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Sequence of the drama 'Haye Bangla, Haye Behula' staged at the Public Library in the city yesterday on the concluding day of the Bengali Cultural Festival 1403. — Star photo

Govt to evaluate performance of primary school teachers

Education Minister A S H K Sadique yesterday said the government has taken up plans to introduce a programme to evaluate the performance of the primary school teachers, reports UNB.

To overcome the qualitative and infrastructural problems of the primary education sector, a number of steps have already been taken, he said while speaking at a dialogue on the occasion of publication of an "Independent Review of Bangladesh's Development."

Organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the discussion was participated by policy-makers of the government, academics, officials, and representatives of different donor agencies and NGOs.

Speaking on the CPD study on primary education, conducted by Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, the minister said the government now plans to spend more for this sector as the Kudar-e-Khuda Commission report recommended that 60 per cent of the total education budget should go to the primary education sector.

At present, there is no effective system for evaluating the teachers' performances, he said,

adding the government has planned to introduce an evaluation procedure instead of the existing routine monitoring system.

He told the function that due to several socio-economic problems the standard of quality of teachers could not be ensured, while, the non-government teachers could not be provided training for lack of infrastructural facilities.

But the government has taken decision to introduce a crash programme for their training though it is not sufficient for achieving the goal, he said.

Sadique said that a high-powered committee was working on the overall problems of the primary education sector and the government would decide its policies on the sector after receiving the recommendations.

In his study, Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, a renowned economist, suggested that if the foundation of "our education has to be strong we need to pay more attention to the quality of the educators and the quality of teaching materials besides improving the physical environment for curricular and co-curricular activities with a more creative and innovative bias."

The study noted that the enrollment of female students have increased and rate of drop-out have reduced in the recent period.

But the standard of education could not be ensured as desired as according to conventional standard, about 50 per cent of students achieve minimum competence securing only 30 per cent marks in all subjects, the study said.

Rehman Sobhan, who chaired the function, said the objective of the CPD study is to review the problems and achievements in different sectors from a non-partisan angle and the CPD study reports will be made available to the country's policy-makers including the MPs for necessary action.

Former member of the Planning Commission Kazi Fazlur Rahman, member of the commission Kazi Shamsul Alam, senior research fellow of BIDS Mahmud Alam, UNESCO representative Dr Ansar Ali Khan, Shamsi Hossain of GSS, Monika Malakar of SIDA and Anwarul Haq of Primary Education Department also spoke on the occasion.

The study team has suggested a 25-year plan with five years interval planning period, styled "Chittagong Industrial Development Plan (CIDP)."

It has been worked out indicating general development directions as well as general physical expansion of Chittagong district.

Major development components of the plan are: overall infrastructural development of the metropolitan area, including creation of a new industrial city on the southern bank of river Karnaphuli.

The plan also includes construction of new crossing over the Karnaphuli, a new deep sea harbour with modern container-handling facilities and a new modern international airport.

The study team has identified four Special Industrial Development Regions (SIDR) — Chittagong, Dhaka, Sylhet and Khulna — and suggested enactment of a law for establishing Special Economic Zones.

With the SIDR, the study team suggested, SEZs should be established with high-quality physical environment where investment will be encouraged with attractive fiscal and non-

fiscal incentives and other facilities.

The study team has identified the area for the first SEZ on the southern bank of Karnaphuli in around 275 hectares of land. The development and construction cost of the proposed SEZ has been estimated 82 million US dollars, and land acquisition cost 3.45 million dollars.

The development and construction cost should be met with 30 per cent equity and 70 per cent long-term loan.

The long-term loan may be arranged from Asian Development Bank (ADB), Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan and local banks, the report suggested.

Among the principal projects and programmes specified in the study report, priority should be given to the construction of Karnaphuli river-crossing and a deep sea port off Chittagong seaport.

Construction cost of a river-crossing over the Karnaphuli through a bridge or tunnel is estimated at 300 million dollars and construction of deep sea port will cost about a billion US dollar, the report added.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, Energy Minister Noor Uddin Khan, State Minister for LGED and Cooperatives Syed Abul Hossain, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, State Minister for Jute and Textiles M Faezul Huq, Cabinet Secretary Ataul Huq, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr S A Samad and secretaries concerned were present in the meeting.

Pre-budget consultation

Kibria exchanges views with NGO representatives

As part of pre-budget consultation, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday exchanged views with the representatives of non-governmental organisations on a wide range of budgetary measures, reports UNB.

Issues like poverty alleviation, eradicating illiteracy, mother and child health-care, family planning, and rehabilitation of slum dwellers and river-erosion-affected people came up for discussion.

Besides, strengthening of the local government institutions, environment conservation, drainage and river excavation, and flourishing of silk industry were discussed and recommendations put forward.

Kibria said as the NGOs are playing an important role in the country's development, opinion of their leaders is of great significance in formulating a people-oriented budget.

The NGO leaders thanked the finance minister for giving them a chance to express their opinion in the budget-making process.

They stressed the need for proper allocation in different sectors for the solution of different problems.

Termining the present relations between the government and the NGOs as supportive, Kibria said the recommendations

put forward by the NGOs would be considered with due importance during budget formulation.

Representatives of ADAB, BRAC, UCEP, CCDB, GSS, Shakti Foundation, CARE, Nijera Kori and Proshika, among others, attended the consultative meeting held in the Finance Ministry's conference room.

JS body discusses Pvt members' Bill

A meeting of the standing committee of Privet Members Bill and Private Members Resolutions was held at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

The meeting, presided over by the committee president Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, also discussed Bill to amend some articles of the Constitution brought by Salauddin Quader Chowdhury MP and decided to place a report in the parliament in this regard.

The meeting also discussed "Private Company (officials and employees) Condition of Service Bill 1996," said an official handout.

Yasmin murder

From Page 1
the prosecution counsel for his "contradictory submission" in the court. The other PW, Amir Ali, a trader of "Daasmile" in his submission narrated how Yasmin was lifted by the police

at dead of night on August 24, 1995. He also submitted that in the next morning her body was recovered from a place about five miles off the Dinajpur-Saidpur highway.

The court, till adjournment on March 15 last, had recorded depositions of 34 PWs out of total 54.

Hearing will resume tomorrow.

The nine accused are — former police superintendent of Dinajpur Abdul Muttaleb, former Kotwali Officer-in-Charge, Mahab Hussain, former Kotwali thana SI Swapon Kumar Chakravarty, former Officer-in-Charge of DSB Matur Rahman, former Kotwali thana ASI Jahangir Alam and Moinul Haque, former police line constable Abdus Sattar, former police line driver Amrita Lal Barman and Dr Md Mohsin, medical officer of Dinajpur General Hospital.

Biman reaches Jeddah with 1000 Hajj pilgrims

A Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight carrying about 1,000 Bangladeshi Hajj pilgrims safely reached Jeddah amidst transport strike by officers and employees of Indian Civil Aviation, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

The flight, that failed to communicate with the Indian Civil Aviation authorities due to the strike, was delayed and finally left Dhaka for Jeddah on Friday.

It was also carrying a parliamentary delegation, led by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury. Other members of the delegation are: State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam and Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury.

Syrian Vice President, FM leave ZIA

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Shahraili left Zia International Airport yesterday afternoon after a day's stop over forced by Indian air traffic controllers' strike, reports UNB.

The two Syrian leaders were on their way back home from China but the aircraft carrying them could not land in New Delhi to refuel due to the strike.

Poet Sufia Kamal advised to take complete rest

Doctors have advised Poet Sufia Kamal to take complete bed-rest for three more months, a family source said yesterday, reports BSS.

A panel of doctors, after a thorough check-up over the weekend, said the 86-year-old poet is yet to gain enough strength to attend public functions and meet people personally.

Poet Sufia Kamal is suffering from arthritis, blood pressure, irregularities and insomnia besides her old-age complications.

The poet has been bed-ridden since November last year.

Restaurant worker killed in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 12: A restaurant worker was killed by his colleague at West Moti-erbari Raigata area in Double-mooring thana here today, reports UNB.

Police said Rusel, 20, an employee of Mehraj hotel, was killed by one of his colleague at 6:30 this morning following an altercation at the hotel.

The body was sent to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy and none was arrested in this connection. However, the accused was absconding.

City AL extended meet today

By Our Correspondent

An extended meeting of the Dhaka city unit of Awami League will be held at the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue at 6 pm today.

Flights

From Page 1
receive their relations from the Gulf countries.

Biman's new schedule

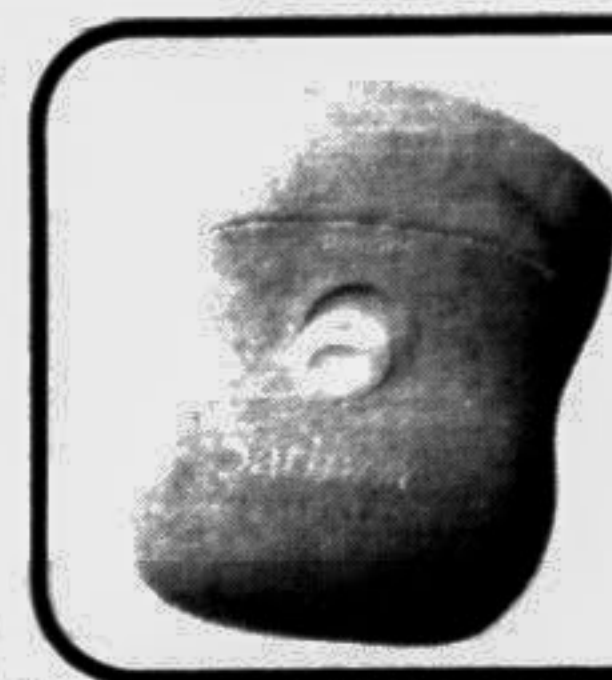
BSS adds: Biman rescheduled all its incoming and outgoing western flights, said a press release yesterday.

According to the new schedule, Biman's flights on April 11 will operate from Dhaka in the following manner: BG 003 London, Paris will depart at 11:30 pm on April 12, BG 049 Doha, Jeddah at 11 pm on April 12, BG 009 New York at 7 pm on April 13, BG 078 Hong Kong at 0:30 am on April 13, BG 070 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore at 1 am and BG 033 Calcutta at 3 am on April 13.

The new schedule for the flights on April 12 is: BG 029 Bombay, Dubai will depart at 7:30 am on April 13, BG 005 London at 4:00 am on April 14 and BG 019 Karachi, Muscat at 1:00 pm on April 13.

The passengers who booked on different Biman flights have been requested to maintain contact with the Motijheel sales office as well as the airport office regarding re-scheduled flight departure and arrival times.

Meanwhile, all the Hajj flights of Biman for both ballottee and non-ballottee pilgrims have been completed.



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Thai trawler with 22 crew impounded

CHITTAGONG, Apr 12: The navy personnel this morning impounded a Thai fishing trawler and arrested its 22 crew on a charge of illegal fishing inside the territorial waters of Bangladesh.

They were taken in to custody near the Saint Martin's Island.

The crew were handed over to the Port thana police this afternoon.

Police said the crew would be sent to the court tomorrow.

Hasina leaves for Makkah tomorrow

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave Dhaka for Makkah tomorrow to perform the holy Hajj, reports UNB.

A VIP flight of Bangladesh Biman will carry the Prime Minister to the holy city. She is expected to return home on April 20.

3000 vehicles stranded at 3 ferry ghats

MANIKGANJ, Apr 12: About 3,000 vehicles remained stranded at Aricha, Nagarbari and Daulatdia ferry ghats today as Eid rush in passenger traffic gradually started, reports UNB.

"Local BIWA and BIWTC sources said the traffic jam was due to inadequate number of ferry and arrival of huge vehicles ahead of Eid-ul-Azha."

A long queue of transport has already crossed four kilometres on the Dhaka-Aricha highway from the terminal.

BIWTC put serial to 2,000 vehicles for ferrying at the three terminals and there were 1,000 more beyond the serial to cross river Padma and Jamuna.

BIWTC chairman and its other high officials visited Aricha ghat today.

JS body reviews agency reports on Shima's death

The 4th meeting of parliamentary enquiry committee on "The death of Shima Chowdhury in Chittagong Jail" was held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Presided over by committee chairman Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, the meeting reviewed the reports related to the death of Shima received through different agencies.

The meeting decided that the committee members would visit Chittagong after Eid-ul-Azha to gather more information about the incident.

It urged all concerned to work actively for placing an acceptable report before the next parliament session, said a press release.

Committee members Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, Opposition Chief Whip Khandker Delwar Hossain, Kazi Shamsur Rahman and Prof Khaleda Khanam attended the meeting.

Home Secretary Shafiqur Rahman, Inspector General of Police M Azizul Haq, IG (Prison) Brig Walur Rahman Chowdhury and officials were also present.

Rebel leaders

From Page 1

by May, submission of HM Ershad's resignation before the council session, democratisation of the party constitution and resignation of party secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju from his cabinet post in Awami League government to make the JP a truly opposition party. They also demanded an end to "scandals" centering the party chairman, the sources said.

When contacted Nazim Rahman Manju, additional secretary general of JP said, "Resignation of party chairman HM Ershad from his post and that of secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju from the cabinet do not arise."

Meanwhile, it is learnt from party sources that some mid-ranking leaders of the party persuaded the three top-ranking leaders yesterday to "keep it intact."

Nazim Rahman Manju told The Daily Star last night that they were looking forward to the presidium meeting scheduled for April 14. According to him letters regarding the meeting have been sent to all the presidium members from the party secretariat.

When contacted after their meeting, the three "rebel leaders" told The Daily Star that convening of a meeting at any level of the JP would not solve the present crisis unless these issues were addressed.

"The ball is now in the court of Ershad," commented one of them adding, "if the secretary general fails to convene the meeting of the council by May, the next person after him will call the meeting."

Asked if he meant that the additional secretary general would then convene the meeting, he said, "the constitution of the party does not recognise that post." He did not elaborate.

4 jailed for killing housewife in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Apr 12: The mother-in-law and husband of a housewife were sentenced to life term imprisonment for killing the housewife and two others were given five years' terms in a judgement by the Additional District and Sessions Judge's court here recently.

Judge Md Golam Rabbani awarded life term to Fuljan Nesa, 60, and her son Atiar Rahman, 34, and five years' imprisonment to Awar and Ayub. Two other accused, Samser and Abir, were acquitted.

The prosecution case in brief is that Sabina, 19, wife of Atiar, was beaten to death at her husband's house at Balarampur village in the district on April 24, 1995. A UD case was lodged with the local thana in this connection. Later, the police getting post mortem report filed case against the convicted persons.

The JCD activists also damaged a petrol pump and some shops.

Baby beaten to death

By Staff Correspondent

A minor boy, reportedly assaulted by his father about two weeks ago, died in the city yesterday morning.

Joni, about one year old, was severely beaten by his father, Toyeb Ali, who also beat his mother, Behana, in their house at Tejgunipara following a family feud. The boy succumbed to his injuries at about 8 am, police and the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) sources said.

Behana left her husband's house and shifted to a place in Kamrangirchar a few days ago.

Labagh police took the body to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death case has been filed.

PM: Govt firm

From Page 1

the standard of education, the Prime Minister said that her government would enunciate a modern education policy, based on science, technology and need of the hour in the light of the famous Dr Kudar-e-Khuda Education Policy.

The Prime Minister, while speaking on her government's vow to eradicate the curse of illiteracy from the country, called upon the teachers to deploy the students in this noble task.

The Prime Minister urged the teachers to help her government streamline that education system as well as to stop leakage of question papers, copying in the examination halls and other illegal practices.

The Prime Minister also urged them to remain vigilant against the motives of those who wanted to fish in the troubled water through creating artificial issues by setting fires on college buildings, jute-godowns, disrupting examinations and fuelling illegal activities and patronising violence and terrorism.

Earlier, the federation leaders hailed the decision of the Prime Minister to relegate the responsibility of the chancellor to the President.

They extended total support to the Prime Minister in her efforts to build a prosperous hunger-free Bangladesh.

Earlier, one minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the father of the nation.

Intense parleys

From Page 1

its leader.

But in a significant development several Congress lawmakers protested party chief Sitaram Kesri's decision to withdraw support to the coalition and triggering the crisis, Press Trust of India news agency reported.

About 150 Congress lawmakers of both houses of parliament have demanded a meeting of the party to fix responsibility for what they called a "blunder," PTI said.

Meanwhile, the rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party — the largest group in Parliament — moved to explore the possibility of coming to power.

"We have not been able to talk to any regional party" of the Front, said BJP spokesman Sushma Swaraj. BJP was in power for 13 days last May, but could not find a majority.

President Sharma will now have to decide which group has the best chance to fashion a viable coalition.

But the numbers in parliament do not easily add up to a majority. The United Front has 178 members, the Congress 140 and the BJP and its allies 193 in the 545-member lower house. The government needs a majority of 272 seats.

The political uncertainty has worried trade groups that fear the momentum of the economic reforms will be lost.

"The fall of the government and the manner in which it has happened has caused deep sadness in the Indian industry," said Shekhar Datta, chief of the Confederation of Indian Industry, the largest trade body.

Other industrial and business organisations expressed similar views.

Today's newspapers were outraged by Congress chief Kesri's sudden withdrawal of support. In a front-page editorial, the mass-circulated Indian Express newspaper said his action was "crass, unthinking, irresponsible."

Bangladesh, who have also a quite convincing batting lineup, will have to score 4-8 runs per over to win the match.

(Scorecard on Page 11)

JCD-BCL clash at Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 12: Two policemen were seriously injured during a clash between the activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League and the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal here this evening.

Eyewitnesses said the clash started when some BCL activists reached the venue of JCD council session at 6:30 pm. Both the groups made chase and counter-chase. Later the dias of council meeting was ransacked allegedly by the BCL workers.

ASP Dost Mohammad and Habibur Bashir received injuries during the clash. They were rushed to the Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

The JCD activists also damaged a petrol pump and some shops.

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