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Major reforms in legal, judicial system a must: CJ

A World Bank-sponsored project aimed at making the country's judicial system more dynamic to meet the need of modern society was launched yesterday, reports UNB.

The Judicial and Legal Capacity Building Project will identify various bottlenecks in the legal and judicial process and prepare specific recommendations for removing those.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Chief Justice ATM Afzal said it is imperative that necessary major reforms are brought about in the legal and judicial system so that justice can be delivered quickly and in a cost-effective way.

He said reform should include a review of the doctrinal foundations of the traditional system of administrative justice in order to determine the role and objectives of such a system in today's changing world.

Justice Afzal said country's legal system is mostly inherited from British period and except a few new legislations from time to time, its basic structure, by and large, remained unchanged over the decades.

As a result, the Chief Justice observed, the administration of justice has lagged behind in desired reforms to cope with the transformations and changes in socio-economic scenario.

Justice Afzal stressed the need for a modern and efficient legal system to meet the new demands arising from cases linked to private commercial activities. Laws and regulations in this regard should be enforced fairly and speedily.

The Chief Justice said the government would urgently have to make adequate budgetary provision for new court-rooms and judges' chambers.

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru said people are gradually losing confidence in the country's judiciary due to the costly, complex and lengthy process.

He stressed the need of comprehensive programme for re-organising the legal and judicial procedure.

Khasru said inadequate legal system discourages foreign investment that is essential for development. Laws should be liberalised to facilitate foreign investors.

World Bank Resident Mission Chief Pierre Landell-Mills said if justice is delayed, not only justice is denied, but "development is also denied."

Referring to huge congestion of pending cases in the High Court and other problems in the legal and judicial sector, he underlined urgent judicial reforms.

The World Bank Mission Chief assured the government of strong and continued support from the bank in the legal reforms programmes in Bangladesh.

Primary Edn Week begins

The National Primary Education Week '97 began yesterday with a call to create awareness among the people about the significance of primary education in national development, reports BSS.

Deputy Minister for Primary and Mass Education Prof. Zinatun Nessa Talukder inaugurated the week by planting sapling at Motijheel Ideal Government Primary School premises in the city.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion the deputy minister said, the present government is committed to eradicate the curse of illiteracy from the country by 2005. She said, it has become the national responsibility of all to educate the general mass to turn them into human resources.

One killed in Habiganj clash

HABIGANJ, June 14: An old man was killed and 50 others were injured in a clash at Biratgram in Azmiriganj thana today, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said supporters of Motabbir Hossain and Atar Ali of the village clashed over a family dispute in the morning.

Atar Ali, 65, a supporter of Atar Ali, died on the spot when a bullet hit him during the fighting in which firearms and sharp weapons were used.

The injured were admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital and Azmiriganj thana health complex.

8 more killed in Karachi violence

KARACHI, June 14: Eight people, including a policeman, were killed in violent incidents in the Pakistani city of Karachi today, police said, reports Reuter.

They said two gunmen on a motorcycle shot dead police constable Shah Murad, 53, near new town police station.

In a separate incident, gunmen kidnapped, tortured and hanged a 22-year old man, before dumping his body in a sewer in the volatile Li-aquatabad area, police said.

A 25-year-old man identified only as Sardar was stabbed to death in District South, Dir Faraz, 30, was shot dead in Quaidabad and gunfire killed Syed Mumtaz Hussain in north Nazimabad in District Central. Three other people were killed in separate areas of the southern part city, police said.

Savimbi ready to meet Angolan President

LISBON, Portugal, June 14: Former Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, trying to defuse a crisis imperiling the peace process, said Friday he is willing to fly to Italy to meet with Angola's vacationing president, reports AP.

Savimbi is prepared to go to the Italian island of Sardinia, where President Jose Eduardo dos Santos is reported to be on vacation, according to a statement from the Lisbon delegation of UNITA, the former rebel group Savimbi heads. These would be the first face-to-face talks between the former adversaries in more than a year.

FBCCI

domestic production in this sector.

Urging people specially the business community to extend all out cooperation to the government for creating favourable measures for development, he hailed the proposals for setting up a housing fund in the social sector, old age pension and setting up of an employment bank. He also welcomed major reform proposals on direct tax.

He mentioned that by expanding the tax base a large number of people will be brought under the tax network which will have positive effect in revenue earning. But the success of these proposals will largely depend on the sincerity and efficiency of tax officials engaged at field level, he pointed out.

High priority given in allocating funds for education, human resource development and poverty alleviation deserves appreciation. Adequate physical infrastructure is a pre-condition for industrialisation and allocation of Tk 7,327 for development of this sector is praise-worthy, the FBCCI president observed.

He further said it was expected that there will be minimum difference of 10 per cent corporate tax in case of listed companies to rejuvenate the capital market. Reduction of corporate tax will certainly help industrialisation.

The proposal for privatisation of 65 state-owned enterprises in the next fiscal year is a step in the right direction. This will ensure savings of a large sum of money for the government as subsidy to these public sector enterprises, the FBCCI president noted.



A children's procession in observance of the National Primary Education Week '97 was brought out in the city yesterday by the Monitoring Unit for Implementation of Compulsory Primary Education. — Star photo

D-8: Dhaka, Ankara

From Page 1

Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Co-Chairman of Bangladesh-Turkey Joint Economic Commission Esen Gul received the Prime Minister at the Istanbul Airport as she arrived on a two-day visit.

The Prime Minister was taken by helicopter to Ciragan Palace Hotel where she will be staying during her visit.

One killed, 55 hurt in road accidents

One person was killed and 55 others were injured in separate road accidents in Khagrachhari and Habiganj yesterday, reports UNB.

A young man was killed and 35 people were injured when a passenger bus fell 80 feet into a deep ditch at hilly area in Sadar thana yesterday, police said.

The Khagrachhari-bound bus from the capital skidded off the road as the driver lost control of the vehicle at Nakapa area, some 40 km off the district town, at about 12:15 pm.

Helper of the bus Yunus Bhuiyan, 20, died on the spot.

The seriously injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Ramgar Thana Health Complex.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with Sadar police.

In Habiganj, at least 25 passengers were injured in a head-on collision between two passenger buses on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Deorgachh in Chunarughat thana yesterday.

Port users

Following the government assurance, leaders of the Forum met at a local hotel and decided to withdraw the strike call, its convener Kamal Uddin Ahmed told UNB.

He, however, said that they were to discuss the issue with the city mayor, port chairman and high officials at a meeting here at 12 midnight.

The Forum had called for the strike on June 7.

D-8 to be launched

From Page 1

peoples and will emphasise on 10 thrust areas of cooperation.

The countries which are involved in the launching of the new organisation initiated by Turkey are Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia and Nigeria.

Each of the eight pioneering nations of the proposed organisation had earlier set up working groups on the 10 thrust areas to prepare detailed reports and recommendations on the different sectors for possible implementation. It was learnt that the D-8 has decided to take up 50 mega-projects for giving focused attention for co-operation.

Bangladesh, which took up the task of heading the working group on rural development and micro-credit, is learnt to have already finalised its proposals.

The other thrust areas of co-operation that have been identified and given responsibility for preparing recommendations are: Turkey—Industry and Health, Pakistan—Agriculture, Nigeria—Energy, Indonesia—Development of Human Resources, Malaysia—Banking and Finance, Iran—Science & Technology and Information & Communication and Egypt—Transportation.

The draft charter of the organisation has already been approved at a meeting of senior officials and at the Council of Ministers meeting held in Istanbul yesterday, according to diplomatic sources.

The "Developing Eight" would try to launch a shipping line, and devise methods to sell agricultural products among the members such as cotton, jute and other items. The organisation would also try to work out methods for building backward linkages for ready made garments in the post Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA) context among other economic subjects of common concern, the sources said.

Although the OIC composes of 56 countries, the eight countries floating the "Developing-8" has nearly half the population of the OIC states.

On October 22 last year, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury attended the first ministerial meet in Turkey to discuss the formation of the "D-8" grouping.

The organisation reached a more concrete stage when it held a high level meeting on March 13 and 14 in Istanbul in preparation for its formal launching. Bangladesh was represented in the Istanbul meeting by a senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The permanent Secretariat of the "Developing-8" is likely to be located in Istanbul.

McVeigh to die for Oklahoma City bombing

DENVER, June 14: Timothy McVeigh has been condemned to death for the deadliest terrorist attack on US soil, accepting the ultimate punishment without so much as a blink, reports AP.

"It's OK," he later mouthed to his parents.

As US District Judge Richard Matsch read the jury's unanimous decision Friday, his usually firm voice wavered slightly. Bombing survivors and victims' relatives gasped and cried out to each other's shoulders and held hands.

The same seven-man, five-woman jury that convicted McVeigh of murder and conspiracy on June 2 deliberated for more than 11 hours over two days before deciding the 29-year-old decorated Gulf War veteran should die by injection rather than spend the rest of his life in prison for the April 19, 1995 bombing in Oklahoma City.

McVeigh's father's shoulder slumped, his sister cried and his mother sat silently, saving her tears until after the court session.

McVeigh sat in the same position as when he was convicted: narrowed eyes on the judge, hands clasped and pressed against his cheek, no movement whatsoever in his expressionless face.

Yet as he was led out of the courtroom, he made a small, two-fingered wave to his parents and then made the same wave to the jury that condemned him, nodding his head up and down. They stared blankly back.

Matsch, who must abide by the jury's decision, said he will impose the actual sentences later this summer, after a July 7 deadline for motions and appeals.

Anti-Taliban jet bombs Kabul airport

KABUL, June 14: A anti-Taliban jet fighter rocked Kabul shortly before midnight Friday when it bombed the capital's airport, reports AP.

A single bomb landed near the airport in a largely deserted area of the city, according to eyewitnesses. But the concussion shook buildings and rattled windows in the area.

The bombing run was followed by nearly one hour of anti-aircraft fire by Taliban soldiers, who control the capital and roughly two-thirds of Afghanistan.

There were no reports of casualties in the bombing, the first in nearly three months to rattle the capital.

Statement

From Page 1

Erbakan, modern Turkey's first pro-Islamic premier, issued the idea of the grouping last October.

Heads of state and government of Iran, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Malaysia will attend tomorrow's summit that will be inaugurated by host president Suleyman Demirel.

Nigeria and Egypt have sent ministers to represent their countries.

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Saifur: Fiscal measures

From Page 1

served that budgetary allocations in different sectors would be much less compared with previous years after adjustment with the rate of inflation.

He opposed the import duties on textile machinery and cotton, saying this will destroy the country's growing textile sector as it will lose competitiveness.

Rahman said considering the Uruguay Round, GATT, WTO and future global context, the BNP government had withdrawn tax from the textile sector and brought it to zero tax for the growth of the industry and bright future of the garments sector.

As a result of BNP's policy, he said, over 80 new textile mills were set up during the BNP rule and the country's knit fabrics attained international standard.

He wanted to know for whose interest tax was proposed on textile sector. "Will it bring any benefit or destroy the textile sector?"

Rahman criticised the imposition of VAT on small and cottage industries and said the major employment-generating sector would be badly affected by the value added tax.

About the GDP growth of 5.7 per cent for the outgoing fiscal year, he said it was based on fancies and could be perceived at the end of the year.

Referring to the use of ADP outlay of Tk 11,700 crore, he said the total utilisation of the ADP fund would be less than Tk 11,000 crore.

About the Foreign Direct Investment, Rahman said only 329 million US dollar had been invested till February of the current fiscal when the FDI was 1560 million US dollar during the last year on the BNP rule.

Rahman was critical of borrowing from banks by the government and said there had not been any investment as the private sector was driven out of bank assistance.

"Due to wrong monetary policy and excessive borrowing from banks, the private sector only got loan of Tk 600 crore this year. How the private sector will invest if the government borrows a huge money from banks?"

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The bombing run was followed by nearly one hour of anti-aircraft fire by Taliban soldiers, who control the capital and roughly two-thirds of Afghanistan.

There were no reports of casualties in the bombing, the first in nearly three months to rattle the capital.

He also disagreed with the ruling party that the bank debt culture started from Ziaur Rahman's period. He said total bank loan was Tk 1763 crore as of June 30, 1991, the year Zia died.

In 1991, he said, the Begum Zia government inherited outstanding bank loan to the tune of Tk 17,823 crore from the Ershad administration, but the Awami League government did not mention the Ershad regime.

Referring to Foreign Direct Investment, Saifur Rahman said the FDI reduced tremendously compared to BNP's last year.

He said BNP government had started with 25 million US dollar FDI in 1991 and it rose to 1560 million US dollar in early 1996. But the FDI in last eight months of this year stood at only 329 million plus which may increase to 550 million US dollar at the end of the year.

The press conference was attended by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badrud-doza Chowdhury, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP, Abul Mannan MP, Fazlur Rahman Patal, MP, Alamgir Kabir, MP and Ehsanul Kabir.

Khaleda

From Page 1

any of the BNP-made budgets."

She alleged that the Awami League government was destroying the country instead of building it. It is talking of giving subsidy in the agriculture sector, but at the same time is imposing taxes on agri inputs and instruments, Begum Zia said.

"This policy will make the farmers helpless and result in production fall," she said.

The former prime minister said if the budget is passed without any amendments, the nation will lag behind.

In the proposed budget, said BGMEA leaders, imposition of surcharge and taxes on textile machinery and raw materials will ultimately jeopardise flourishing textile industry. "Consequently, we will not be able to compete with India and Pakistan," they added.

They said the garment sector was brought up during the BNP rule when the number of garments industries rose to 2,300 from 700 and that of employees to 13 lakh from three lakh. The sector now contributes 66 per cent to the country's export earnings.

The BGMEA leaders handed over a cheque of Tk five lakh to Begum Zia for the cyclone victims. They also invited the leader of the Opposition to attend as chief guest the concluding function of the BATEXPO likely to be held in late August.

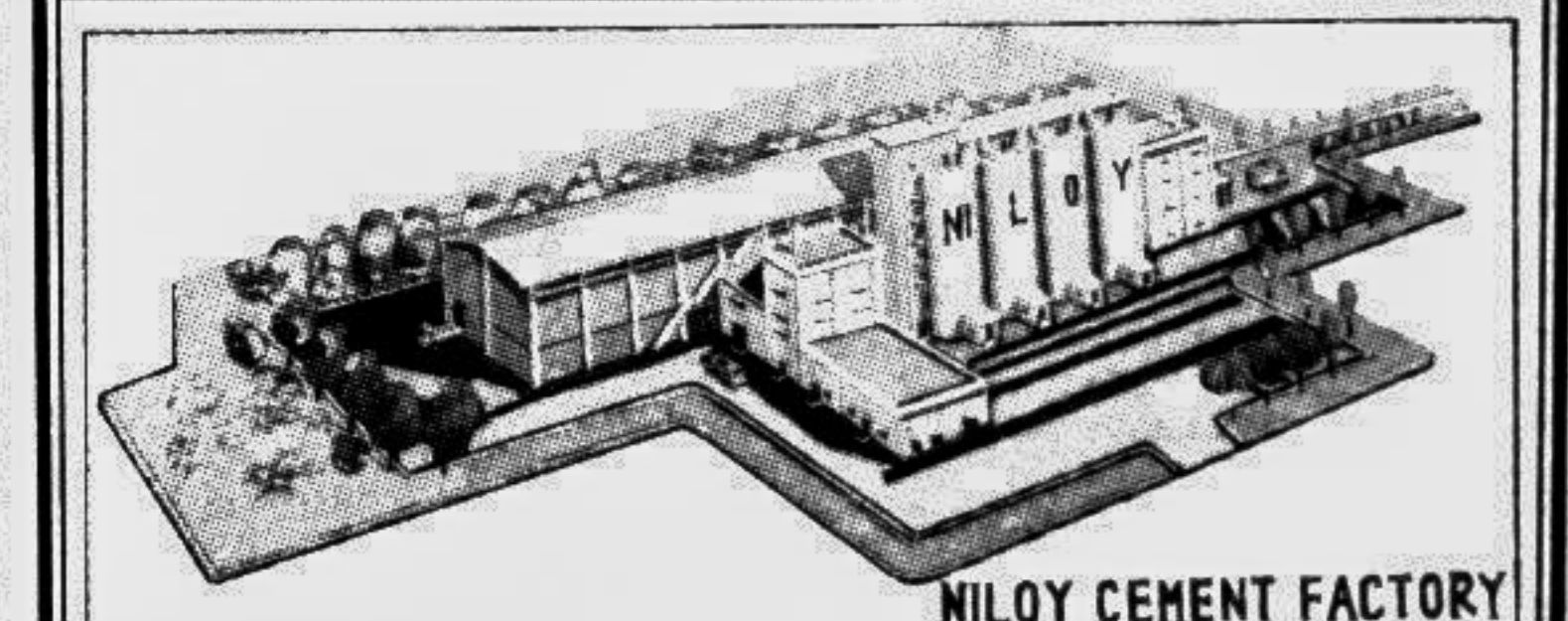
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Head Office, Dhaka

NOTICE

Closure of Register of ICB Unit Certificate Holders

This is to notify that the Register of ICB Unit Certificate holders will remain closed from 1st July, 1997 to 31st July, 1997 (both days inclusive).

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