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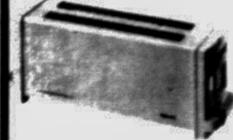
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PHILIPS

# Export-oriented units to get incentives

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria yesterday said the government will provide incentives to export-oriented industries and will pursue a non-inflationary growth policy.

He also said the government will curb terrorism to create a favourable environment for investment and will provide subsidy in agriculture if need be.

The finance minister was speaking at a discussion meeting with the members of the Economic Reporters Forum (ERF) at the National Press Club. Kibria said curbing terrorism is the main prerequisite to reactivate the economy.

"In the last years, economic activities were dampened because of terrorism," he said. "The AL government will create the right climate for investment by removing terrorism."

He further added, "We will set up the right framework of rules and regulations for private sector investment and take all out actions against corruption."

When asked if the government would take actions against any identified corrupt officials, he said, "We will not do anything out of the way against anybody so that an environment of fear is created. The law will take its normal course against corruption."

Kibria said the agriculture sector had not been given any help in the immediate past years. "A little help for the agriculture sector could strengthen the economy. Our basic thrust is to increase agricultural production and if needed we will give subsidy in the sector."

He, however, added, "The donors are against subsidy and we also do not regard it as desirable on principle. In the long run, there should not be any subsidy on anything. But we have to run the government on the basis of reality."

The finance minister said, "We will formulate the policies of the government and nobody will be dictating us. The people are our masters. We will try to respectfully understand the points of our foreign friends. But final decisions will be taken for the interest of the people. We have good relations with the donors, we will continue discussions with them."

Kibria said the export-oriented industries will be given incentives at different levels as part of the government's basic principle. "Export growth will push our economy forward," said the finance minister. "And labour-intensive rural agriculture based industries will be emphasised upon to alleviate poverty."

Kibria said a non-inflationary growth policy will be followed. "I will not tolerate any inflation in the economy."

Talking on privatisation, Kibria said it is a tough problem. "But we will try to push it forward in the next five years."

When asked if wages of government employees will increase following the formation of wages commission, he said the commission will evaluate salaries, inflation, living standard and other indices. "Wages may increase in some cases, it may decrease in some other cases."

## KEPZ to be set up on bank of Karnaphuli river

The eastern bank of the Karnaphuli river in Chittagong has been selected for setting up an export promotion zone for the Korean investors (KEPZ), the South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh said in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Ambassador Jong Kyoo Byun called on State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru at his office and said they had already proposed to the government of Bangladesh for purchasing land for the purpose.

He said Korean investors will produce 100 per cent export quality products in this zone. The Korean envoy further said that job opportunities for Bangladeshis would be enhanced and transfer of technology would be easier by this venture.

The minister said the government was trying to reform the existing laws, including foreign investment laws. He also pointed out that the legal protection of labourers for these industries would be necessary.

## Two-party system to block change, says Menon

Workers Party leader Rashid Khan Menon yesterday said some vested quarters were trying to establish a two-party system in the present bourgeois social setup to block a change, reports UNB.

"They want to suppress opinions against the existing system and ignore the people's hope for a social change," he said at a press conference in the city yesterday afternoon, pointing his finger to the June 12 election.

The Workers Party General Secretary said the new government had created confusion and debate among the people by adopting some policies and taking some steps in the state affairs.

He criticised the Awami League for claiming its government as a government of national consensus by inducting two ministers from JSD (Rab) and Jatia Party in the Cabinet.

"It's a blatant eyewash," he said, but ruled out BNP contention that Awami League wants to revive the one-party BAKSAL system through this step.

## 48,914 Rohingyas still in camps

Some 48,914 Rohingya refugees are still staying in camps in the south-eastern district of Cox's Bazar as the process of their repatriation slowed down in recent months, reports UNB.

Of a quarter million Rohingyas, who had crossed into Bangladesh in early 1991, more than two lakh have so far voluntarily returned to their homeland.

Official sources said the Myanmar authorities were yet to give clearance to 30,000 refugees to go back to their homes in Arakan province.

Dhaka has proposed for resumption of official level meetings between the two countries to speed up the process of repatriation.

Meanwhile, the sources said, Bangladesh pushed back more than 1,000 Rohingyas who had illegally entered Bangladesh.

## General Science merit list

- From Page 1
- Moulvibazar Govt High School (910) - seven letters (E. M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM).
- 8th: Kazi Ishtiaque Sanin, Comilla Cadet College (908) - seven letters (E. M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM).
- 9th: Sarkar Nihad Faisal, Comilla Cadet College (906) - six letters (M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM).
- 10th: Rezaur Rahman, Comilla Cadet College (905) - six letters (M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM).
- 11th: Nadira Rahman, Faizunnesa Govt Girls High School (904) - seven letters (B. M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM).
- 12th: Mohammad Hafiz Al-Asad, Sylhet Cadet College (902) - seven letters (E. M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM), and Jomejoy Datta, Blue Bird High School, Sylhet (902) - six letters (M. G. Hind, GS, AG-S, EM).
- 13th: Debasish Bhowmick, Moulvibazar Govt High School (901) - seven letters (E. M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM), Md Masud Un-Nabi, Comilla Cadet College (901) - six letters (M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM), Rashed Ahmed Patwari, Comilla Cadet College (901) - six letters (M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM).
- 14th: Mohammad Ashiquil Alam, Comilla Zilla School (900) - six letters (M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM).
- 15th: Mohammad Al-Amin, Sylhet Cadet College (899) - seven letters (E. M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM) and Md Shakil Shahriar, Noakhali Zilla School (899) - six letters (M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM).
- 16th: Md Mahubub Hasan, Comilla Cadet College (897) - six letters (M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM).
- 17th: Abu Zahir Muhammad Shabbir, Sylhet Govt Pilot High School (896) - six letters (M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM) and Naznin Akhter, Blue Bird High School, Sylhet (896) - six letters (M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM).
- 18th: Haripada Dey, Sylhet Govt Pilot High School (894) - six letters (M. G. Hind, GS, AG-S, EM) and Mohammad Shariful Abedin Kamal, Comilla Zilla School (894) - five letters (M. G. IS, GS, EM).
- 19th: Md Anwar Ullah Rumi, Comilla Cadet College (893) - six letters (M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM) and Hamidur Rahman Gazi, Comilla Cadet College (893) - six letters (B. M. G. IS, GS, AG-S).
- 20th: Musa Shammi Akhter, Sylhet Govt Agragami Girls High School (892) - six letters (M. G. IS, GS, HE, EM).

## Naquibuddin new DPS to PM

Naquibuddin Ahmed has been appointed Deputy Press Secretary (DPS) to the Prime Minister, a PID handout said yesterday.

## Khaleda: Fentrallies

From Page 1

With the takeover of new government, Begum Zia said, the country experiences serious deterioration of law and order, causing untold suffering to the people.

She alleged the workers of BNP and its front organisations were being killed, tortured, harassed and arrested by the law enforcers and terrorists let loose by the ruling party.

The leader of the Opposition warned that they repression on BNP workers would not be tolerated any more. "It reminds us of the situation during post-liberation period."

She said her party would continue to extend cooperation to the government in people-oriented activities. But it will give a befitting reply if people's interests are ignored.

Begum Zia said it is possible to work for the people only with a firm and clear commitment and sincere willingness. "Otherwise, she added, all will turn into a farce."

The BNP chief reiterated her party's intention to play its designated role in parliament and said it would also launch movement in the street to protect national interest.

Begum Zia said her party would create pressure on the government to fulfill her party's election pledges, including pension for elderly citizens and free education for girls upto intermediate level.

Begum Zia said the Prime Minister was speaking about the shattering of economy, but only a month ago, the Finance Adviser of the caretaker government said that it was much strong.

Various international organisations, including World Bank and IMF, also made similar comment," she added. "Then, who is telling the truth?"

The former Prime Minister claimed that 43 per cent of the national budget was provided with domestic resources during the tenure of her government which did not need any foreign aid.

Recalling the flood and drought experienced by the country during last two years, she said her government, successfully faced those and saved the country from famine like 74.

While visiting Sreepur in Fulgazi, Begum Zia offered fatiha at the mazars of her forefathers and planted two saplings there.

She also visited Mirzanagar upazila in Fulgazi thana, where Food for Education programme was first introduced.

The BNP chief was warmly welcomed by the local people who chanted slogans in favour of BNP, Shaheed Zia and Khaleda Zia.

During the visit, Begum Farida Hasan, Mahubul Alam Tara, Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi, Ehsanul Kabir, Mosharruf Hossain MP, Halima Khatun, Abdullah Chowdhury, brother of Begum Zia Sayeed Iskandar and JCD leader Rokeya Akhter Ranu accompanied her.

## The Midnight File

### Court summons Rao

NEW DELHI, July 9: An Indian court today summoned former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao to answer charges that he helped a controversial Hindu guru cheat a businessman of 100,000 dollars in 1983. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Prem Kumar issued the summons to Rao, 75, declaring him a co-accused in the case filed by businessman Lakshubhai Pathak against the Jet-setting guru, Chandraswami, who is now in jail, reports AFP.

### Import of modern equipment for police under study: Rafiq

By Staff Correspondent

The Home Minister Maj (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam yesterday reiterated the government's commitment to curb terrorism and recover arms and ammunition to ensure security of the people of the country.

Termining the effort of curbing terrorism as a continuous process, the minister said the law of the land would be applied strictly with no political consideration.

At a meeting with the crime reporters of different national dailies, the Home Minister said the policy decisions regarding law and order would be taken on the basis of consensus after the national conference on July 20.

The minister said, the government was planning to restructure the law enforcing agencies to make them more people oriented so that they maintain a neutral and non-partisan role in the enforcement of law.

Police have been assured of non-interference in their action against terrorists," the Home Minister said adding "we cannot improve our social and economic condition unless crime, terrorism and malpractices are eliminated from the country."

He said, the strength of the police force might have to be increased and the government was considering importing modern equipment for the police so that they could combat terrorism more efficiently. Besides, the postings and promotions of the police officials will be given after evaluating their performance.

### Treatment abroad: Khaleda denies press report

FENI, July 9: "I myself don't know that I need treatment," said Begum Zia rebutting a newspaper report that she is going abroad on July 12 for medicare, reports UNB.

"I think that particular paper needs treatment," said the BNP chairperson while talking to newsmen at the local circuit house tonight.

Begum Zia termed the news item regarding her trip as false. "I am not going abroad on July 12 for treatment," she told the journalists.

### Changes in hierarchy

From Page 1

Announcement of a fresh central committee of the JCD is expected shortly while that for the JJD may take some more time, said one source.

The formation of a new executive body for the JJD is being delayed as the present leaders of the organisation are unwilling to hand over leadership to the new aspirants, mostly former leaders of the JCD, the sources added.

Begum Zia's plan for further changes in the BNP central leadership - the Standing Committee and the National Executive Committee - slowed down because the party's hardliners have become active again, apprehending their moderate colleagues' getting an upper hand in the party, a party leader, seeking anonymity, told this correspondent.

Mannan Bhuiyan's becoming Secretary General of the party gave rise to speculations that the headline leaders, who were blamed for BNP's defeat in the June 12 elections and most of whom themselves lost the polls, might be dropped from the standing committee and from key-positions in the executive committee.

Other sources hinted that Begum Zia is unlikely to go for further changes in the party's central leadership before the by-polls.

The appointment of chief whip and other whips of the Opposition in parliament may be discussed at the next meeting of the BNPP, before the new parliament goes into its first session on July 14.

Begum Zia was elected leader of the BNPP at its first meeting on Saturday and authorised to choose other leaders.

## Hasina: Top priority

From Page 1

education, culture and technology," Sheikh Hasina said adding, "We will combat terrorism and illegal drug trafficking."

While reiterating her deep condemnation of the bomb blast in Dahran, Sheikh Hasina said terrorism has no room in the civilised world. She said the problem compounded by the fact that terrorism abides no norms, no laws or ethics or scruples.

It transcends the national frontiers and as such it can be tackled most effectively by states acting in close cooperation, she said. "We are of course ready to work closely and whole-heartedly with the fraternal government of Saudi Arabia and other friendly countries of the Gulf," she added.

Referring to her view point on OIC, the Prime Minister observed that "in pursuance of our commitment to the OIC and endeavours to uphold the 'image of Islam', we are intensively involved in the OIC." "The OIC should mobilise opinion and resources for redressing the injustices carried against Muslims anywhere in the world," she added.

Sheikh Hasina also expressed her hope that the Saudi Arabia would extend preferential treatment to Bangladesh in increasing export of Bangladesh goods like frozen fish, shrimps, vegetables, garments, dry fish, tea, jute goods and jewellery.

Meanwhile, Hasina performed Umrah at the holy Kaaba early this morning. The Prime Minister, who reached Jeddah midnight last night, directly went to the holy Masjidul Haram immediately after offering 'nafal' prayers at the conference palace where she will stay during her visit.

Muallems of the Masjidul Haram received the Prime Minister there in ceremonial motorcade along with members of her entourage.

The Prime Minister and her entourage performed the circumambulations (Tawaf) of the holy Kaaba and then took sa'ee between Safa and Marwah while running between the two hills - Safa and Marwah - the Prime Minister and other members of the entourage said "dua". During "sa'ee" - the ritual going to and from Safa and Marwah, the Prime Minister pronounced "takbeer" and "tahlil".

The Prime Minister also offered Fazr prayers in jamaat at the holy Masjidul Haram. Besides, she offered 'nafal namaz' there.

The Prime Minister's entourage includes her husband, close relations, mayor of Dhaka city Mohammad Hamif, state minister for Foreign Affairs Abdul Hasan Chowdhury, members of parliament, high officials and social dignitaries. Bangladesh ambassador in Saudi Arabia Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin also performed Umrah on the occasion.

Earlier, on her arrival at the King Abdul Aziz International Airport, the Prime Minister was received by the acting governor of Makkah and western-region prince Saud Bin Abdul Mohsin.

## EC proposal

From Page 1

people do not keep respect on laws if those are not executed properly."

Abu Hena said the image of the Election Commission has been brightened through recently held free, transparent, peaceful and impartial national election.

"It is the responsibility of all concerned, including field level officials, to uphold the image and make it further brightened," he added.

The CEC said election process like correction and updating of voters list, training programme for voters, officials and political workers, and process to increase efficiency and management development of the EC will continue although the national election has been completed.

## Power shortfall

From Page 1

mic survey in the adjacent shallow water very soon.

## Two JCD activists held in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 9: A Jatia-tabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist was arrested here this morning. A country-made pistol and two bullets were also recovered from his possession.

Shah Makhdom thana Police said, JCD activist Pintu (29), was caught by mob when he was locked in a clash with neighbours. Later, he was handed over to the police.

Pintu was admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. A case has been lodged with Shah Makhdom thana in this connection.

Another JCD leader of Rajshahi city unit Imran Hossain Masum was also arrested from the C&B square this morning allegedly for terrorist activities.

## Shantibahini man surrenders

CHITTAGONG, July 9: A member of the Shantibahini surrendered to the security forces at Ruma army camp under Bandarban hill district today.

An official source told BSS here Sepoy Uthai Pue Marma, 25, joined Shantibahini in September last year and brought with him one Chinese SMG and 48 ammunition today.

He told the security forces that he had come back to lead normal life as he believed the tribal insurgency in Chittagong Hill Tracts could not bring any welfare to the tribal people.

He also said that a large number of tribal insurgents were disappointed with the aims and objectives of the insurgents and as such they were eager to give up insurgency but Shantibahini men had kept vigilant watch on them.

## Fire

From Page 1

tor of the directorate has been instituted to determine the reason as well as the extent of damage caused by the fire.

The committee will submit its report and recommendations within three days.

## Fund sought for agri subsidy

From Page 1

everything would be done on the basis of continuous discussions. "There are also different shades of opinion within the WB and the IMF (International Monetary Fund). No matter, whatever they prescribe for us, we will always look for taking steps keeping our national interest at the top of our considerations."

She noted with dismay that "stagnation" was persisting in the agriculture sector although it is "the most successful private sector" in the economy. "This stagnation is due to paying less attention to agriculture. In the past, peasants were deprived of necessary support and inspiration which affected production."

"In the name of privatisation, government investment was withdrawn from the agriculture sector while no significant private investment was made," added the Minister.

She said, her ministry's thrust will be on raising productivity of land and labour and "for this we will encourage more public and private sector investment in this neglected area".

constituted on Monday to investigate and submit a report about the allegation of importing low-quality rice not suitable for human consumption during the tenure of BNP government.

"I myself drew the attention of the Prime Minister in this regard at the second meeting of the Cabinet on July 2 and the Prime Minister yesterday okayed the inquiry committee," said the Minister. The time-limit for submitting the report will be fixed in a day or two, she added.

When her attention was drawn to alleged sale of good-quality rice branding those as 'rotten' during the BNP rule, Begum Matiya said, "We will look into everything one after another. But, we will not do witch-hunting. You can be rest assured that no corrupt element will be spared."

About food deficit, the Minister claimed that when the BNP government quit power it had left a food deficit to the extent of 45 lakh tons. "But, credit goes to the caretaker government which minimized the deficit by procuring more foodgrains and now the food deficit stands at 23 lakh tons."

"Now, our main focus is on keeping the market stable we took a decision on Sunday last to purchase one lakh ton rice. We will also buy wheat. Besides, right now, we have a food stock of 10 lakh tons." She said she has decided to

inspect all food godowns soon to see whether the stock shown in papers are really there in godowns.

Replying to a query about making public a probe report on fertilizer crisis during BNP rule, the Minister said, "We will give serious consideration to this issue".

She claimed that inter-ministerial coordination gap regarding distribution of fertilizer was now a matter of the past after her recent meeting with the Industries Ministry and added that if complaint against any fertilizer dealer was found valid, his dealership would be cancelled.

About alleged use of toxic pesticides that goes against the current worldwide concept of 'Ecological Farming', Begum Matiya Chowdhury admitted that some of the pesticides being used in the country were really harmful. "But, we are now only 16-day old. We will take a little more time to pay heed to these things", she said.

When her attention was drawn to the stock of relief materials, Matiya, also holding the charge of the Ministry of Relief and Disaster Management, said, "The former BNP government quit power leaving no relief materials in the stock." "We have to start with a poor stock of relief materials which also was collected by the caretaker government to meet dire necessity."

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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