

# BB takes measures to check inflation

**By Govinda Shil**

The central bank has taken a cautious monetary policy to contain the inflationary pressure and to restore economic stability, said a senior Bangladesh Bank official.

The economy might not achieve full stability before an elected government takes over, said Mahbubur Rahman Khan, deputy governor of the Bangladesh Bank on Tuesday. He said the central bank has taken a "cautious" monetary policy to contain increasing inflationary pressure.

He said the growth rate of the gross domestic product (GDP) has been hampered for the last couple of months due to political unrest. The GDP growth rate has, however, revived and it would be around five per cent presently.

The central bank is discouraging commercial banks' borrowing from its "discount window", resulting in a liquidity crisis.

Now, the liquidity crisis is becoming normal while the foreign exchange reserve appears to be stable, Khan said.

According to BB statistics, the inflation rate was minus 2.42 per cent in the year of 1992-93, increasing to 3.98 per cent in 1993-94 and, since then, it continued on an upward trend. During November last year the inflation rate was 5.26 per cent.

The economy has some Tk 6,600 crore more in circulation outside the banks while including bank deposits by the clients and other financial assets, the total amount of money in the market amounted to more than Tk 40,000 crore.



Awami League leaders at a discussion in the city marking the Mujibnagar Day yesterday, organised by the party. — Star photo

# Khaleda: Adopt tactics,

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In the polls. For this, we'll nominate such people who would ensure BNP's return to power. We cannot always count on how much one has contributed to the party."

Khaleda advised the party delegates to retaliate any assault on party members without waiting for instruction from the party leadership.

About dissident BNP leaders, expelled from the party for violating party decision on nominations for the February 15 polls, Khaleda said, "We will definitely take them back if they apply. Many of them have already applied for getting back the party membership."

The BNP chief accused the AL and its partners of trying to weaken it and conspiring to foil the polls if their (AL and others) plan did not work, party insiders said.

Khaleda was very critical of the lack of discipline, fends and disunity in the party and asked the party members to work hard unitedly forgetting all differences keeping in view the next elections.

"Nobody else, but we ourselves are our problems. We're locked in confrontation among ourselves at a time when the Awami League, in its desperate bid to win the polls, is forging unity with other parties and maintaining close contacts with their supporters in the administration and in various professional groups," she said adding, "We must take lesson from them."

As regards public support for the BNP, the former prime minister said, "BNP enjoys maximum confidence of the people, but unfortunately our party lacks organisational strength and discipline."

She said that the Awami League, despite lacking people's confidence, was having good organisational strength and unity.

The BNP Chairperson warned the delegates that people would not rally round the party if it remained out of power for long and the administration and other forces would go against it. "Because, everyone is for the powerful. The present administration would not have dared to harass our party activists if we had strength, unity and power."

# Another pvt varsity gets approval

**By Staff Correspondent**

The government has given approval to establish the Gano Biswabidyalaya under Private University Act 1992, says a press release of Gonoasthaya Kendra.

After getting approval, the members of the Gano Biswabidyalaya trustee board held a meeting yesterday attended by Dr Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, ex-vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, Dr Ahmed Sharif, former Professor of Dhaka University, Kazi Fazlur Rahman, former adviser to the government, gynecologist Dr Syeda Feroza Begum, development expert Taberunnessa Abdullah, head of programme policy and monitoring department of UNICEF Zawsheen Ara Rahman, Dr Halima Khatun, Industrialist Harunur Rashid Monno, Managing Director Dunkan Brothers ASMO Sobhan and the executive directors of Gono Shasthaya Kendra Dr Kashem Chowdhury and Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury.

Grameen Bank MD Dr Muhammad Yunus was also present at the meeting. The meeting decided to admit students in three faculties including Basic Science, Social Science and Health Science from October next.

The meeting also decided that the meritorious poor students and students from ethnic minority communities would get preference. About 60,000 square feet of building has been completed near National Mausoleum for the university campus.

Admission forms and prospectus will be available at the university from July 1, the press release said.

# AL meet

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Some senior leaders of the party told this correspondent that today's meeting is likely to be the biggest gathering of the party's central leaders and leaders from grassroots level before the coming parliamentary elections.

The extended meeting of the AL is being held just a day after the extended meeting of the National Executive Committee of its main political rival Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The AL extended meeting would be followed by an extended meeting of the party's city unit, scheduled to be held on April 20 at Sohag Community Centre.

Sources in the party hinted that at the morning session of today's meeting, party's central leaders and advisors would listen to leaders from districts and thanas to get a clear picture of the party's latest position at the grassroots level.

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# Mujibnagar

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Rahman alleged that during the BNP rule the family members of Begum Khaleda Zia became owners of 13 industrial units through nepotism, corrupt practices and pushed the country's economy on the brink of collapse.

Referring to BNP's demand for holding elections by May, AL presidium member Begum Sajeda Chowdhury said prior to the elections, "our voters" should be enlisted in an updated voters' list.

Amir Hossain Anu said Mujibnagar Day could not be observed at national level in the last 20 years as "anti-liberation" forces were in power. The people will now install the "pro-liberation forces" to state power, he hoped.

Abdur Razzak said the people of the country will foil any conspiracy by the defeated forces, of 1971 to jeopardise the national independence and sovereignty in the name of Bangladesh nationalism.

In his speech Tofael Ahmed laughed away Begum Khaleda Zia's claim in a public meeting in the city Tuesday that Bangladesh could be developed like Singapore and Malaysia had the ENP was allowed to stay in power. "She (Begum Zia) was rather trying her best to see her son Tareq Rahman and brother Sayeed Iskander as rich as the people of Singapore and Malaysia."

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor and AL city unit president Mohammad Hanif said the dreams that the Bangalee nation cherished through the formation of the Mujibnagar government was yet to be translated in reality. He appealed the people to give Sheikh Hasina a chance through the elections to materialise their dreams.

Other leaders of AL and its front organisations who also spoke at the discussion include, Abdul Jalil, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, Mozaffar Hussain Paltu, Advocate Sahara Khatun, Mukul Bose, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Mozaffar Hussain Chowdhury, Maya, Abdus Salam Khan, Kazi Iqbal and Enamul Haq Shamim.

# 9 killed, 26 injured in road accidents

**By Staff Correspondent**

At least nine persons were killed and 26 others injured in road accidents in Dhaka, Rajbari, Natore, Rajshahi and Panchagarh yesterday.

Our DMCH Correspondent says, Three persons including a woman were killed in separate road accidents and around the city during last two days.

One Barkat Ali, 50, a sweeper of the Dhaka City Corporation, was killed on the spot when a minibus hit him near the petrol pump at Science Laboratory crossing at about 6:30 am yesterday.

Abdul Aziz, 35, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus at Shanir Akra under Demra thana near the city at around 10 am yesterday.

An unidentified woman, aged about 35, was killed when a speeding microbus ran over her on Bijoy Sarani at around 10 pm Tuesday.

UNB says from Rajbari: Three people were killed and two injured in a collision between two trucks on Daulat-Faridpur highway at Basantapur early yesterday.

Azibur Rahman, 35, a helper, Bokul Chandra Das, 40, a driver and unidentified young man died on the spot in the accident occurred at Bosantapur, near the district town at 1:30 am.

Of the injured people, one was admitted to Rajbari Hospital and another to Faridpur Hospital with critical conditions.

Our Correspondent from Natore adds: One person died on the spot and 20 were injured, 8 of them seriously, when a passenger bus collided with a speedy truck in front of Uttara Gano Bhawan in Natore town yesterday.

The victim was identified as Tahiruddin 45.

Seriously injured Saiful Islam, 37, Nasima, 30, Nita, 24, Monsur, 55, Quddus, 40, Sobhan, 28, Abul Hasan, 30, and Babul, 40, were admitted to Natore Sadar Hospital.

Police seized the bus and truck but drivers and helpers

# 25th session of IJO body begins

The 25th session of the committee on projects of International Jute Organisation (IJO) began at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Delegates from five jute exporting and 22 importing countries and different jute related agencies are taking part in the two-day session.

Chairman of the IJO committee on projects and ambassador of Indonesia in Bangladesh Hadi Wayarabi Alangar presided over the first day session while it was also attended by IJO Executive Director K M Rabbani and Director of IJO Henry L Jason.

He particularly drew attention of the delegates to two pending proposals — commercialisation of non-woven jute and market promotion of selected jute products in western Europe — for the consideration of the committee.

The 24th session of the International Jute Council, the highest body of the IJO, begins in Dhaka on April 20. Adviser of Industry, Commerce, Jute and Textiles S B Chaudhury is expected to inaugurate the three-day conference while Indian Secretary of Textile T S R Subramaniam is scheduled to preside.

# Body to improve power supply situation

A high-power joint committee has been formed to recommend ways and means to improve the electricity supply situation in the country and minimise load-shedding, reports UNB.

The four-member committee was constituted with PDB Member (Generation) Mohibuddin Ahmed as its convener, said an official handout last night.

The committee will submit its report to the government within next seven days with recommendations to increase existing electricity generation capacity, implement load management policy and enhance gas supply to the power plants.

The other members of the committee are DESA GM (South) Giasuddin Mollah, REB Member (PDS) MA Wadud and Petro Bangla Member (Operation) TH Khan Ludi.

# Tax collection

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The following months. Healthy collection in April is resulting from clearance of huge backlog at the Chittagong port. But, the source added, the situation might again turn for bad as there had been less import orders in the past few months.

Any radical improvement in collection of income tax, VAT and excise duty was unlikely as these taxes are linked to production and income which suffered enormously in recent troubled months, and were still in the recovery stage.

The NBR sources indicated the revenue authorities' sensing an overall drop in import operations as well as domestic businesses this year was unlikely to yield to mounting pressure from various trade bodies for duty and tax rebate.

# 15 hurt as police, mob clash in Narsingdi

**NARSINGDI, Apr 17:** At least 15 people, including seven policemen, were injured in a clash between police and mob at Darikandi on Dhaka-Sylhet highway today, reports UNB.

The clash erupted in the early morning when the angry people confined seven patrol police after they failed to arrest some road pirates who tried to commit dacoity on the highway.

Police fired four rounds of blank shots and three rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the mob who damaged its police van and beat up the police personnel.

Traffic on the highway was disrupted for about five hours due to the clash.

Senior officials from the district headquarters, including Additional Police Super, rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Of the injured, headmaster of Baraicha Girls' High School Tofazzal Hossain, Agriculture Officer Mujibur Rahman and UP member Rupchandra were admitted to Raipur Thana Health Complex.

Police said seven policemen, including Subedar Nur Mohammad, were closed for their alleged negligence of duties.

# One shot dead, another commits suicide in city

**By DMCH Correspondent**

One person was shot dead while another middle-aged man reportedly committed suicide in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

A young man identified as Aminur Rahman alias Jafar, 25, an electrician, who sustained fatal bullet injuries during a clash at Mirpur on Tuesday died on way to the Orthopedic Hospital early yesterday, medical sources said.

Jafar, son of one Abdul Awal of West Shewrapara, Mirpur, was caught in a cross fire when the rival groups of Shewrapara and Pirerbagh were in an armed fight in the area, police said.

The body of Jafar was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy, Mirpur police said. None was arrested in this connection till last night, they added.

Meanwhile, police recovered the body of a fish trader Noor Hossain, 36, from his house at Block C in Pallabi. He was found hanging with a hook in the verandah early yesterday morning, police said.

Police suspected that Noor, who married twice committed suicide following a family feud.

Police sent the body to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

An unnatural death case has been filed with Pallabi thana.

# Clashes at Eden hostels: 10 hurt

**By Staff Correspondent**

A section of resident students of Eden Women's University College clashed in three hostels yesterday in which at least 10 were injured, police sources said.

The authorities later asked the resident students to vacate their respective hostels by 5 pm yesterday.

The clashes took place after a dispute among the JCD activists over the formation of a new committee of JCD unit of the college, according to some residents.

Police said the clash that began at the old hostel at around 11:30 pm Tuesday spread to two other halls and continued till yesterday morning.

Women police forces were deployed to bring the situation under control.

# BNP office in N'ganj set ablaze

**NARAYANGANJ, Apr 17:** Local BNP office at Missionpara of Chashara in the town was set ablaze early today, Fire Service sources told BSS.

The fire was set at around 03:00 hrs which totally burnt all furniture and other belongings into ashes.

Local people and firefighters brought the blaze under control after an hour. No case was filed in this connection.

The BNP alleged that two rival opposition parties were responsible for this.

# Students lock IU VC's office

**KUSHTIA, Apr 17:** Students of the Al-Qura Department of Islamic University here today locked the VC's office demanding publication of results of their masters degree examination for 1992-93 session held last October, reports UNB.

Campus sources said the examinees have been demonstrating in front of the VC's office since Monday as the university authorities failed to publish the results due to "complexity" following a show-cause notice issued by the Kushtia Assistant Judge Court.

The show-cause was served on the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and the Controller of Examinations upon a case filed by a student on April 8.

# JP threatens

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why the Awami League and Jamaat were not supporting the demand for release of Ershad, Roushan Ershad said that besides some common political objectives, each party had its own set of demands.

She pointed out that the Awami League was fighting for the repeal of the indemnity laws while the Jamaat was pressing for introduction of blasphemy laws.

She claimed that although the release of Ershad was a particular and exclusive demand of the Jatiya Party, other parties had tacit support for the demand, Begum Ershad asserted that the people in general wanted the release of Ershad.

JP Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju who was also present on the occasion said that the Jatiya Party would gherao the capital soon to pressure for the release of its chairman.

Party leaders Barrister Abul Hasnat, Kazi Feroz Rashid, Mansur Ali Sarkar and Ismail Hossain Bengal were among others present on the occasion.

# The Midnight File

**4 killed in Karachi gun battle**

**KARACHI, Apr 17:** Four armed militants were shot dead in a gun battle with the police here today after they took a family hostage, police said. The four men, in their mid-twenties, entered a house in eastern Malir district and took the family hostage, police said, adding their motive was not known, reports AFP.

# TNOs transferred

**From Page 1**

Md Mohiuddin, Revenue, Deputy Collector of Bandarban district was made the TNO of Thanchhi thana under the same district and the Land Acquisition Officer of Jessore, Jotirmay Pal was made the TNO of Chouthali thana of Sirajganj district.

The Principal Nirbahi Officer of the Pirojpur Poursabha, Priyanath Baral was appointed TNO of Bhederganj thana of Shariatpur district. The Assistant Commissioner of Satkhira district Md Benjamin Hajder was posted as TNO to Batiaghata thana under Khulna division.

S M Najibullah, the Assistant Settlement Officer of Barisal was made TNO of Satkhira Sadar thana. Pran Gopal Bhowmik, the Deputy Director of Local Government, Comilla district, was made TNO of Nayadanga thana of Mymensingh district.

The Assistant Commissioner of Faridpur district, Md Moeenuddin was transferred to Rajoir thana under Madaripur district as TNO, while Md Abdul Hadi, Assistant Commissioner of Bagerhat district was made the TNO of Naria thana under Shariatpur district.

Arup Chowdhury, the Revenue Deputy Collector of Lakshmipur was made TNO of Islampur thana of Jamalpur district, while the senior Assistant Secretary of the Roads and Railways Division was made TNO of Gheor thana of Manikganj district.

The Senior Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Abdul Mannan Howlader was made TNO of Mirzapur thana under Tangail district. Md Saiful Haseeb, Officer on Special duty at Establishment Ministry was made TNO of Gouripur thana under Mymensingh district.

Apurba Kumar Biswas, the Senior Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Industries was made the TNO of Matlab thana under Chandpur district, while the Assistant Commissioner of Narayanganj district Md Abdul Malik Khan was made TNO of Naitabari under district Sherpur.

The Public Relations Officer of the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat A K M Saiful Islam was made TNO of Chandina thana under Comilla district, while Sheikh Nurul Amin, Assistant Commissioner of Meherpur district was made TNO of Nargarkanda thana of Faridpur district.

Md Aminul Islam, Assistant Commissioner of Munshiganj district was made TNO of Peerganj thana under Rangpur, while the Assistant Commissioner of Sherpur district A K M Moinuzzaman was made the TNO of Laksham thana under Comilla district.

The Principal Nirbahi Officer of the Bhairav Poursabha Md Nurul Haq was made TNO of Chouddagram thana under Comilla district. The Assistant Director of the Neelkhet Model Village Project Md Mobarak Hossain was made TNO of Chunarughat under Habiganj district.

Shaful Karim, the Assistant Commissioner of Mymensingh district was made the TNO of Moulvibazar Sadar thana while the Land Acquisition Officer of Kurigram district, Swapan Kumar Ray was made the TNO of Birganj thana of Dinajpur district.

Mostafa Kama'uddin, the Assistant Commissioner of the Chittagong division was made the TNO of Devidaar thana under Comilla district, while Faizul Huq, Assistant Commissioner of Chittagong division was made the TNO of Fenil Sadar thana.

The Deputy Director of Local Government at Shariatpur district, Lokman Ahmed was made the TNO of Bhaluaka thana under Mymensingh district. The General Certificate Officer, Barisal division, Shubhanan Barua was made the TNO of Ashasuni thana under Satkhira.

The Deputy Collector of Revenue at Manikganj district, Ashish Kumar Sarkar was made the TNO of Taraganj under Rangpur district, while the Assistant Commissioner of Manikganj district, Md Khalilur Rahman was made TNO of Chokoria thana under Cox's Bazar.

The Assistant Commissioner of Dinajpur district Kazi Bakub Sobhan was posted to Bakhshiganj thana under district Jamalpur as TNO. Nayyan Chandra Banerjee, the General Certificate Officer of Moulvibazar district was made the TNO of Hija thana under Barisal division.

The Officer in Charge of the Zonal Settlement Office, Faridpur district, Sunil Chandra Chowdhury was made the TNO of Trishal thana under Mymensingh district. Hari Maikya Dutta, Assistant Commissioner of Sylhet division was made TNO to Tarail thana under Kishoreganj.

The Assistant Commissioner of Khagrachhari district, Bazur Rashid was made the TNO of Mahalchhari thana under the same district, while the Assistant Commissioner of Pabna district, Md Altamas was made the TNO of Ullapara thana under Sirajganj district.

Golam Mostafa, the Assistant Commissioner of Satkhira district was posted as TNO to Gournodi thana of Barisal division, while Abdul Khaleque, Assistant Commissioner of Rajshahi division was made TNO of Chhatrak thana of Sunamganj district.

Haradhan Gop, the Assistant Commissioner of Noakhali district was made the TNO of Nakla thana of Sherpur district and Md Akhteruzzaman, Assistant Commissioner of Panchagarh district was posted as TNO to Phulbari thana of Dinajpur district.