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## PM tells CBA leaders Organise workers to buy disinvested industries

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the labour leaders to organise the workers to buy the disinvested mills and factories, reports UNB.

She said government will provide all necessary help and workers will get preference if they want to buy and manage the disinvested industries.

The Prime Minister was exchanging views with the CBA (Collective Bargaining Agent) leaders on the existing situation in jute and textile sectors at her office in the afternoon.

State Minister for Jute A K Faezul Huq was present at the meeting.

The CBA leaders discussed multifarious problems of the jute and textile sectors and called upon the Prime Minister to take proper steps to make the country self-sufficient in spinning and textile.

Stressing the need for increasing production of yarn and fabrics to feed the garments industries, Sheikh Hasina directed the authorities concerned to go for BMRE and replace old machineries from old spinning and textile mills.

Responding to a suggestion of the CBA leaders, the Prime Minister said a high-powered committee will be formed to identify the 'real sick mills in the nationalised sector.

They also suggested that the Prime Minister transfer the

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## Silver Jubilee of Victory Day



LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman speaking at a discussion meeting in the city yesterday organised by Joy Bangla Sangkritik Oikya Jote in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Victory Day.



BNP leader Mir Shawkat Ali speaking at a party discussion meeting in the city yesterday in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Independence.

## New African candidate may emerge Boutros Ghali suspends candidacy for 2nd term

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 5: Several African countries are expected to submit new candidates for the top UN post after Secretary-General Boutros Ghali suspended his candidacy in the face of unrelenting US opposition, reports AP.

Boutros-Ghali said he still remains an official candidate, and supporters were urging him to stay in the race. The United States cast the lone veto against the 74-year-old Egyptian in a first-round vote in the 15-

## Victory Day

From Page 1

gong) and 'Mohakal'.

At the reminiscence session Begum Motia Chowdhury, Dr Naima Khan, Aftab Ahmed and Kazi Aref recalled their memories of the Liberation War. Shafi Kamal and Khaled Khan recited poems while Apeh Mahmood and Shahin Samad rendered songs. Two short films, 'Ekattarer Jishu' and 'Muktir Gaan', were also screened.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has published a poster on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Independence.

## Mission official

From Page 1

the status of the Leader of the Opposition? Is it called diplomatic civility?"

The BNP leader said only one official gave a bouquet on behalf of the Prime Minister after Begum Zia's operation in the hospital and the state-owned media here widely publicised it.

He reminded the concerned authorities that it is the duty of the officials of any mission to look after the dignitaries when they go abroad.

## PM's directive

From Page 1

She advised the administrative officials to frankly discuss with the people and know their demands. "You are the bridge between people and the government," she added.

The Prime Minister said her government will not use the administration for personal or party interest like the past governments.

"We have our own political party. To organise party, we don't need the help of government machinery," she said.

She urged the Deputy Commissioners to take up various development projects and utilise foreign aid properly.

The Prime Minister said the local government will be strengthened and strong local governments will share the working load of the district administration.

The Prime Minister said her government would take steps to modernise the administrative system and announced that wireless sets would be provided to the DCs by this year. TNOs will be given wireless sets next year, she added.

She said government has decided to work together with the NGOs to meet the housing problem and would go for building low-cost houses to provide accommodation to the low and middle income groups people.

"I hope you will not face any problem with the local political leadership. Even if you face that you inform the cabinet secretary and government would act to that," she told the DCs.

She also asked them to ring her up directly in case of any decision and suggestion.

The inaugural function, conducted by Cabinet Secretary Syed Ahmed, was addressed by six deputy commissioners and a divisional commissioner.

## Water accord

From Page 1

Indian External Affairs Secretary Salman Haider in the first week on July.

It was followed by a four-day visit of Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral from September 7 which had whipped up expectations for a "satisfactory water treaty" between the two countries before the onset of the coming dry season, beginning January 1.

Gujral's visit was followed by that of Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad to Calcutta and Delhi in September.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak also paid a three-day visit to the Indian capital from October 28 and later met Jyoti Basu in Calcutta.

A Joint Committee of experts was set up by the two governments following Gujral's visit. The joint committee had so far held at least four rounds of talks in Delhi. Members of the committee are now in Delhi for chiseling out the final draft agreement.

The breaking development towards the conclusion of a water accord appeared on the horizon when the octogenarian West Bengal Chief Minister paid a five-day official trip to Bangladesh from November 27.

Before leaving Dhaka, after having two rounds of exclusive talks with Hasina, Basu announced that a draft water accord was ready to be signed in the Delhi summit.

## Ex-AL MP Azharul Islam dead

Awami League leader and former MP Mohammad Azharul Islam died of cardiac arrest at the Holy Family Hospital in the city yesterday. He was 65, reports UNB.

Islam, a valiant freedom fighter, was elected MP in 1991 from Jaldhaka constituency in Nilphamari district. He was also the district unit vice-president of Awami League and a member of National Assembly.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited his Sheymoli residence to pay her last respect to the late leader. She offered munajat there.

Later, the body was taken to his village home in Nilphamari for burial.

The Prime Minister in a condolence message expressed profound shock at the death of Azharul Islam.

In a separate message, the Prime Minister also condoled the death of Nurul Islam Dada, president of Dhaka city ward-31 of Awami League.

## Democracy Day

From Page 1

DUCSU will hold a three-day photo exhibition and reunion programmes on the Dhaka University campus. The exhibition will be inaugurated at 10 am on Saturday by former VC Moniruzzaman Mia. VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury will attend the function as chief guest while DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman preside.

Jatiya Party will observe the day as "democracy protection day". The JP will hold a discussion at its central office at Kalabagan at 4 pm. Acting Chairman of JP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury will preside.

## NU to probe leakage of question paper

National University will investigate the alleged leaking out of question paper of accounting second paper of B.Com (pass), 1996, reports BSS.

A high-powered committee will investigate the matter and submit its report within 15 days.

This was decided at a meeting of the examination control committee of the National University with the Vice-Chancellor in the chair.

## Ctg port

From Page 1

would be held as soon as possible through observation of legal formalities, Mahmud said.

The CPA chairman said that the CBA election, which was scheduled to be held today, was postponed last night following a court order.

The court order came as a dock worker, in his prayer, mentioned that some sweepers of the port were not enlisted as voters for CBA polls, port sources said.

The postponement of election angered the dock workers and they stopped work from 8 pm last night and agitated, Mahmud said.

Police and witnesses said the agitating dock workers had put up barricades on the port connecting road and damaged some vehicles.

They also threw brick bats when police tried to remove the barricade, witnesses said.

Dock workers held rallies and brought out processions demanding immediate holding of CBA election, port sources said.

## Kerb market

From Page 1

ter's views in favour of further bringing down the price index and said that the price index had already come down to nearly half of the earlier level.

They said that the situation could be improved by resuming bank loans and financial help by the ICB to its account holders.

Meanwhile, the DSE All Share Price Index fell by another 51.20 points yesterday to 2667.16 points.

Only 42 thousand shares and debentures exchanged hands during a brief trading. The value of the traded scripts was Tk 1.04 crore, far below that recently.

Out of the 66 traded issues, 62 declined, only 3 gained and 1 remained unchanged.

Market capitalisation of the DSE also fell by more than Tk 368.62 crore yesterday to Tk 19,003.13 crore from the previous day's Tk 19,371.75 crore.

## Girl abducted in Pirojpur

PIROJPUR, Dec 5: A girl student of class ten was allegedly abducted from her house at Shirsia village in Kaokhali thana of the district on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Police said, Nazumun Nahar Soman, 15, daughter of Lokman Hossain, was abducted allegedly by co-villager Mahbubur Rahman when she came out of the house at about 9 pm.

Soman's father filed a case with Kaokhali thana against Mahbubur Rahman.

## Envoy meets FM Directive to nab killers of Chinese engr

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday expressed his deep shock at the killing of a Chinese engineer at Sitakunda on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Huang, an engineer of China National Overseas Corporation, was shot dead by dacoits while he was engaged in road construction work under Roads and Highways Division.

The minister expressed his grief when the Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xujiang called on him at his residence to explain the tragic incident.

The minister in presence of the ambassador directed the agencies concerned to take measures for arresting the dacoits who were involved in the killing.

## Indemnity

From Page 1

dennity Ordinance as subversive of the Constitution.

Dr Kamal Hossain adding his grounds of submission with those of the affidavit-in-opposition filed on behalf of the government asked the petitioners through the court for making the reply thereof.

Earlier, Barrister Qurban Ali, Counsel for the petitioners, read out the writ petition of Col (ret) Shafiqur Rashid Khan and the affidavit in opposition thereto filed by the government.

Attorney General Barrister K S Nabi, on behalf of the government, submitted that earlier the petitioners in two writ petition denied their involvement in the August 15 and November 3, 1975 killings, but in the present petitions they admitted those by which they committed misconduct and any wrongdoers cannot get any relief in writ jurisdiction.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Momenul Haque and Justice Md Abdul Matin fixed December 8 for resumption of the hearing of the petitions.

Senior Advocate Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed and Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, amicus curiae were present in the court during the hearing.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with ministers and Awami League leaders placing wreaths at the mazar of Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy yesterday on the occasion of his 33rd death anniversary.

## Shibir activists

From Page 1

In the afternoon, at about 4:30 pm, the Shibir activists again attacked Al Falah publication agency, damaged some computers and office equipment and allegedly tried to kidnap two Sena leaders.

They also beat Chhatra Sena Vice President Mohammad Zakir Hossain and four others.

Protesting the attack and snatching, Islami Chhatra Sena activists put barricade on the roads and adjacent areas disrupting traffic for two hours till 6 pm. Normal life and businesses were also affected.

The Sena also held a protest rally at Andarkilla crossing. It was addressed by Mohammad Abdul Karim, Mohammad Azizur Rahman and M Firoj Alam Khokon.

They demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the Shibir activists responsible for the attacks. They also demanded of the government to ban Jamaat-Shibir activities.

## AL activist stabbed in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Dec 5: An Awami League activist was critically injured when unidentified miscreants stabbed him in front of the city's Engineers Institution today, reports UNB.

Police said the miscreants stabbed Harun-Or Rashid, 42, as he came out of the institution at about 4:30 pm after attending the AL north district conference.

Harun was admitted to Holy Crescent Hospital in a critical condition.

## Ex-BSKF chief Jahangir Kabir dead

Jahangir Kabir, former President of Bangladesh Sangbadpatrika Karmachari Federation (BSKF), died at the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Hospital in the city yesterday. He was 55, reports BSS.

He served various newspapers including 'Dainik Bangla'. A former member of parliament, Kabir left behind his wife, two daughters and a son.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) condoned the death of Jahangir Kabir.

BFUJ President Amanullah Kabir and Secretary General Zahur Haq, DUJ Acting President Abu Saleh and General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi in a joint statement expressed deep shock at his death and said Kabir played a very active role in all the struggle in the newspaper industry to realise rights and demands of the employees.

## 4 extortionists held in city

Police arrested four extortionists from Tejgaon Industrial Areas here Wednesday night, reports BSS.

They are: Shaikh Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman alias Rocky, Ali Amjad Khan, Alauddin alias Ronak and Shaikh Kamal Pasha. Police said, the extortionists kept a driver and a helper of a loaded truck and demanded Taka 20,000 as ransom for them.

Police also recovered the loaded truck from the possession of extortionists.

The arrested persons are said to be members of an organised gang and involved in extortion, mugging and different types of criminal activities for a long time, police said.

Embezzlement of Tk 2 lakh

## 2 Sonali Bank employees held in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 5: Two employees of Sonali Bank have been arrested here for their alleged involvement in embezzlement of Tk two lakh, reports UNB.

Police arrested Mohammad Selim, a cashier-cum-clerk of main branch of Sonali Bank, today. He was produced before the court and was taken on 5-day police remand.

Cashier Samiruddin Sikdar of the bank's Mitamoin branch was arrested on Wednesday and sent to jail.

Both the employees were temporarily suspended.

Bank sources said Selim drew Tk 15 lakh from the main branch of Sonali Bank for the Mitamoin branch and Sikdar received the amount without counting. Later, it was detected that Tk two lakh was missing.

## Godagari frontier BDR, BSF withdraw makeshift camps

RAJSHAHI, Dec 5: Tension at Godagari frontier in Rajshahi district was defused as BDR and BSF withdrew their makeshift camps following a meeting today, reports UNB.

After the talks, meeting sources said, BSF shifted their camp 5 kilometres into the Indian territory while BDR within 500 yards inside the Bangladesh territory.

The meeting was attended by Rajshahi Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Nazrul Islam Khan, BDR 14 Battalion Commanding Officer Lt Col Mahmudul Haq Khan Chowdhury and BSF 41 Battalion Commanding Officer Lt Col GC Marandi.

## Babrak Karmal dies in Moscow

MOSCOW, Dec 5: Babrak Karmal, the Communist leader who ruled Afghanistan with the support of Soviet troops from 1979 to 1986, has died of liver cancer in Moscow, according to a Russian report. He was 67, reports AP.

Karmal, who spent most of his time in Russia since his ouster from power a decade ago, died Sunday at the Kremlin hospital in Moscow, the Interfax news agency said Thursday in the first public report of his demise.

The Soviet Union installed Karmal as Afghanistan's leader in December 1979 when they sent in troops to crush mounting turmoil in the Central Asian nation that was on the southern border of the Soviet state.

## Workshop on WB report

From Page 1

prime minister's question hour are other recommendations for Parliament.

For ministries and agencies, the workshop suggested that commitment for establishing Citizens Charter be declared and key ministry/agencies should announce its objectives and performance evaluation.

It also called for developing measurable and transparent service-delivery standards by a select few service agencies and utilities as part of a Citizens Charter and redefining the role of the IMED (Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Department).

For budget and auditing reforms, the workshop suggested that implementation of RIBEC reforms be accelerated, budget analysis unit be established and steps to develop programme to link budgetary allocation to ministries/agencies with strategic priorities and performance be initiated.

The workshop recommended establishment of a task force to review anti-corruption issues and ensure public-sector transparency. The government should also formulate and announce public policy on transparency and develop guidelines to require elected officials to declare annual income/tax payments.

It suggested establishment of Deregulation Commission and steps to frame regulations for power, telecommunications, aviation and gas sectors as a means of paving the way for mobilizing private-sector investment.

The workshop noted with satisfaction that process of legal reform by establishing the Law Reforms Commission and Judicial Training Institute, and strengthening judicial system had already started.

For promoting private sector, it suggested establishment of prime minister's private-sector advisory council, acceleration of privatization and reforms in the Board of Investment and Export Promotion Bureau.

It called for redefining the role of the Planning Commission, designating heads of large departments as principal accounting officers and enhancing financial and administrative powers of project directors.

A debate took place among the participants on the recommendation that the number of decisions requiring the Prime Minister's approval be reduced to only those of systematic importance and essential to the functioning of the government.

The finance minister observed that the number of files required to be sent to the Prime Minister should be carefully reduced to increase time for consultation from the head of government.

The workshop also suggested establishment of a pay research unit in the Ministry of Finance as step towards human resource management and suggested a more pro-active role so as to attract more women to join government service.

Establishing close cooperation between the government and NGOs, streamlining the NGO registration and approval process and reform in the local government were also suggested by the workshop.

Mieko Nishimizu, Country Director of the World Bank's South Asia Region, told the workshop that the reform initiatives would require support from the top level of the government. "Now a bold step is needed from the government."

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**Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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