

Textbooks for class IX by April 7 likely

A meeting of the Education Ministry yesterday reviewed matters relating to printing and marketing of textbooks from class six to nine for 1996, reports BSS.

Presided over by Education Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, the meeting asked all publishers not to print note books and guide books and to stop selling of those.

The meeting was informed that all books for class six to eight have been printed and marketed while the compulsory books of class nine will be marketed by April 7. The Textbook Publishing Samity representatives said that there was no reason for short supply of books in the markets as stock of books are sufficient.

The samity leaders said the books of optional subjects of class nine are under printing and would be available at fair prices by April 15.

A six-member committee headed by Deputy Secretary (school) of the Education Ministry was formed in the meeting to monitor and supervise the activities for ensuring publication, marketing and availability of all books within the stipulated time.

The publishers apprised the meeting that they were facing problems regarding the transportation of books as well as procurement of paper from the paper mills due to the present situations. The meeting called upon all quarters to help transportation of printing materials and marketing of textbooks.

It was told that the books published this year under revised syllabus are of high quality in comparison to those of the previous years. These books are so well written that

the students would not require note books and guide books. The meeting was told.

Education Secretary Md Ershadul Huq, Acting Chairman of the Textbook Board Mohd Saiful Haq and representatives of textbook publication and marketing samity and other senior officials of the ministry were present at the meeting.

Liaison body

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tive of passing the Bill by this "illegal" government.

There was no question of accepting any law or Bill passed by this illegal Parliament, it said, adding the "illegal" BNP government has initiated the evil move to cling to power.

The meeting chaired by Abdus Samad Azad was attended by Awami League leaders Tofael Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Mohammad Nasim, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu and Dewan Farid Gazi. Jatiya Party leaders Barrister Moudud Ahmed and Anwar Hossain Manju and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders Abdul Kader Mollah, Ali Ahsan Md Mujahid and Mohammad Quamruzzaman.

Dr Kamal

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tion of a caretaker government, the crisis lingered because the parties concerned were disagreeing on the procedure to form it.

The rally was also addressed by Maj Gen (ret'd) Khalilur Rahman, Ziaul Huq, Advocate Zahurul Islam and Pankaj Bhatnagar.

This controversy over a procedural issue should not present an insurmountable barrier," Kamal asserted.

"We should take a practical approach, one which would reduce the controversy and the gap between the different views," he said, noting that an act passed by Parliament followed by a referendum was agreeably a method for a permanent provision.

"But a special method may be adopted for meeting the unprecedented and abnormal situation that we are faced with today," Kamal the Forum leader said, emphasising the need for a quick method to form a caretaker government.

"Surely there can be no disagreement on the point that a method which involves holding a referendum will take more time than we can allow or afford now, keeping in view the greater national interest and the interest of the country," he argued.

"There is little need for a referendum when there is a clear consensus visible to all and, therefore, losing time by adopting this method can hardly be justified."

According to him the alternative way was a reference under Article 106 of the Constitution seeking the opinion of the Supreme Court on the quickest method.

"Let us lose no more time. Let the President make this reference today and certainly not later than tomorrow. Let us pray to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to sit tomorrow and show us the way out of the present turmoil and guide us to peace and normalcy," Kamal Hossain said.

Govt officials

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tion expressing solidarity with the movement of the government employees.

The meeting, attended by representatives of different care services, in its resolution also demanded cancellation of February 15 polls and urged the President to take measures to resolve the crippling political crisis by March 27.

The speakers at the meeting also expressed their determination to cripple the Secretariat and different government and semi-government offices to force the government to step down.

The speakers observed that the present government was an "illegal" one as it was formed through a flawed and fraudulent polls. People did not vote for this government, they said and urged all government employees not to carry out orders of vote-dacoit ministers.

Different cadre officials also requested their colleagues not to take any anti-people step. They also asked the police, BDR and Army not to turn their guns to people involved in the current movement to pull down this "illegal" government.

Presided over by Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, the meeting was addressed by Agriculturist Rafiqul Islam Mollah, Engr. MA Kasem, Sub-Judge Chowdhury Muniruddin Mahfuz, Diploma Engr Azizur Rahman, Bazul Karim of Police Cadre and Director of Narcotic Department, Principal Janab Ali, Engr MA Razaque, Dr Nishu Debnath (health cadre), Deputy Secretary of Land Ministry Abdul Hai, Engr SM Farouk Hossain, MA Latif of Mujibnagar, Karmachari Parishad, Md. Shahajan (BGS Taxation), Dr ATM Amdadul Huq (Health), Agriculturist Munirul Islam, Md. Syeduzzaman (BGS Cooperative), Khademul Islam (BGS Ansar), Engr Ishaq of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Dr Khalea Begum (Health), Dr Abdul Malek (Health), Engr Waliullah Siddiq, Dr Kazi Shahidul Alam General Secretary of BMA and Engr Ibrahim Mia.



Police lathicharging the Opposition activists who gathered across the police barricade near the Foreign Office in the city yesterday at about noon, to continue their sit-in demonstration. — Star photo

Young man stabbed by maid in city

By DMCH Correspondent
A young man was stabbed by his maid at his residence at Azimpur colony in the city yesterday.

Helal Ahmed, 25, son of Gias Uddin Chowdhury, received stab injuries in his abdomen and was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition.

The maid, Latifa, 17, after stabbing his master went to the Lalbagh police station and said, "she did not know what she had done. According to her version, she was not in her senses at the time, police said."

Police said, she had been working at the house for about three years.

No case was filed till filing of this report last night.

Inside JS

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"Nobody has written me this. We also keep notes before us while arguing in the court," he minister quipped.

Earlier, Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury, while discussing on the proposed non-party caretaker government bill, made a reference to the Kazi's story but declined to narrate it in Urdu arguing that the language of the parliament was Bangla.

Interrupting Chowdhury, the Speaker, with a sense of humour said, "Go ahead (with telling the tale in Urdu) and let us enjoy." But the ruling party PM frustrated his eager colleagues by not entertaining the request by the Chair.

State Minister for Commerce Hafizuddin Ahmed, while speaking on the bill also cited in Urdu from a poem by Galib. However, the state minister, who joined the BNP recently, later rose to request the Chair to expunge his Urdu quotation. "Your point is taken and necessary steps would be taken in this regard," the Speaker said.

Sit-in near Sectt

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afternoon when the city mayor took position on the broken dais.

Politicians, leaders of different professional groups, writers, intellectuals, teachers and cultural activists also joined the rally expressing solidarity with the current movement.

Entry in areas around the Secretariat building was heavily restricted. Police checked identity cards of all and allowed only government employees and journalists to pass through the security rings.

All but the main gate of the secretariat on Abdul Ganj Road were closed. Troops and armed police were on guard inside the Secretariat.

People coming to the venue with festoons and banners from different directions were stopped and were asked to change their direction. The law enforcing agency personnel at last gave in at around 3 pm.

A number of senior Awami League leaders including Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofael Ahmed and Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin visited the spot before Mayor Hanif rejoined the sit-in.

Addressing the demonstrators, Hanif condemned the police action and called a full-day hartal in the capital today in protest. The sit-in will continue till fall of the government, he said.

Tongi Pourashava Chairman Azmatullah while addressing the demonstrators also declared that hartal would be observed in Tongi today protesting the police action.

Representatives of a number of socio-cultural organisations also spoke from the damaged dais today. Besides, cultural programmes were staged and time to time news bulletins were put up at the Janata Manch.

Awami League leaders

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Mohammad Quamruzzaman, dramatist Prof Montaz Uddin Ahmed, Dhaka University teacher Prof Kabir Chowdhury, actor Hasan Imam, Barrister Amirul Islam, poet Syed Shamsul Haq, Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, ADAB representative Khushik Kabir, Prof Borhan Uddin Khan Jahangir of DU, trade union leader Nurul Islam, Shahjahan Miah of BFUJ, Shahriar Kabir, Golam Quddus, Ramendu Majumdar and Liaquat Ali Laki also addressed the sit-in demonstrators.

Div Commissioner's car damaged in Khulna

From Our Correspondent
KHULNA, Mar 24: The official car of the Divisional Commissioner was damaged by some unidentified persons here this morning.

Police later arrested an opposition activist, Badal (25). Hand bombs were hurled at the collectorate building, the local branch of Bangladesh Bank and the office of the Dainik Inquilab on the sixteenth day of the non-cooperation movement today.

Besides, a woman, Khuki, 30, her husband Lutfar, 42, and their daughter Parveen, 10, were injured in bomb blasts in the Nirala residential area. The tendons of a Jubo League worker, Hasan (25), were also cut off by unknown assailants.

The Awami League activists brought out a procession here this evening asking the Deputy Commissioner, Mujibur Rahman, to leave Khulna immediately. A leader of the city AL alleged that the Deputy Commissioner was collaborating with the ruling party for crushing the non-cooperation movement in Khulna city.

Govt examining recent political stand of ADAB

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday said the government was examining the recent political stand of ADAB, an association of the NGOs, reports BSS.

He added that if ADAB's stand is found to be against the regulations of NGO activities or any law of the country, necessary measures would be taken against the association.

Replying to a call attention notice on the political stand of ADAB placed by BNP MP Nizamuddin Khan of Manikganj, the minister said the activities of the NGOs are aimed at socio-economic development of people and it is not expected that they would get involved in politics.

Barrister Talukdar said out of 1027 NGOs working in the country, only 250 are affiliated with ADAB and many of the ADAB affiliates including BRAC, do not support its recent political stand. Moreover, many donor countries and agencies have also expressed their dissatisfaction at the recent role of this NGO, he said.

The minister said, "NGO Bureau, the regulating agency of the NGOs, are examining the activities of ADAB. If its activities are proved to be against the regulating charter of NGOs or the law of the soil, punitive steps might be taken against ADAB."

In his call attention notice, Nizamuddin termed the activities as amounting to treason with ADAB and against the sovereignty of the country. He demanded immediate measures to make the NGOs accountable to the state and cancel the registration of ADAB.

Nizamuddin said a political unrest is prevailing in the country due to the differences of opinion between the political parties which is natural in a multi-party democratic system.

"But taking the advantage of the situation, the coordinating agency of the foreign NGOs, ADAB, is 'illegally' getting involved in open politics and giving 24-hour ultimatum to the head of the government. This can in no way be accepted," he said.

Nizamuddin also observed that the ADAB is, in a different way, trying to form a parallel government and demanded steps to make its activities accountable for the sake of country's independence and sovereignty.

Gold worth over Tk 18 lakh seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent
Customs officials at Zia International Airport recovered gold bars and ornaments worth over Tk 18 lakh from two Bangladesh passengers yesterday.

The passengers — Nurul Islam and Munshi Mia — who hail from Panchala and Raazan of Chittagong, respectively arrived at the airport on a Biman flight from Dubai at 8:15 am, said Customs sources. Thirty four gold bars, weighing four kilograms and two gold chains weighing 400 grams worth Tk 18,33,790 were recovered from the two passengers.

A departmental case was registered in this connection.

Outlawed party man killed by rivals

JHENIDAH, Mar 24: A member of an outlawed party was killed by rivals in Hari-nakunda thana of the district Saturday night, reports UNB.

Police said Mashur Rahman alias Mintu, 32, said to be a member of the Purbabanglar Communist Party, was beaten to death by the activists of rival Bangladesh Biplobi Communist Party at village Hingrapara. The assailants called him out of his house and left him dead under Gobrapara Bridge at about 9 pm.

Mintu was the younger brother of a top leader of the Purbabanglar Communist Party, Tipu, who was also killed a few years back.

Police recovered the body this morning and sent it to Sadar hospital morgue.

Police said the killing might be a retaliatory one as three members of Biplobi Communist Party had been killed in three days till Saturday.

tion of anonymity. AFP adds: Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao today vowed to hold parliamentary elections in Kashmir despite Muslim militant threats to sabotage them.

Rao, 74, also told a massive election rally organised by his Congress (I) Party here that Pakistan was to blame for the bloody Muslim separatist campaign in the Himalayan state.

The election commission said last week that elections to fill the six parliament seats from Kashmir would be held on May 7 and 21. Three of the seats would go to the polls on May 7 and three in the Kashmir valley on May 21.

Muslim separatist groups in Kashmir, where the independence drive raged since 1989 has left more than 12,000 people dead, have threatened to boycott as well as sabotage the hustings.

The entire country, including Kashmir, will soon have representation in the Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament), Rao said.

The Midnight File

China rejects US demand

WASHINGTON, Mar 24: The Chinese government has rejected a US demand that it rule out future shipments of sensitive nuclear-related equipment to Pakistan. The Washington Post said today, quoting senior US officials. The decision will make it more likely the US administration will soon impose economic penalties against China for past shipments of such equipment, the paper quoted the officials as saying, reports AFP.

Caretaker govt bill

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parties' silence over the contents of the caretaker bill as their agreement to it. Mahabuddin said any major changes in the proposed law would further complicate the political situation.

He also claimed that there was scope to avoid putting the bill to a referendum. Advocate AFM Nazmul Huda of the Treasury Bench supported his view. The State Minister for Commerce expressed his apprehension that the opposition parties might not join the next elections even if the caretaker government bill was passed. He, however, said that the House should adopt the bill as quickly as possible on the occasion included independent MPs including Kalimud-

din Ahmed, SM Shafi Mahmud, Shamsul Alam and Nurul Alam and Treasury Bench members Tanbir Ahmed Siddiki and Ebadur Rahman.

The discussion on the issue will resume after the select committee report on the bill is produced in parliament this evening. The committee members include Abdus Salam Talukdar, Rafiqul Islam Miah, Advocate Harunur Rashid, Khalilur Rahman, MK Anwar, Khadaker Mahtabuddin Ahmed and Barrister Ziaur Rahman of the ruling party and independent MP Shaiful Rahman Kiron.

The select body would consider the suggestions from the treasury bench members made at the BNP parliamentary wing's meeting on Saturday.

The House had a short discussion on the political crisis affecting normal life of the people.

Home Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain called upon the Opposition to abstain from pursuing 'politics of destruction'.

The session was adjourned at 10:00 pm. It resumes at 7:00 this evening.

Non-cooperation

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One Abu Hanif received injuries as a bomb went off near Mahakhali rail crossing at around noon.

The law enforcing agencies cordoned off the Furana Paltan, Baitul Makarram, Segun Bagicha, Curzon Hall and High Court areas for the whole day yesterday.

In other parts of the city, double-deckers and mini-buses were seen plying under police escort. Autorickshaws and tempos were also seen on the roads from the morning.

Ctg port

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am undone here to sign the agreement. Mayor and Awami League leader Mohiuddin Chowdhury told newsmen that the meeting's decision had met with failure due to the 'betrayal' by the state minister for port and shipping.

The minister totally betrayed us, although he authorised the port authority to take decisions and reach an agreement with us to resume port activities," the mayor said. Other opposition leaders including finance secretary of city Awami League Ataur Rahman Kaiser and Jatiya Party leader Mahmodul Islam Chowdhury held the state minister for port and shipping responsible for the failure to reach an agreement for reactivating the port.

However, mayor Mohiuddin urged the port chairman to rethink over the decision for one more day for signing the agreement.

Earlier, at the end of the meeting, the decisions were read out by the mayor. He announced that the port users, port officials and opposition leaders attending the meeting had verbally agreed to the decisions.

The decisions adopted at the meeting were that cargo handling could be carried out in outer vessels only for three days with outside delivery inside the port and no outside delivery of goods to and from the port. And further relaxation might be made in phases through the holding additional joint meetings in future.

BSS adds: The activities of Chittagong port went on partially till this afternoon, an official handout said in Dhaka today.

Three ships berthed at the port while two ships left the port today. Rice was unloaded from a ship and is being carried to godowns outside the port by BRTC trucks, the handout said.

Meanwhile, 32 stevedoring and dock labourer gangs performed the cargo handling activities normally at Mongla port today. One ship will leave the port.



Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (L) chats with visiting former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during their meeting in Islamabad yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

Police-JKLF gunbattle outside Hazratbal mosque: 7 die

SRINAGAR, Mar 24: Indian security forces sealed off Kashmir's holiest shrine today after up to seven people were killed, two of them police, in a fierce gunbattle with separatist guerrillas, reports Reuter.

Police said two of their men and one guerrilla died in the encounter with the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), which provides unofficial security for the Hazratbal shrine.

A guerrilla spokesman said however that five of the group's men, including a commander, had died in the gunbattle outside the shrine, which is said to house a hair from the beard of the Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM).

Occasional gunshots could still be heard late in the afternoon from around the white marble shrine and mosque by Srinagar's Dal Lake. Trucks carrying paramilitary police reinforcements were driving towards Hazratbal while fire tenders and ambulances were parked on the road leading to the shrine.

Police manning roadblocks said they had been ordered not to allow any civilians into the area.

JKLF spokesman Maqbool-ur-Rahman told Reuters that Bashrat Raza, commander of the Aman Ullah Khan faction of the organisation, was killed in the shooting along with five of his men.

He said police had come into the shrine and had opened fire on the rebels. Senior police officials of the state supervised the security arrangements, mainly to avoid a large-scale conflagration that could damage the white marble building with a onion-shaped dome.

Sunday's violence started after local policemen deployed routinely in the area tried to enter the mosque with weapons, according to the guerrillas. The guerrillas tried to prevent them and the policemen fired from their weapons, an activist of the Liberation Front said, speaking on condi-

Foreign buyers cancel orders for jute yarn

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign buyers of jute yarn have already cancelled all orders for the months of February and March and threatened to cancel the agreements for purchase of yarn in future if the stalemate in the country does not end soon, according to a press release of Bangladesh Jute Spinners' Association yesterday.

It said that the total losses incurred by the jute yarn sector would stand at about Tk 50/60 crore due to the present political crisis.

Some foreign buyers have already arranged buying their required goods from India, cancelling the previous agreement with Bangladesh exporters, acting Chairman of the Association Moinul Islam Khan said in the press release.

Although the price of raw jute is high this year, that of jute goods has not increased. So the jute yarn producing mills and factories have been facing economic crisis since long, he said.

Meanwhile, jute goods could not be sent to the ports for shipment in the last one and a half months. Besides, huge quantity of the products have been stockpiled at the port godowns.

Urging the government to form a 'task force' to evaluate the losses incurred by the jute mills and factories due to the persisting political crisis, Moinul said. Otherwise the mills would face closure due to huge economic losses, he added.

N'ganj Juba League leader killed in blast

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 24: A Juba League leader was killed when a powerful bomb was hurled at him in Isdir bus stand area today.

Witnesses said, Zakir Hossain Pappu, 28, vice president of the city Juba League sustained serious injuries when a group of seven to eight armed persons threw a bomb at him at Isdir bus stand at about 7 am.

Zakir succumbed to his injuries on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The combined opposition parties in a joint statement alleged that a known terrorist group had killed Zakir.

A tense situation was prevailing in the town. Additional police and BDR personnel were deployed in different places.

Production

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Middle East and South Asia (MESA) has been putting pressure on me to meet the (annual) targets."

Another MD of a large local pharmaceutical company said small sized companies would find it difficult to bear the operating expenses if the situation prevails for another 15 days.

"We had brought out our trucks to deliver medicine when the Opposition declared exemption to emergency supplies," he said, seeking anonymity. But they came under attack and we stopped the supply.

"Our raw materials are stuck at the airport," said another chief executive of a foreign pharmaceutical company. "These raw materials are very sensitive. If they get stuck for a long time, they might lose their efficacy."

শ্রদ্ধেয় জাতীয় নেতৃবৃন্দ

আমাদের বাঁচান

বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA