

reolEX
Federal Express

The World on Time

SIGNED, SEALED & DELIVERED

From documents to packages, FedEx delivers peace of mind reliably to over 216 countries worldwide. Our integrated network of 550 planes, 37,000 vehicles and 1,200,000 people, promises smooth delivery every step of the way. We can even advise you on the status of your shipments, thanks to our unique computerised global tracking system. So the next time you have to send a package, relax - call your FedEx agent (BANE) to deliver your package hassle-free - on time - to your satisfaction.

For more information call Head Office: 966114-7 Fax: 966112
Gulshan 897771, Chittagong (031) 712127, Khulna: (041) 25008

ROs to allocate election symbols

The election symbols for the political parties and independent candidates in the by-elections of 16 constituencies under 12 districts will be allocated by the concerned returning officers, an Election Commission press release said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

JS special body reviews Bills

The special committee of Jatiya Sangsad yesterday reviewed and discussed in details several Bills which were earlier raised in Parliament and sent to the committee, reports BSS.

The Bills are: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council Bill 1996, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institution (Amendment) Bill 1996, Bangladesh Jute Research Institution (Amendment) Bill 1996, Bangladesh Rice Research Institution (Amendment) Bill 1996, Bangladesh Livestock Research Institution (Amendment) Bill 1996, Bangladesh Atomic Agricultural Research Institution (Amendment) Bill 1996, Fisheries Research Institution (Amendment) Bill 1996 and Water Supply and Sewerage Authorities Bill 1996.

Members of the committee Agriculture, Food, and Disaster Management and Relief Minister Motia Chowdhury, State Minister for Law Advocate Abdul Matin Khorshed, Abdul Matin, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Fazlul Karim Selim, Dr Mizanul Haq, Tajul Islam Chowdhury, Advocate Fazle Rabbi, and Kazi Shamsur Rahman attended the meeting. It was presided over by Chairman of the committee Advocate Rahmat Ali.

Tremor shakes Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, July 27. A tremor was recorded in and around the district headquarters at 2:46 pm today, official sources here said, reports UNB.

The earthquake lasted for about a few seconds, local Met office said. However, extent of the quake could not be gathered immediately.

BDR pushes back Shantibahini men

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, July 27. BDR personnel pushed back a group of armed Shantibahini men into Tripura state of India after an exchange of fire with them at 1 pm today at Tanakkapara, a bordering village under Matiranga thana of Khagrachhari district.

Security personnel said the Shantibahini men numbering over 10, wearing olive green uniform and equipped with sophisticated weapons, sneaked into Tanakkapara from Tripura and opened fire on a BDR team searching for abducted woodcutters. But in the face of resistance from BDR, the group fled back, they said.

Flood

From Page 1
Pabna district improved slightly and would continue to improve.

The Brahmaputra at Aricha, Lakhya at Narayanganj, the Turag at Mirpur, the Kaliganga at Taraghat, the Ganges at Goalando and Bhagyakul, the Meghna at Chandpur and Bhairab Bazar and the Matamuhuri at Chiringa were flowing above their respective danger levels. In the Meghna Basin, river Meghna registered slight rise at Chandpur and it was flowing above danger level by 7 cm. The Khowai at Habiganj recorded rise by 12 cm.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the inaugural session of an international seminar on "Learning from East Asia: Lessons for South Asia" at a city hotel yesterday. —PID photo

Probe body report on jailbreak

Some wardens, officials blamed for incident

An inquiry committee has blamed some wardens and officials of the Dhaka Central Jail for the escape by 13 prisoners from jail, reports UNB.

The committee constituted by the Inspector General of Prisons to probe the July 15 jailbreak submitted its report yesterday, officials said.

According to them, the three-member committee in the probe report categorically mentioned the respective failures of jail officials at different levels from top to bottom to resist such serious crime.

The committee, headed by the Additional Inspector General (Prisons), in its report mentioned loose security reasons behind the jailbreak.

But, when contacted, head of the committee Liaquat Ali Khan declined to make any comment on the report.

"I can just tell you that after investigation, we have submitted our report to Inspector General (Prisons) Brigadier Abul Hossain," he said.

Another committee, constituted by the Home Ministry to investigate the incident, had been busy in finalising its report till yesterday evening.

A Joint Secretary of the Ministry, Giasuddin Pathan, is convenor of the committee while Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Habibur Rahman and SP of CID Shahidullah Khan are members.

According to official sources, members of both the committees during their investigation talked to a number of jail guards and officials as well as the two nabbed fugitives.

Five prisoners convicted for 11 to 30 years and eight others whose cases were under trial escaped the Dhaka Central Jail breaking a cell and scaling the wall of the prison early on July 15.

After few hours of the jailbreak, first of its kind in Dhaka since independence, uniformed and plainclothes police launched a massive manhunt for the escapees.

Police, so far, nabbed only two of them. They were interrogated by the officials of the Criminal Investigation Department under police remand.

One of them, under-trial prisoner Shawkat, facing seven serious criminal charges, was caught from Uttarkhan in the city on July 17 afternoon, 60 hours after the jailbreak.

The second, Abdul Mannan, under trial in two dacoity cases, was nabbed from Sukhdhan village of Sadar thana in Nilphamari early on July 20.

The Home Ministry announced a Tk 20,000 reward for information leading to arrest of every escaped prisoner and sought people's cooperation in capturing them.

PM: Economic drive

From Page 1
In absence of rule of law, she said, society cannot ensure return for sacrifices of individuals in terms of savings, perseverance, creativity and entrepreneurship.

"It is our ardent belief economic prosperity without freedom, freedom without economic prosperity cannot improve quality of life," she said. "Only, and only when both come together will living quality improve."

Presided over by CPD Executive Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan, the inaugural session of seminar was also addressed by Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, World Bank Director Miekko Nishimizu and Prof K S Jomo of the Department of Economics, University of Malay, Malaysia.

Dwelling on the East Asian experiences, the Prime Minister said the new Awami League government is optimistic about formulating policies, initiating changes in both economic and administrative fields similar to those of East Asia, "but in coherence with our own different situation."

"National prosperity cannot come through the government alone," she said, calling for co-operation from "all of our friends, help from all the citizens" in government's efforts to build the nation.

"I believe that the people of South Asia and of Bangladesh do have the will and potential to enrich this region as the people of East Asia have," Hasina said.

Termining free market economy as the aorta of economic survival, she said evaluations and reports testify that excessive or discriminatory regulations, high tariffs and taxes all end up hindering economic

growth. "Prudence purported to have been gained guide that free movement of goods and services within a broad region, such as Asia or South and East Asia, will make all the participating economies more efficient and productive," she said.

Mentioning the huge markets in both South and East Asia, Hasina said it would be mutually beneficial if both the regions open their markets to each other to foster competition and growth.

"The more competitive the economies are, following the tenets that we have learnt and adopted, the more dynamic the economies will become," she said, adding that the lessons from the East Asian economies miracle will foster the domestic economy.

She pointed out that inadequate analysis and a lack of synthesis of findings from different disciplines contributed to development and planning problems in Bangladesh and hoped that the dialogue would help the government construct plans that work in action.

"Referring to the dream of the country's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of improving the quality of life of the general people, the Prime Minister said now her party had an opportunity to give that dream a conduit to become reality."

As we will enter the next century, we are determined to prove Bangladesh is freedom; Bangladesh is prosperity; Bangladesh is citizenship based on consensus, Bangladesh is governance based on rights, consents and creativity of people," she said. "We want to see Bangladesh along with South Asia in the same boat as East Asia."

Putting up of Bangabandhu's portrait

From Page 1

vate premises, especially of the type that we are talking about. The issue is not about showing respect to the founder of the State of Bangladesh. It is clearly about what is proper, legal and acceptable behaviour of a government official, in this case representing the Prime Minister's office, in dealing with private institutions.

It is our considered view that the right of BIRDEM to conduct its business in accordance with its own laws and bylaws has been grossly violated by the PM's secretary, who the Prime Minister had sent to negotiate something totally different. By his act Mr. Alamgir had in fact, perhaps unwittingly, politicized a non-political institution and damaged the standing and image of a national institution. BIRDEM's chief executive was absolutely right when he said, if one government puts up one flag, then the next will pull it down and put up another.

Of equal importance, by his act he has embarrassed the government he serves, and has shown disrespect to the very leader that he was trying to show respect to. Bangabandhu's picture will be put up voluntarily, by all those who love and respect him. For those who do not - and that must be permissible if we believe in democracy - we will have to wait till they are won over by learning the truth.

Let us take the case of Mahatma Gandhi in India. He is considered the Father of Modern India by every political party (unlike the case here), and yet his pictures do not adorn every government building, leave alone private premises. But there is so much love for him that thousands of private buildings do actually put up his pictures, without being asked. Such may be the case here if government does not create resentment by forcing the issue.

Our second point was to warn the government of being aware that many collective groups will now use the pretext of putting up Bangabandhu's picture to gain favour from the ruling party. It is a fact that we should not forget that the BIRDEM employees

were singing a different political song back in '92 when they forced the management to adopt new service rules. At that time the then ruling party thought these were "our" people.

We would like to point out that for the days that the strike was on, and during the pre-strike period when talks were going on between the employees and DAB Council, the issue of putting up Bangabandhu's picture was never raised, even for once. In fact it was only when Mr. Alamgir came into the picture, on 24th evening, that suddenly one could here slogans of "Joy Bangabandhu".

There are two versions of what happened. One says that Mr. Alamgir himself raised the issue of the picture by saying that he was surprised that an institution like the BIRDEM does not publicly display the picture of the Father of the Nation, to which the employees are supposed to have said, they tried but the management did not allow. The other version, which Mr. Alamgir said during the press conference, that employees had complained to him about not being permitted to put up Bangabandhu's picture, to which he said he would ensure that it is done by 8 a.m. next morning. If we go by Mr. Alamgir's own version, it is clear that he did not raise it with the BIRDEM Council with which he had talked several times that very evening. Why not? He could have easily suggested that employees wished to put up Bangabandhu's picture, and that the Council should consider it.

Why Mr. Alamgir behaved the way he did, he would be in the best position to answer. We offer him our columns to do so. For he needs to let us know the background and the circumstances that made him act the way he did.

And this brings us to our last question. What is proper behaviour of a government servant? It is obvious that Mr. Alamgir feels passionately about Bangabandhu. So do millions in this country. But more to the point, thousands inside the government may feel the

AL, BNP

From Page 1

girls upto Class Ten - two much-publicised election pledges of the BNP - were also taken up by the AL the day before the polls.

The AL, on assumption of power, had reaffirmed that all its election pledges would be fulfilled.

On the other hand, the BNP had announced that it would force the government to implement the pledges it (BNP) had made to the people before the polls.

Asked on the issue, Zillur Rahman, who is also Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad, told The Daily Star last night that his party was ready to discuss with the Opposition not only the common election pledges, but all national issues.

"We've already sought their cooperation on various issues but everytime they refused," he said. "We included the BNP leaders in various Jatiya Sangsad committees but they're boycotting those."

Referring to BNP's refusal to take part in the pre-budget talks and the workshop on law and order, Zillur Rahman said, "We're falling to get their cooperation despite our repeated attempts. They're not sincere to cooperate."

Talking to this correspondent, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan agreed that the common election pledges and even the policies could be implemented by evolving strategies through mutual discussions. "But the government must be sincere, take the initiative and create an atmosphere for the purpose, he said, adding "Otherwise, we'll create pressure on the government."

In this context, the BNP leader alleged that the ruling party was harassing activists of his party across the country in the name of containing terrorism.

On common pledge of the two parties on the Ganges waters, he said that the present government was making unilateral attempt to get the Ganges waters at the cost of national interests.

Sandwichmaker
Let's make things better.
PHILIPS
Transcom Electronics Limited
Official license of Philips Bangladesh Ltd.
for lighting products, radio and TV sets
Dhaka: 815306-8, 819425-9, 809979
Ctg.: 501082, 503578, Khulna: 2004, Bogra: 6215

PM tells SKOP leaders No disinvestment without alternative jobs

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said no mills or factory would be disinvested without providing alternative jobs for the workers, reports UNB.

"We are looking for alternative jobs for the workers," she told trade union leaders and sought their cooperation in this regard. The Prime Minister was exchanging views with a 25-member delegation of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) who came to meet her at her Tejgaon Office yesterday evening.

Sheikh Hasina informed the trade union leaders that her government would adopt proper industrial and labour policy and assured them of forming a Wage Commission. Labour policy will be framed as per ILO convention.

"I was with you and I will remain with the working people," she said and called upon them to work hard and raise production for building the country's economy.

Responding to the trade union leaders, the Prime Minister said agreements signed with the previous government, but not implemented, would now be reviewed.

Referring to an accord between the World Bank and the previous government, the Prime Minister said enquiry needed as to why the government had agreed to close down 17 jute mills in Bangladesh allowing setting up of same number of jute mills in India.

Hasina called upon the trade union leaders to supply her with the list of workers killed and injured during last

labour movement, with assurance of providing compensation from the government and her party.

The trade union leaders called upon the Prime Minister to realise the money from bank loan defaulters and open the closed industries.

They suggested the Prime Minister to form a task force to identify the problems for the remedy.

SKOP leaders Abul Bashar, Ahsanullah Master MP, Shahjahan Khan MP, Salam Khan, Nurul Islam, Shaifur Rahman Majumder, Iskandar Ali, Dr Waheedul Islam Khan, Golam Mahmud, Mendu Mia, Abul Kader, M A Hamid, Jafrul Hasan, Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Iqbal Majumder, Badal Khan and Nasu Mia were present in the meeting.

4 vacant seats Lobbying on in JP to secure nominations

Star Report

Some senior presidium members as well as local leaders of Jatiya JPP are lobbying hard to secure party nominations to contest the by-elections for the four Jatiya Sangsad seats vacated by party chief H M Ershad in greater Rangpur district, according to party sources.

The senior party leaders lobbying for nominations include Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting chairman of JP and Kazi Zafar Ahmed, a presidium member, the sources said.

Some local leaders of JP aspiring for nominations met Ershad at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban during the break for the Asr prayers yesterday.

A former army chief and one legal counsel of Ershad during the break the sources said but declined to disclose their names.

Ershad also held several meetings with the senior presidium members of the party regarding nominations to the vacated seats, the sources said. Zinnat Hossain, a woman MP and a presidium member of the party was also seen talking to some of the aspiring candidates yesterday.

However, one local JP leader aspiring for party nomination while talking to The Daily Star at the Sangsad Bhaban claimed that it would be very difficult for an "outsider" to get elected from any of those vacated seats.

Ershad was elected from Rangpur-2, Rangpur-3, Rangpur-5, Rangpur-6 and Kurigram-3 constituencies in the June 12 parliamentary election. He retained the Rangpur-2 seat and vacated the rest.

By-election to these four and 12 other seats vacated by Awami League and BNP leaders will be held on September 5.

Khaleda

From Page 1

CBA leaders were being entrenched or transferred from many industries to harass her party's labour leaders.

In this regard, Begum Zia mentioned that some 10 workers' leaders were dismissed from Chittagong MM Jute Mills recently and some employees from Uttara Bank while several hundred Sonali Bank employees were transferred. She demanded that the retrenchment be stopped and transfer orders cancelled.

The BNP chairperson accused the ruling party's labour front of resorting to terrorism in different industries and called upon the government to stop the acts of terrorism for maintaining peace and increase production.

Begum Zia recalled the role of workers in the nine-year anti-autocracy movement and said the workers of the country had played a vital role in restoring democracy.

The former prime minister thanked the workers for their contribution to increasing production in the industrial units in last few years.

She said the workers had played a key role in helping national development during the BNP regime and urged them to continue their contribution to nation building activities through boosting production.

Begum Zia asked the worker leaders to further strengthen the Sramik Dal all over the country.

Speaking on the occasion, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan called upon the worker leaders to intensify movement for realising their just demands.

Party leaders Iskandar Ali, Abdullah-al-Noman, Abul Kashem Chowdhury, SA Khaleda, Mohammad Mohiuddin, Mujibur Rahman Sarwar, Nazrul Islam Khan and Zafarullah Khan also addressed the gathering.

Turkey keen to invest in two more sectors

Entrepreneurs from Turkey are willing to exploit Bangladesh's locational advantages, including cheap labour, and relocation of textile units here is in their mind, reports UNB.

Meeting with the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) in the city yesterday afternoon, they said Turkey was considering relocation of textiles production at least upto the yarn level, to cheaper bases to make their produce competitive in Europe.

The visiting Turkish entrepreneurs also expressed keen interest in investing in construction and energy sectors.

The nine-member team, led by Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Vice-President Omar Besim Kufrevi, is now visiting Bangladesh to explore investment opportunities. Delegation includes entrepreneurs from various sectors like textiles, apparels, engineering and construction.

An 86-member private-sector delegation is expected to accompany the Turkish

Stolen medicines seized in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, July 27: Kotwali police recovered stolen medicines from a pharmacy here today.

Some relatives of a patient under treatment of the Sylhet MAC Osmani Medical College Hospital purchased medicines from a shop. But the doctors on duty found the medicines as supplied from the hospital and brought the matter to the knowledge of the Director of the hospital.

AL, BNP

From Page 1

Talking to this correspondent, leaders of the BCL and JCD also expressed their optimism that the college would be reopened soon. They also hoped that their rights would also be protected.

Prof Ahsanullah was made Principal of the college on July 18.

The DMC was closed sine die following clashes between the activists of the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and pro-Awami League Chhatra League during the inaugural programme of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the college on July 10.

Liberalisation

From Page 1

"disciplined mental makeup" and good governance. Kibria was of the view that multiparty democracy and rule of law can ensure economic growth.

Kibria, however, shared the view with Saifur that more resources will have to be put on human resources development in order to achieve higher growth, as had been practised by the East Asian economies over the years.

In the first business session, Jose Edgardo Campos, Team Member of East Asia Miracle Study Project of the World Bank, described the findings of the study. Dr Mirza Azizul Islam presented a study conducted by ESCAP and Dr HJ Chang another study by UNCTAD on the East Asian economies.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Saifur Rahman, Prof G Ranis of Yale University, former Finance Adviser Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud, Dr SNH Naqvi of Muslim Commercial Bank of Pakistan, Prof Nurul Islam, Chairman of UN Committee for Development Planning, former Pakistan Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz, Economic Adviser to Sri Lankan President Dr Lal Jayawardena and group of economists from home and abroad participated in the session.

Bomb rocks Atlanta

From Page 1

forming. A spokesman for Georgia Baptist Hospital said 48 injured had been taken there. One critically injured person was taken into surgery but hospital spokeswoman Kathy Sitten would not discuss the nature of the injuries.

Tony Braswell, spokesman for Grady Memorial Hospital, said one person killed in the explosion had been brought to the hospital.

"Thirty-one injuries have been brought to the emergency room and one fatality," he said. "I do not know the nature of the fatality. I just know we had a fatality transferred here." "The injuries range from very minor to serious," he added.

International Olympic Committee Director General Francois Carrard emerged from a night of talks with security officials to confirm today the games would go on despite a bomb blast that killed two people here.

"We will consider it an act of terrorism until information should arrive to the contrary," FBI Special Agent Woody Johnson said.

The bomb went off at about 1:25 am near a sound and light tower at Centennial Olympic Park, where thousands of revelers were celebrating at an open-air, free concert.

There was a call to 911, the US emergency phone number, in Atlanta warning of the blast a few minutes before the pipe bomb went off, according to a Justice Department official, who requested anonymity.

The bomb detonated after authorities began evacuating an area of the park near the tower where a police officer had noticed a suspicious package, Johnson said.

FBI spokesman Jay Spadafore said the package was in a trash can. He would not provide more details. A Justice Department spokeswoman in Washington said the blast was caused by a pipe bomb.

One of the fatalities was a Turkish man, a doctor at Grady