At least half the beneficiaries will be women. Programmes of basic literacy, numeracy and life skills — including nutrition, hygiene, family planning, civic rights and income-generating practices — will thus bring substantial pay-offs for Bangladesh in terms of increased economic productivity, better health and schooling for families and lower fertility, the WB release said.

The project's other objectives are to strengthen institutional capacity to deliver programmes through non-government organisations (NGOs) and the district administrations and help the government establish a non-formal education system that is capable of delivering effective large-scale literacy programmes at affordable costs.

# One killed in Ctg

Witnesses said attempts were also made to loot some banks at the commercial area in the city.

The new railway terminal building less than quarter mile from New Market was put on fire at about 12:30 pm. BDR moved there and opened fire to disperse the mob.

A mob also set fire to the Karmel Harf BNP office, and attacked Sadharan Bima office at Pahartali in the morning.

Police also opened fire when the mob attacked the Kotwali thana at about noon.

At least 50 people were injured in these incidents. Of them, 10 persons with bullet injury were sent to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Huge contingents of police and BDR were deployed to save various government and private offices in Agrabad commercial area.

Sources who declined to be named told this correspondent that a fresh requisition has been made to call the army in aid of the civil administration. Army was also called out last night and seen patrolling the key points of the city. They were, however, withdrawn in the early hours of today.

Meanwhile, the ward commissioners of the City Corporation at a press conference today (Thursday) threatened to paralyse the port city if the Mayor was not set free unconditionally by March 1 (tomorrow).

Addressing the press conference, acting Mayor Zahurul Alam Dohbas said the Mayor was arrested only to hinder the development process of the city.

The Awami League, JP and Jamaat held separate rallies and announced that the hartal would be continued until the Mayor was released.

The Awami League rally was held at Darul Fazel Market premises with party leader former MP Ishaq Mia in the chair.

Addressing the rally, the Awami League leaders said they would announce tougher action programme on Saturday at 3 pm.

The Jatiya Party rally was held at Cinema Palace premises while the meeting of Jamaat-e-Islami held at Lalighi.

# BNP condemn

meeting was attended by general secretary Salauddin Ahmed, joint secretary general Mirza Abbas, Minister of State for Youth and Sports, Sadek Hossain, Minister of State for Education and Tourism, Major (ret'd) Abdul Mannan, Quamrul Islam and thana and ward level leaders.

The BNP leaders made a fervent appeal to the opposition parties to shun their deceptive politics, if they have a little feeling and love for the country and the people; and to sit at the negotiating table for finding a solution to the artificial crisis created by them (opposition).

Otherwise, they observed, the people would never forgive the forces creating terrorism and anarchy and crippling the national economy.

The meeting decided to carry out massive mass contact programme through holding rallies and processions at all thana, ward and unit levels to create public opinion against such opposition activities.

It was pointed out that life in the city came to normal following processions brought out by the peace-loving people. The meeting thanked the people for their spontaneous participation in the processions and demanded that the government should take stern measures for protecting life and property of the people.

# 3000 shanties gutted

place speedily knocking down a number of rickshaws on its way, the local people said. However, fire fighters again went to the scene with police backing.

When contacted, Mohammadpur police said, none was arrested in this connection till 11 pm last night.

The cause of the fire could not be immediately known. Local people said the fire may have ignited from electric heaters or from the illegal electricity connections. Some residents also alleged that vested quarter was active to grab the government-owned lands on which the slums were built.

Fire brigade sources said, the cause of fire and extent of damage was yet to be ascertained.

The victims, mostly garments industry workers who used to reside in the shanties, alleged that some people looted their valuables taking advantage of the fire when the entire neighbourhood sank into darkness due to sudden power failure.

Abdul Mannan, one of the



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city (Top) and processionists running for safety as police reported to lathi charge in front of the Jatiya Press Club (bottom) yesterday.

# Hasina

economy of the country and destroyed peace and harmony," Hasina said.

Begum Zia wants to cling to power anyhow because her party leaders were involved in large scale corruption.

Hasina urged the police, BDR and the Army to be "with the people." "You are also the sons of the same soil. You should not open fire on the people to keep some vote thieves in power. You will be the victims of people's anger."

She said the arms recovery drive under the Chief Election Commissioner's directive was a "complete failure." "Why fire arms are seen in the hands of BNP terrorists now?"

"I asked the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) why, he himself being a judge, did allow injustice. Why did you declare the results which you knew were false? People will not spare you for the wastage of Tk 258 crore spent in this farcical elections," Hasina said.

"Khaleda Zia speaks so much about the sanctity of the Constitution.

But there was so much rigging in the election that she had ultimately failed to uphold the constitution."

"She (Begum Zia) says she does not understand the concept of the caretaker government. But the whole civilized world considers the concept as very good. It is the only way for the people to choose a true democratic government and to ensure the development process of the country," Hasina observed.

per Article 7 of the Constitution, people is the source of power. Our movement is to ensure this. There should be an end to hunger, inflation, price hike, corruption, deterioration of the law and order. A government formed through election under a caretaker government can ensure that."

# Police action

separate rally of the Jamaat-e-Islami which was taking place in front of the Club, they said.

Earlier a section of the processionists attacked a microbus near the Foreign Ministry and started brick-battling it, the witnesses added.

A platoon of riot police stationed nearby intervened and baton charged to disperse the marchers.

The police also lobbed a number of teargas shells, and chased the people through the nearby alleys, witnesses said.

Some police personnel were even seen attacking the neighbourhood shops, vendors and people in a typing shed opposite to the Press Club, they added.

# Lok Sabha witnesses noisy scene over Hawala discussions

NEW DELHI, Feb 29: Opposition members in Lok Sabha (parliament) today intensified the demand for resignation of Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao for the multi-crore rupees Hawala scam, reports BNS.

The members of the ruling Congress, rejecting the allegations that money power was used to defeat a no-confidence motion in July, 1993, defended the government.

The house witnessed noisy scene over the Hawala discussions. Communist Party leader Somnath Chatterjee said that despite the allegations by Shalindra Mahto, neither Rao, nor his cabinet colleagues had denied the charges that he (Rao) had paid him money to vote against the no-confidence motion in July, '93.

Speaker Shiv Raj Patil, intervening at this stage, said that in response to his notice the Prime Minister had denied that he had paid any money to BNP member Shalindra Mahto.

Janata Dal Chief Whip

# Diplomats visit Sunderbans today

By Staff Correspondent

An entourage of 26 foreign diplomats stationed in Dhaka are scheduled to visit the Sunderbans today in a recreation tour organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A ministry spokesman said that the programme was originally planned months ago. "This is a normal practice in many countries," he said informing that in the past a trip to Sylhet was also arranged.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan will accompany the entourage which will go and return from Heron Point today by helicopter. The diplomats will have a river cruise in the Sunderbans, on board two river vessels provided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The envoys who have confirmed to go on the trip include the heads of missions of the United States, Great Britain, France, Canada, Egypt, Indonesia, Morocco, Palestine, Sri Lanka, and several others.

# Tofael, Nasim, Manju given divisions

By Staff Correspondent

Three top opposition leaders now in separate jails on month-long detentions have been given divisions, official sources said.

Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed, who is now in Rajshahi Jail and AL leader Mohammad Nasim now in Noakhali Jail, and Jatiya Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju in Kustia Jail, have got divisions in certain prisoners, a Home Ministry source said.

It was not yet clear if AL leader Matiya Chowdhury and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Kader Mollah, who are now in Dhaka Central Jail, and JP leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed now in Jessore Jail got the divisions or not.

# Police-JCD clash in Comilla: 12 hurt

COMILLA, Feb 29: At least 12 people, including two policemen, were injured in sporadic clashes between police and workers of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) here today, reports UNB.

The JCD workers were outraged when a magistrate at the Deputy Commissioner's office received their memorandum on behalf of the DC.

They submitted the memorandum demanding arrest of the killers of JCD leader Khorshed Alam Khokon.

The JCD activists damaged eight vehicles near the DC office and in the other parts of the town. Police fired several shots in the air and lobbed 17 teargas shells to disperse the unruly workers.

Of the injured, police sub-inspector Abdul Gafur and constable Abdul Malek were admitted to sadar hospital.

# ISPR denies

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not been deployed in the city, Mohammad Hossain, director of ISPR, said over telephone.

He said what actually happened on Wednesday was that some military vehicles had gone to the city to meet their routine administrative requirements.

Hence, the news reports published yesterday in a section of the press stating that army had been deployed in Chittagong city were not correct, he added.

# Showcause

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Moudud Ahmed and that of Matiya Chowdhury respectively and sent the cases to the Chief Justice.

Barrister Amir Ul Islam, counsel for Matiya Chowdhury, submitted that though she was arrested on February 24 but she has neither been produced before the Court of Magistrate nor been served upon the order of detention which is violative of the mandatory provisions of both the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Special Powers Act, 1974.

In this regard, the Court observed that the detaining authority is legally bound to serve the detention order upon the detenu which has already been settled by the Supreme Court.

Barrister Islam prayed for bail of Matiya Chowdhury from the grounds that she is a woman and she has been suffering from high blood pressure.

However, the court passed no order on the prayer for bail, but ordered the rule to be returnable within four days from yesterday and fixed the rule for hearing on February 7 subject to appearance of the case at the top of the list of that day.

In the case of Barrister Moudud Ahmed the court also passed similar order.

The case of Tofael Ahmed was moved by Barrister NKS Nabil.

Barrister Rafiqul Haq moved the case of Barrister Moudud Ahmed.

Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khan, DAG AFM Hasan Arif, Mujibur Rahman and AAG Saïdur Rahman represented the government.

# The Midnight File IRA won't restore ceasefire soon

BELFAST, Feb 29: The Irish Republican Army suggested today it would not restore its ceasefire in the immediate future. The IRA, in a statement issued in London, said it was "prepared to face up to its responsibilities, but others have to do likewise," reports AFP.

# US to tighten embargo against Cuba

WASHINGTON, Feb 29: The White House and US Congress have agreed on a bill to tighten the embargo against Cuba following the downing of two US civilian planes, reports AFP.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said Wednesday the two sides had reached a compromise on the so-called Helms-Burton legislation after lawmakers agreed to a waiver a provision that President Bill Clinton adamantly opposed when it was introduced last year.

Clinton vowed, however, to work with Congress to pass the measure after Cuban fighter jets shot down two planes flown by Cuban exiles opposed to Fidel Castro's regime on Saturday.

The President is delighted that we were able to reach agreement and a common ground with the Congress on the Helms-Burton act," he said. "The President, in light of the incident on Saturday, believes that tightening the embargo on Cuba is a necessary step now."

The title provision Clinton

# PSC annual report presented to President

Annual report of the Public Service Commission (PSC) for 1995 was presented to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Accepting the report, the President said that PSC is a quasi-judicial organisation and the Commission can ensure more efficiency in the administration through fair selection of candidates.

PSC Chairman Prof SMA Faiz handed over the report to President Biswas, said a press release.

Prof Faiz apprised the President about the necessity for further strengthening of the Public Service Commission.

# Programme

Identifying the illegal MPs of the February 15 elections as 'people's enemy' and boycott them socially.

Building resistance against the use of state facilities by the Prime Minister and other Ministers of this illegal government.

United resistance against any move to hold repolling in the constituencies where farcical election remains suspended.

Taking account from the Election Commission of crores of taka allocated for the voter identity cards and holding the elections. The Commission will be charged with misappropriation of public fund.

Political parties in movement will coordinate at the village, ward, union, thana and district levels, and motivate the administrative officials-employees, owners and workers of vehicles, and the leaders of professional groups to express their solidarity with the programme.

The Opposition will go for massive mass contacts through meetings and rallies across the country to make the non-cooperation programme a success.

However, during the non-cooperation, the opposition will refrain from later announcements a few of their programmes for the convenience of the commonman.

Rickshaws will ply everyday from 10 am.

# Tariff concessions

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skin, goat skin and raw jute. There are five other products in Pakistan's list, but Bangladesh's export in these items are very small.

There are high levels of preferential tariffs in Pakistan on bamboo (55.25 per cent) and LPG container (63 per cent) Even if Bangladesh develops export capacity in these products, these tariff barriers will effectively shut all import into that country.

Out of 17 items on which concessions are granted by Maldives, Bangladesh has export interest in five products, but effective preferential tariff is pretty high at 23.1 per cent on four of these items.

Only two items out of 14 on which Nepal has granted concession offer export prospects to Bangladesh.

Out of 31 products appearing in Sri Lanka's list of concessions, only jute yarn and jute carpet are important for Bangladesh. Any significant increase in Bangladesh's export as a result of concessions is unlikely because of high effective preferential tariff, MCCI noted.

Three out of the 11 items on which Bhutan has granted concession are relevant for Bangladesh. These are frozen fish, cosmetics and soap. However, 90 per cent of these products are imported from

# Hartal observed at Bandarban

BANDARBAN, Feb 29: A half-day hartal, called by the district unit of Awami League, was observed here today, reports UNB.

Awami League and its front organisations enforced the hartal from 6 am protesting the arrest of Chittagong City Mayor Alhaj ABM Mohiuddin.

Two people, including a policeman, was injured in a chase and counter-chase at Bandarban Bazar. The trouble started when BNP activists brought out a procession chanting slogans in favour of peace.

Later, the opposition activists ransacked the district BNP office and set ablaze its furniture, including the portrait of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.