

BLUE DART

EXPRESS LIMITED

ON BOARD COURIER
EACH DAY EVERY DAY
TO INDIA

PLEASE CONTACT:
BANGLADESH AIR EXPRESS INT'L
For more information call Head Office: 9565114, Gulshan: 607857,
887771, Chittagong: (031) 712127, Khulna: (041) 725908



Members of Biswabiddalaya Karmasangathan Prokolpo (Bikolpo) brought out a procession from Sapla Square in the city yesterday protesting alleged misbehaviour with the Governor of Bangladesh Bank.

Beximco asked to show cause

From page 1
tution, seeking winding up of BICL, he accused it of opening 'illegally', defrauding creditor banks and not repaying them a penny, including Tk 74 crore to EBL.

The EBL counsel sought appointment of a provisional liquidator, alleging that total unpaid debts of the BICL stands at nearly Tk 500 crore owed to its creditors including British, Dutch and German-aided financial institutions, local and foreign banks.

He also claimed that the BICL had been doing business without licence from the Bangladesh Bank, which, he opined, is a punishable offence. Winding up his arguments, Barrister Mahmud said, "the BICL had to be prevented as it defrauded people and the banks

Calorie

From page 1
was 1868 per day in the country against the average daily requirement of 2039.

Prof. Jahan termed the malnutrition situation as alarming particularly for the children and pregnant mothers. Due to malnutrition there are possibilities of the disabled and handicapped population increasing in the country, she said.

Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Prof. Kamaluddin Ahmed and Prof. Mosharraf Hossain were also present at the press conference.

Prof. Jahan said that since 1964 when the first Nutrition Survey was conducted, the average consumption of food-grains and most other kinds of food as well as nutrients have been declining.

Stampede

From page 1
Police and Fire Brigade officials said the spark in the electric line occurred on the fourth floor of the building that houses Shanghai Apparel Ltd. Two other factories, Tamanna Fabrics Ltd. and Jahanara Fashions Ltd. are also situated in the building.

DMCH sources said among the dead, 12 were identified as the workers of Jahanara Fashions Ltd. six of Shanghai Apparel Ltd. and four of Tamanna Fabrics Ltd.

The 12 identified as the workers Jahanara Fashions Ltd were Sukur, 14, Rehana, 35, Maleka, 20, Munira, 35, Khorshed, 37, Lipi, 14, Rina Begum, 50, Zahurul, 30, Shahana, 17, Kaipana, 20, Moyena, 18, and Rabeza Khatun, 37.

The six dead workers of Shanghai Ltd were identified as Jesmin, 15, Shahinur, 20, Maleka, 35, Swapna, 20, Meherun, 20, and Sapna, 18. The four others identified as the workers of Tamanna Fabrics Ltd were Najma, 18, Jahanara, 40, Razia Parvin, 26, and Rizia Begum, 35.

The condition of the injured workers who were admitted to the DMCH and Suhrawardy Hospital were improving.

Meanwhile, all the affected garments factories in the eight-storey building on Mazar Road remained closed yesterday. Police forces were on duty in the area. They were heard asking local people over microphone not to gather around the affected factory building.

Govt directive

From page 1
members of the committee which would submit its recommendations to the government within one month, said an official handout.

The meeting decided to issue directives to the garments factory owners to set up fire extinguishing system, ensure emergency exit facility and arrange group insurance for workers.

It also approved the proposed programmes for observing the national mourning day on August 15 at state level.

Besides, the overall flood situation, relief and rehabilitation activities, and the latest situation in Magurchara gasfield were also discussed.

Cabinet secretary, principal secretary to the Prime Minister, member (programme) of the Planning Commission and other secretaries were also present at the meeting.

with their guarantees."

"People have taken to the streets demonstrating against its owners, newspapers have reported it. We want that the court should come up to prevent fraudulent activities. Because they have been playing with other people's money. The ordinary muggers use knife to rob people but they are robbing people with papers. Whenever something happens they go to the court, file petitions, claim that even the Prime Minister depends on them to bring foreign investment in the country. If such fraudulent business practices are not checked the foreign investors would not come to this country," Barrister Mahmud alleged. He maintained that it would in no way affect other companies of BICL's owners.

Defending his clients, BICL counsel Barrister Rafiqul Huq refuted the arguments of the counsel for the petitioner and observed that it was a matter for Bangladesh Bank to see whether its rules are being followed.

Barrister Huq also expressed his anger against the media, accusing it of reporting the petition before it was being disposed of.

Citing the judgement of a previous case, he said mere filing of a petition and legal notice on winding up matters would create concern among creditors of the company.

Barrister Rafiqul Huq, a former Attorney General, expressed his anger against the media saying that whole purpose of filing the petition was to defame his clients. "It was filed yesterday (Wednesday) but it made headlines in the newspapers immediately. It's just an attempted blackmail while we are working on other cases, some 65 of them," he added.

His remarks on the media evoked sharp reaction from Dr Zahir, a senior counsel assisting Barrister Mahmud. He said other factories, Tamanna Fabrics Ltd. and Jahanara Fashions Ltd. are also situated in the building.

Barrister Mahmud said the media had been covering the arguments since Wednesday. "They are still here today," he told the court.

Hartal observed at Kamalganj

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, July 31: A six hour hartal was observed at Kamalganj thana headquarters today demanding immediate solution to the problems arising out of Magurchara gasfield fire. The Kamalganj Gano Oikya Parishad called the hartal.

The parishad brought out processions in thana headquarters and held a rally.

Cabinet

From page 1
and the latest situation in the affected areas, cabinet sources said.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Let Gen (Retd) Noor Uddin Khan, however, assured his cabinet colleagues that he would submit the report next week. The cabinet members held a 'special meeting' yesterday evening with Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad in the chair.

A cabinet meeting on July 21 resolved that the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister should submit a comprehensive report to the cabinet describing the causes of the explosion at the drilling site, measures taken to extinguish the fire, content of the agreement signed with Occidental and so on.

The Energy Minister failed to submit the report at yesterday's cabinet meeting, a minister told this correspondent. "The minister concerned assured us that he would submit the report next week."

While talking to this correspondent over telephone last night, Noor Uddin Khan admitted that he had received the official investigation committee's report on Wednesday. Requested to disclose certain findings on the incident, he said: "I am yet to start reading of the report."

PM's directive to give Tk 50,000 to each family of victims killed in stampede

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has directed the officials concerned to provide Tk 50 thousand to each of the family of 25 victims who were killed in a stampede at a garments factory at Mirpur on Wednesday evening, reports BSS.

This was disclosed by Dr S A Malek, political advisor to the Prime Minister, while talking to the family members of the victims during his visits to the garments factory and the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the morning.

Dr Malek said the Prime Minister has expressed her deep shock at the tragic incident. The Prime Minister, now in Miami, USA, was immediately informed of the incident.

The Prime Minister has also directed to provide necessary assistance to the injured people. Dr Malek said the government would constitute an enquiry committee to find out the cause of the incident.

Occidental

From page 1
representatives of Occidental Company.

The committee will submit its report on the extent of damage caused to the families.

The meeting was told that the forest department would earmark an area to rehabilitate 40 affected families and Occidental Company would bear the expenses for their rehabilitation.

The meeting also decided to formally announce the area adjacent to the blow-out gas field as restricted area for the general people as it is still dangerous.

The minister advised the Occidental to seal the mouth of the gas well after identifying the place for digging relief well. The representative of Occidental said that they were trying their best to identify the place for relief well.

Bangabandhu

From page 1
their cross-examination of PW-4, who said that by the lawyer for one of the five accused in custody remained incomplete. The proceedings began at around 10:35 am and ended at around 4:30 pm.

When the judge announced a 75-minute break at around 1:55 pm, the five accused present in the dock were taken to the prison to have their meals as they were already granted division in the jail.

Two lawyers of the state defence were changed yesterday. Anisul Huq, one of the special public prosecutors in the case, told The Daily Star that one of the reasons for the change was that the two had declined to continue and that they were replaced by more experienced ones.

The proceedings will resume at 10:30 am on Monday, the judge said.

During the cross examination yesterday, Sikder told the court that he was on duty at the place of occurrence till about 10:00 am on August 17, 1975. The next day, he went to Comilla along with his company and reported to Lt Col Syed Ali Asghar.

The body of Bangabandhu and those of his family members were lying in that house till August 16, he said, adding that their photographs were also taken in that position.

"I was posted to guard the bodies at the residence of Bangabandhu under the command of Major Bazul Huda," he said, adding that under the army rules, he was bound to follow the instructions of a superior officer.

Those who attacked the residence of Bangabandhu did not disarm them and also did not obstruct their movement in the house, Sikder said.

Regarding the police guards at the residence, the PW-4 said he had not noticed whether they had fired shots to counter the attack.

Dhaka requests EU to allow entry of shrimp till Sept 30

Bangladesh has requested the EU to delay a ban on import of frozen foods, including shrimp, till September 30, allowing the country's exporters to conform with the European health standards, reports UNB.

The request was made in an emergency meeting between Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and nine ambassadors of the European Union countries yesterday, following the ban on imports of Bangladesh frozen foods.

The EU imposed the ban last week alleging that Bangladesh exporters were not complying with the health standard and regulations set by the Union for exporting frozen foods to its member countries.

The Union, however, decided to allow the entry of consignments of frozen foods, including shrimp, till August 15.

Azad requested the EU envoys that the consignments of shrimp which are on the way and ready for shipment under LC already opened by the European importers be allowed to enter into their markets till September 30.

Bangladesh, the minister said, needs technical and material support to improve, strengthen and upgrade the existing fish producing and processing units.

"We have informed them that we want to conform with the health standards of the European Union," Azad later told a press conference at the state guest house Padma, referring to his meeting with the envoys.

President hosts dinner for former advisers

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday hosted a dinner for advisers of the interim government of 1991 and caretaker government of 1996 at Bangabhaban, reports BSS.

Former Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman and Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, among others, attended the dinner.

Earlier, President Shahabuddin welcomed the guests and exchanged pleasantries with them, a Bangabhaban release said.

Khaleda: BTV

From page 1
its "malicious" attitude to the major opposition party, according to insiders.

Asked if Begum Zia would participate in the programme, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP told The Daily Star last night, "Chances are slim for her to appear in the programme provided the authorities ignore our demand that the BTB shun its present practice of belittling us and destroying our public image through its biased coverage."

Mannan Bhuiyan also hinted that he might spell out the party position on the issue at a press conference he is scheduled to address today.

Another central leader of the BNP said they are planning to send a letter to the BTB authorities in a couple of days reiterating its demand for a guarantee that the government-controlled medium would not be used for undermining the opposition party and for tarnishing the image of Begum Zia and others in the party.

The letter, likely to be drafted today, may also contain BNP's demand that the party programmes, including the one Begum Zia has been invited to take part, be covered by the BTB impartially and without any motive, sources said.

Rohingyas must go

From page 1
"Lot of vested interests have been created centring the refugees", he said without elaborating.

Responding to a question if the Rohingyas were refusing to go back fearing persecution and because there was no democracy in Myanmar, the foreign minister replied, "It is the responsibility of the international community to look into that."

He, however, added that the government of Sheikh Hasina supported the democratic forces in Myanmar led by Aung San Su Kyi.

He referred to the recent visit of a Minister of Netherlands and said "we allowed him to visit whatever places he wanted to."

Asked about the reported US objection to the construction of an oil refinery by Iran in Bangladesh, Samad Azad replied, "We do not know about any objection. However, we will look into any complaint if it involves harming the interests of others."

The foreign minister admitted that the government has still not succeeded in extraditing the persons allegedly involved in the killing of Bangabandhu. The government was still continuing its efforts and was trying to conclude extradition treaties with foreign countries, he noted.

Replying to a question if the extradition treaties would be with the countries where the absconders were living in, he said, "We are trying to have extradition treaties with them and all countries."

Samad Azad said that Bangladesh was trying to improve its relations with Islamabad.

He said he had discussions with the Pakistan government mainly on three points. These

He said the envoys were "sympathetic" to the Bangladesh position and informed him that they would convey his request to their respective countries.

The nine European ambassadors, including European Commission Charge des Affaires Alain Ruche explained their country position in the meeting held at the Foreign Office.

IFIC Bank: Appeal by Aga Yusuf dismissed

By Staff Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed an appeal by Aga Yusuf, Director of IFIC Bank, against Sohail F Rahman and Salman F Rahman, Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Bank, and others.

The appeal was filed against an order passed by the Vacation Bench of the High Court Division on December 18 last year staying the operation of the interim order of the injunction earlier obtained by Aga Yusuf from a division bench of the HC on December 10.

The injunction matter arose after a suit filed by Aga Yusuf challenging the election of ASF Rahman and Salman F Rahman as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of IFIC, according to a press release by Barrister Rafique-Ul-Huq, counsel for the Rahman brothers yesterday.

DSE AGM held

The annual general meeting of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday unanimously approved the councilors' report, the audited accounts and the balance sheet reports BSS.

Members of the house discussed various issues relating to the stock exchange including the automation system.

The DSE Chairman MA Huq Howlader presided over the annual general meeting for fiscal 1995-96 held on the trading floor.

Attorney-Gen

From page 1
were implicated as contempters. It was stated in the contempt petitions that the NBR reference to a message sent by the Attorney General to the Chairman of the NBR did not release some imported consignments in compliance with the orders of the HC passed in the respective writ petitions.

The official circular of the NBR quoted the message sent by the Attorney General as saying "May I request you not to release any consignments on the basis of personal guarantee for release of the consignments, as the matter would be appealed against before the Appellate Division of the Hon'ble Supreme Court."

Therefore, there is no apprehension of contempt of court being committed by any Customs officials.

Mohammad Enamul Hoque, Second Secretary (Customs Law) in the circular said, "I am directed to request you to kindly act accordingly."

However, it was stated in the petitions that the contempters are yet to file any appeal before the Appellate Division nor have they filed any review petition before the respective bench of the HC.

Two contempt petitions were filed through Senior Advocate Habibul Islam Bhuiyan and four were filed through Barrister Mohammad Ali.

L'ORÉAL PARIS
STUDIO LINE
Sculpt your hair any way you like it
TRANSCOM DISTRIBUTION CO. LTD.



Rokia Rahman new BEA president

The members of Bangladesh Employers' Association (BEA), at their 46th annual general meeting yesterday elected Rokia A Rahman its new president for 1997-98, says a press release.

AQI Chowdhury was elected the new vice-president.

Rahman is the Managing Director of RR Cold Storage Ltd. and was the Vice-President of the Association.

Chowdhury is the General Manager, James Finlay Plc. and Chairman of Bangladesh Shyba Cha Sangsad.

The elected members of the new committee are: Benajir Ahmed — Managing Director of Raymond Garments (Pvt.) Ltd., Iftekharul Alam — Chairman & Managing Director of Om-nichem Limited, Khurshid Azam — Managing Director of Mohsen Jute Mills Limited, S A Azim — Chairman of Azim & Son (Pvt.) Ltd., A Rahim Chowdhury — President & Managing Director of Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd., S Fazul Haque — Managing Director (Designate) of Glass Wellcome Bangladesh Limited, Zeaul Huq — Chairman & Managing Director of Orixi Limited, Sabrina Islam — Managing Director of Concorde Garments Ltd., Nicholas J S Miller — Managing Director of Nestle Bangladesh Limited, and Feroz Rahim — Managing Director of Rahim-mafrooz Batteries Limited.

Hartal observed at Kushtia
From Staff Correspondent
KUSHTIA, July 31: A dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed at Kushtia today in protest against the ban on admission into first year classes at Kushtia Government University College at the call of the Sammilito Sangram Parishad of the students.

Gulshan Lake

From page 1
well as confusion in the mind of the people should be taken into account.

Nasim said he was surprised to see that both the former prime minister and the works minister had approved the project. "It seems that they also ignored the existing rules," he added.

The works minister said the committee would also evaluate the past activities of the company, background leading to the signing of the agreement and the company's investment experience.

Ctg BNP

From page 1
70 leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations have already signed resignation papers and the number will stand at 130 by tomorrow, BSS quoting a press release said.

FM: Khaleda

From page 1
meeting foreign envoys."

He, however, mentioned that as foreign minister after independence he had allowed use of the Cantonment Golf Course by foreign diplomats. He said diplomats were encouraged to use that as they would have otherwise gone to Calcutta or Bangkok for playing golf.

We regret the inadvertent error.

Most garments units

From page 1
sometimes very difficult to conduct firefighting operation as a number of factories in the city were situated in congested areas. There was lack of water in many places due to indiscriminate filling of ponds and low lying areas. "Sometimes, we have to fetch water from far away places to fight a fire," an official said.

They also said, different government departments were giving permission to set up factories without even consulting the Fire Service. "These accidents are man-made which can be prevented if we are a little careful about certain safety measures," said a Fire Service official.

Besides, sources said, there were a lot of flaws in the power supply lines in the garments factories. It was reported that many garments factories required power sub-stations to deal with the heavy load of different machines. But the owners often undermined the need and even used substandard electrical appliances.

The Daily Star reported in June last year that most of the city's garments units even lacked licence from the FSCD. At the time, out of about 1,950 garments factories in the city and its suburbs, only 936 had licence from the Fire Service Directorate.

According to the FSCD Ordinance, "no building or place shall be used as a warehouse or as a workshop unless the owner or occupier thereof shall have previously obtained under this ordinance, a licence for such use from the Director (fire service)."

A workshop has been defined in the ordinance as any building or place where the processing of any article is carried out for purpose of trade or business. Presently, the FSCD has declared some 200 articles inflammable. These include cotton, wool, jute, chemicals, bamboo and yarn. Fire service sources said.

However, the fire service sources said, they had only four inspectors in Dhaka and only two in Narayanganj to check the fire safety measures in industries including garments factories.

Khaleda visits Shanghai Apparels

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday visited the Shanghai Apparels Limited at Mirpur in the city where 23 garment workers died in a stampede caused by fears of outbreak of a fire in the factory on Wednesday.

During her visit in the afternoon, the Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad talked to the members of the victims' families and others present there. Later, she went round the factory and then visited a nearby clinic where some of the injured were under treatment.

At the clinic, she enquired about the condition of the injured and saw the bodies of two more victims who succumbed to their injuries on the day.

It was a heart-rending scene when the relatives of the victims burst into tears and embraced Begum Zia who consoled the grief-stricken people.

The Opposition leader was accompanied by BNP joint secretary general Abdullah Al Noman, Dhaka city unit convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, Chhatra Dal leader Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, Mirpur BNP leaders Abdul Malek and Moazzem Hossain.

Errata

In our news item under caption "EBL seeks liquidation of Beximco Investment Co." published yesterday, two paragraphs were misquoted. They should read as follows:

BICL's memorandum of association shows that it is an investment company and financial institution. "Their object clause is To advance, deposit and lend and to discount by selling bills, notes, warrants and other negotiable instruments, to reinvest money on deposit, loan and otherwise acquire share, stock, bond debenture etc.", which business can only be carried out by a financial institution, investment company or a bank," he alleged.

"Its business activities falls within the definition of financial institution as given in the Financial Institutions Act and banking business as defined by the Banking Company Act, 1991. It needed licence from the Bangladesh Bank under the Banking Company Act. They are conducting business violating the relevant provisions of the acts, hence they have committed offences punishable with imprisonment under Section 30 of Financial Institutions Act," he alleged and further claimed that it is "defrauding the creditor banks".

We regret the inadvertent error.

Sonali Bank
Branch at Hotel Sheraton
Sonali Bank Paribagh DIT Super Market Branch will be shifted to Hotel Sheraton Complex, 1, Minto Road, Dhaka, with effect from Sunday, 03 August '97 and normal banking will be resumed from that day.
All honoured clients, patrons and well-wishers are requested to contact Sonali Bank, Sheraton Complex Branch in stead of Paribagh Branch from 03 August, 1997.
Sonali Bank
DEDICATED TO MATERIALIZE THE DREAM OF GOLDEN BENGAL
Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Printed by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 and published by him on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX 5000924. Commercial 500091. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR. DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net