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## Effective micro-credit programmes stressed

Experts at the international workshop on poverty yesterday emphasised the innovative and pro-active role of NGOs in providing more freedom of borrowers to make micro-credit programmes effective to alleviate poverty, reports UNB.

The three-day workshop titled "Poverty and Finance in Bangladesh: Reviewing 20 Years of Experience" began at Hotel Sheraton on Wednesday and will be concluded through presentation of workshop summary on Saturday.

Institute of Development Policy Analysis and Advocacy (IDPAA), Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) and Credit Development Forum (CDF) jointly organised the workshop.

Experts from home and abroad presented papers in the morning session on "What Key elements of financial services would be useful needs of different groups of the poor?" with Dr Qazi Kholequzzaman Ahmad in the chair.

Imran Matin presented his paper on "Renegotiation of Joint Liability: Notes from Madhupur". Graham Wright of the ICDDR,B presented a paper on "Flexible Financial Services for the Poor".

Smart Rutherford of Manchester University, UK presented the paper on "Informal Financial services in Dhaka's Slums". Dr Rushidan Islam

Rahman of BIDS on "Poverty, Profitability of Micro-enterprises and the Role of NGO Credit" while Dr Geoffrey D Wood of the University of Bath, UK on "A Note on Employment Effects of Micro Credit".

The discussants on the papers included Dr Atiur Rahman, Executive Chairman of Shamu-nay, Dr Toufique Ahmed Choudhury of BIBM, Alauddin Majid of Bank of Small Industries and Credit (BSIC) and Dr Baqui Khalily.

While reviewing the shortcomings of the micro programmes for poverty alleviation, the discussants identified many problems and suggested some solutions.

They underscored the need for cost effectiveness of the credit delivery mechanism, less transaction costs for borrowers, market research, management innovation and staff creativity, decentralisation of models and more flexible approaches in savings of the borrowers.

In the afternoon, a panel discussion was held. The panelists included former Adviser of the caretaker Government Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, Awami League Leader Advocate Rahmat Ali, MP, Ex-Governor of Bangladesh Bank A B N Mahbubul Anam Khan and Executive Director of Proshika Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a luncheon meeting organised by the American-Bangladesh Economic Forum at a city hotel yesterday. — PID photo

## Foreign investment

From page 1

company taxes at margin; and the negative image created by the previous government.

She also said that small markets, difficult business environment and low rates of return had all contributed to the low rate of foreign investment.

Making a call for change, the Prime Minister said, "Let the world understand that Bangladesh intends to join the world as a serious and responsible partner."

She said that her government's target is to create millions of jobs and billions of dollars in foreign investment. "I am confident that we can reach these goals," she added.

The Prime Minister announced a set of six steps to develop a more vibrant stock market and attract a large inflow of foreign portfolio investment in the capital market.

The Prime Minister said that her government would move to a system of allowing either underwriting with guaranteed price or auctioning to ensure that the company gains full benefit from the issue in order. She noted that her government eliminated the lock-in period for foreign investors.

Referring to the elimination of capital gains taxes on stock sales and on bonus shares, she added that her government wanted to both widen and deepen the capital market through legislation and administrative encouragement.

She pointed out that her government has already reduced tax on cash dividends for listed companies.

Announcing her government's intention to allow privately operated mutual funds, Sheikh Hasina said, "I am asking the Securities and Exchange Commission to have new regulations in place, in not more than three months". She also asked the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh to conduct transaction at the floors of the stock exchanges.

She said that her government would encourage establishment of a Bangladesh Fund to be established in the USA, which would be a mutual fund traded abroad but constituting stocks sold on the Dhaka and Chittagong stock markets.

"The SEC will review all such applications and I hope will approve at least one within the next six months. The SEC

## Division vote

From page 1

the BNP and the Jamaat present in the House stood up to support tabling of the bill.

Before the division vote, Joyntul Abedin Faruk of BNP went to Ershad to say something. Besides, JP's G M Kader also said something to his brother, Ershad.

As soon as the Speaker put the bill to division vote, the PM and some other ruling party lawmakers rushed to the House.

Salahuddin Qader Choudhury demanded division vote on the placing of his bill it was rejected by voice vote. He said he wanted to keep on record who were in favour of and who were against the contents of the bill.

Opposing the bill, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim of the AL said it contained communal sentiments and was contradictory to constitutional provisions that guaranteed equal rights to people of all religions.

Salahuddin Kader Choudhury protested Selim's contention and said the bill would guarantee rights of the minorities too and ensure communal harmony in the country.

"Muslims constitute 90 per cent of the population... how can it be accepted that they will enjoy only 30 per cent of government jobs," he said.

When the division vote was over, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof Badruddoza Choudhury requested the Chair to keep on record the names of two members who abstained from voting.

## JS: Hasina

From page 1

with rapt attention.

She said, "It was the declared stand of JCD that they will destabilise law and order if any of their worker is arrested even on specific charges of carrying illegal firearms."

The Prime Minister was critical of the BNP leadership for "backing armed terrorists" and said the law would take its own course against the terrorists whatever be their political identity.

Even if they belong to my party, they must be arrested. I have also reminded this to my student wing. We want a terrorism-free campus," she said.

In an oblique reference to the BNP leadership, Hasina said: "We'll not make any foreign trip with the terrorists. We'll not give them nomination, nor hobnob with them."

The Prime Minister said she got information that the JCD has a plan to attack police on August 24 to provoke them (police) to open fire for deteriorating the law and order situation.

Referring to the police killing in Bogra yesterday, she cautioned that such incidents may also occur in future under the "blueprint" of BNP and JCD. They will be held responsible, if any untoward incident happens, the Prime Minister said.

## Anti-corruption

From page 1

said this during the question hour.

The accused persons include Brig (ret'd) M Habibur Rahman, Chairman, TCB, Abdul Latif Mandal, former Regional Director of the Labour and Manpower Directorate, Nesar Ahmed, Deputy Director, (Adm) Labour and Manpower Directorate, Maj Gen (ret'd) Ashraf Hossain, former Director General of National Security Intelligence, Maksud Ali Khan, former Chairman, T&T, Khairul Alam, Director, Elias Hossain Ahmed, Asst. Director and Abdul Awal Accounts Officer of the Supply and Inspection, Matur Rahman, Executive Engineer, Ramiz Uddin Molla, Deputy Divisional Engineer and A K M. Abdus Sobhan, Executive Engineer of Dhaka WASA. Rezaul Alam Sarkar, Regional Director, BSCIC Khulna, Kabir Hossain, Divisional Engineer T&T Noakhali, Col A M H Tafsir Ahmed, ex-Deputy GD, Anwar VDP, Director and Maj (Ret'd) Abdur Razzak, Director, Anwar VDP, Matur Rahman, ex-Director, TCB, A S M Enamul Huq, Chief Engineer, Atomic Energy Commission, Matur Rahman, Divisional Engineer, T&T, Abdul Maleq, Asst Eng T&T and Biplob Sarma, ex-DRO Chittagong.

## Ombudsman

From page 1

for reforms besides defining reform objective, identifying areas of reform and developing reform strategies, he said.

The bank in the report said a policy statement projecting a vision for a new, responsive, accountable and efficient government should be prepared to realise its declared objectives.

"The appointment of an ombudsman would be a positive action in the context which could be quickly taken," the report said.

## British minister

From page 1

immigration official, action is taken.

Peter Fowler, the outgoing British High Commissioner, told the journalists that there had been a sharp reaction to the killing of Siraj Miah.

"We are aware that the government has taken steps in this regard," Fowler said.

Dr Fox will leave Dhaka for Kathmandu today after a four-day visit to Bangladesh.

## Indemnity Ord can be annulled

From page 1

retrospective effect to wipe out the stigma attached to the fate of the nation.

"They said that to stop recurrence of 'adventurism' by militarymen, the practice of validating all deeds and misdeeds of martial law rulers by incorporating their ordinances, orders and circulars in the Constitution should be banned once for all."

Ishfaq Ahmed and Amirul-Islam said that advisory opinion of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court could also be sought as it was permitted by the Constitution under Article 106.

Justice Kemaluddin Hussain termed the Indemnity Ordinance a 'lawless law' and said this ordinance was a total denial of democratic and human norms and values.

Referring to sub clause 3(A) of Article 150 of the Constitution, he said the "present parliament is the competent authority for the current period and so it can annual or alter the ordinance". He pointed out that the Article says: All laws in force immediately before the revocation of the said proclamations and withdrawal of Martial Law shall, subject to the proclamation, and withdrawal of the Martial Law, continue in force until altered, amended or repealed by the competent authority."

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq said the then president had exercised power under Article 93 of the Constitution in promulgating the ordinance as the House was not in session then. But, he added, according to the Article, no ordinance "shall make any provision which could not lawfully be made under this Constitution by Act of Parliament."

Article 46 of the Constitution, said Haq, permits parliament to pass indemnity but, in the said case it was not applicable. He further said the Article says, "..... Parliament may by law make provision for indemnifying any person in the service of the Republic or any

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## DU clash

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went to Shahidullah Hall, the campus sources said.

The sources added that just after taking over Mohsin Hall, a good number of activists of BCL from Zahurul Haq Hall went to Mohsin Hall and shook hands with the JCD workers who had earlier joined BCL in the morning.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has called a day-long strike in all educational institutions across the country on August 25. The JCD programme was declared at a protest rally at the Aparajeo Bangla at the DU campus.

The JCD leaders at the rally said BCL activists early yesterday morning captured Mohsin Hall ousting their leaders and workers. They also alleged that police and BCL activists attacked them Wednesday without any provocation.

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## Bail prayers for 29 DU students rejected

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday rejected the bail prayers for 29 students of the Dhaka University arrested Wednesday and placed 28 of them under one-day police remand, reports UNB.

President of JCD Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney who was also arrested on the day is now under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Four specific cases under Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act have been started against them by Ramna police.

The court, however, allowed bail to nine other students arrested on the same day under Section 54 of the Cr Pc.

Moving the bail prayer, Barrister Rafique Islam Miah submitted that it was a false and concocted case. Among other Advocate Sanaullah Miah, Masud Ahmed Talukder, Shahzada Miah were present to assist him.

## Sangsd told Biswas, Khaleda spent Tk 55cr from discretionary funds

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia during their tenure have spent about Taka five and a half crore from their discretionary funds, the Jatiya Sangsad was informed yesterday, reports BSS.

In reply to a question from Mirza Azam (AL-Jamalpur), Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed said former prime minister and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia spent Taka 2,43,12,440 from 1991 till March 30 this year under 16 heads. These include financial allocations to educational institutions, assistance to individuals for treatment, marriage, religious institutions, press club and entertainment.

The maximum spending of Taka 50 lakh was spent in fiscal 1993-94 and 1994-95 while the minimum spending of Taka 44,54,040 was spent during the last fiscal year till March 30.

The highest amount of Taka 68,99,900 was given to educational institutions, while Taka 24,60,000 was given to press clubs, he said.

To another question from Ahmed Tafazzuddin (AL-Pabna), Tofael said from 1991-92 to 1995-96, the President had spent Taka 2,90,33,900 from his discretionary fund.

According to the statement submitted, the maximum amount of Taka 81,27,400 was spent on 1991-92, while the minimum amount of Taka 48,85,847 spent in the following year.

CEC seeks help of political parties in holding by polls

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena yesterday sought cooperation of all political parties for holding the forthcoming by-elections in a free and fair manner, reports UNB.

The CEC's appeal came during discussions with two separate delegations of the Awami League and Jatiya party, who met him at his office yesterday.

He also urged the political parties to give directives to their local leaders and workers to abide by the electoral code of conduct and resist terrorists' activities.

Abu Hena told the delegation members that the Election Commission had directed all officials concerned to discharge their duties remaining above all sorts of influence.

He hoped that September 5 byelection would be free, fair and impartial like that of June 12 general elections.

The CEC, in this regard, apprised the AL and JP leaders of various preparations that have already been taken for byelections in 15 vacated Jatiya Sangsad seats.

Leaders of both the parties assured the Chief Election Commissioner of their all-out cooperation.

## PM to visit Natore today

From Staff Correspondent

NATORE, Aug 22: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to arrive here tomorrow to review the law and order situation and various development programmes in the northern region of the country, official sources said.

According to sources, eight ministers and 35 MPs will accompany the Prime Minister. Hasina will address two meetings on law and order situation with the DCs and SPs of the 16 northern districts at Uttara Ganobhaban.

## Young man beaten to death in city

By DMC Correspondent

A young man was reportedly beaten to death by some people in Maniknagar area under Shabbujbagh thana in the city yesterday.

The angry people assaulted Rafiq, 23, and his accomplice Rashid, 28, at 3am alleging that they were dacoits. The two were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where Rafiq, son of one Shajahan of Dholpur, Demra, succumbed to his injuries yesterday afternoon, hospital and police sources said.

Rashid, arrested by police, was under treatment at the DMCH till last night.

The other dacoits, however, managed to escape when the local people chased them, police said.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. None of the attackers could be arrested till last night, police added.

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## Separation of judiciary

From page 1

As it is in the present constitution, under Article 99 (1), the retired Judges of the Supreme Court can hold judicial or quasi-judicial office of profit in the service of the Republic, but as per the draft proposed bill the SC Bar is in favour of deletion of the clause.

According to the proposed bill, Judges of the Supreme Court, except the Chief Justice, shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice.

The advocates who have been in the profession for at least 10 years may be appointed as District Judges.

The meeting was presided over by Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan, president of the SC Bar, and conducted by Advocate Nazrul Islam Choudhury, secretary of the SC Bar, who also read out the proposed bill.

The state minister said, "Law should be legislated unambiguously. Law ought not to be promulgated with any partisan outlook because, it is applicable to all," he observed.

He said, "but to make law and justice equal to all, the judiciary should be separated from the executive."

## JCD activists block Dhaka, Aricha highway

By JU Correspondent

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) unit of the Jahangirnagar University blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday protesting the recent police attack on JCD workers on the Dhaka University campus.

The one-hour blockade began at around 12 in the noon at the Dairy Farm Gate of the university following a procession on the campus.

At a rally at the Dairy Farm Gate, the JCD leaders condemned the alleged attack on their workers including Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney. Holding the pro-Awami League Chhatra League responsible for the recent terrorist activities on the campus, the leaders demanded immediate arrest of the persons involved in terrorism at the DU.

## 36 DU senators urge VC to give up partisan attitude

By DU Correspondent

Thirty six members of the Dhaka University Senate yesterday expressed grave concern over the situation on the campus.

In a statement yesterday, the senators said the VC was instigating terrorism in the university by issuing statements in favour of a particular political party.

They urged the VC "to give up the partisan attitude" for restoring normalcy on the campus.

The signatories to the statement include Dr Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury, Dr Mohammad Shahadat Ali, Dr A T M Zahurul Haq, Dr Mostafa Chowdhury, Dr Mohammad Mohabbat Khan, Dr Imamul Haq, Dr Muntasir Uddin Khan Mamun, Dr Rajib Humayun, Dr Mohammad Anwar Hossain, Dr A S M Arefin Siddique, Dr Harun-ur-Rashid, DM Akteruzzaman, advocate, Rezaul Rahman, Ramendu Mojumder, Advocate Ahiduzzaman.

## Suicide

By DMC Correspondent

A young girl reportedly committed suicide in her house at Uttara in the city yesterday.

The family members found the body of Jahanaara Sultana alias Tania, 17, hanging from a water pipe at about 9am, police said.

Tania, daughter of one Haji Khandaker Kutubuddin Ahmed, was immediately taken to a clinic where doctors declared her dead.

## Dacoity at house in Mohammadpur

By Staff Correspondent

Armed dacoits took away money, ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk 1.03 lakh from a house at Humayun Road in Mohammadpur area in the city early yesterday.

According to police, a gang of about eight dacoits entered the house of Dr Golam Nobi by breaking grills at about 3 am.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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বাংলাদেশ পেশাদার প্রকৃত্তিকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি

বর ভবন, ৭-৯ কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

শিশু শ্রমিক সংক্রান্ত জরুরী সভা

বিজিএমইএ'র সকল সদস্যকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে বিজিএমইএ, ইউনিফেড ও আইএলও এর মধ্যে স্বাক্ষরিত সমঝোতা স্মারক (এমওইউ) অনুসারে পেশাদার শিল্প কারখানায় কর্মরত শিশু শ্রমিকদের বিষয়ে আলোচনার জন্য একটি জরুরী সভা আগামী ২৫ আগষ্ট ১৯৯৬ তারিখে বিকাল ৪ ঘটিকায় হোটেল সোনারগাঁয়ে (বেল রুম) অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

পেশাদার শিল্পকে বাঁচানোর লক্ষ্যে উক্ত সভায় বিজিএমইএ'র সকল সম্মানিত সদস্যকে যোগদান করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

ভারপ্রাপ্ত সচিব