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SB sanctions Tk 73cr industrial loans

Sonali Bank sanctioned Tk 73 crore in industrial loan for textile, jute, dairy, frozen food and cold storage industries, reports UNB.

Besides, a Tk 2-crore special credit has been sanctioned by the bank for employment-generation schemes for the destitute.

The loans were sanctioned in the 563rd meeting of the Sonali Bank Board of Directors at the bank's head office in the city yesterday.

Of the total industrial loans, Tk 38 crore was sanctioned for textile industry, Tk 11 crore for jute, Tk 14 crore for cold storage, Tk 3.5 crore for dairy and Tk 4.5 crore for frozen food.

A Tk 50-crore textile industry to be set up in Savar Export Processing Zone is the biggest project among the recipients. Sonali Bank is contributing Tk 13.9 crore.

Comilla College closed for 7 days

COMILLA, Sept 9: Comilla Government College has been closed for a week following a clash between Awami League backed Chhatra League and pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said BCL and JCD activists locked in the clash over a bicycle that was stolen from the campus.

A student, Zafar, was seriously injured in the clash. He was admitted to Comilla Sadar Hospital.

Corruption in edn boards

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gested by the Task Force include: establishment of education boards in every division; regional board offices in greater districts; introduction of grade system changing the present one; establishment of public examination halls in every thanas.

It also recommended that teachers involved in publishing centre books and coaching centres should be excluded from the process of examination system.

"Measures should be taken to monitor investigations into irregularities and corruption in the educational boards," the Task Force recommended and also suggested, "immediate legal measures against those officials and employees of the boards against whom charges of mismanagement and corruption have been proved sufficiently".

It was noticed that records and files in the education boards are maintained at the whims of the officials and employees, the report added.

"The ledger book on the fees deposited by students and institutions are also not maintained properly. Additional fees are charged illegally from every examinee of all the boards under various heads like sports, science and technology, education week etc., although the allocation for these sectors are given from the national budget."

Regarding the tussle between the permanent staff members and officials posted on deputation, the Task Force observed, "Most of the officials including the chairmen of the boards are often posted there on deputation."

"Many of them do not have prior administrative experience which make them dependent on permanent staff members in running the day to day activities. It has led to an administrative chaos in the management."

According to the findings of the task force, the permanent staff members, who under the Ordinance of 1961, cannot be transferred from one place to another, take advantage of the situation.

High officials of the board

employed on deputation and students and parents coming from remote areas are often taken hostage by the permanent staff members for fulfilment of their illegal demands.

Permanent staff members are often employed on regional basis. Top priority is given to the relative and descendants of the staff members during recruitment of new employees.

The Task Force recommended that officials posted on deputation in the education boards should have prior administrative experience for all to participate in our nation-building efforts which are challenging."

A number of leading industrialists from the Philippines have already visited Bangladesh as part of the business delegation accompanying President Ramos, she said.

She said the Board of Investment in Bangladesh would provide you one-stop service.

Hasina hoped that the business leaders would give due consideration to the opportunities offered by her government and potentialities for investment and trade now existing in Bangladesh.

According to its findings, there are instances of getting 2000 answer papers examined by a single examiner within a period of one month.

The highest number of answer scripts to be examined by a single examiner of any subject should not be more than 400, the report said.

It also suggested that retired teachers could be engaged to examine answer scripts where there is a shortage of examiners.

The influence of political personalities and influential quarters have to be stopped for opening of new schools and colleges and making them centres of public examinations under various boards. The autonomous status of the boards have to be maintained".

It also observed gross irregularities in selection of examiners and head examiners by the board officials.

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Commenting on the official stance, a Titas official said, "It's a very flimsy excuse that system loss cannot be reduced. There are only 1700 industrial consumers and it's easily possible to find out the few hundred unscrupulous consumers and take action. But if the management itself is not interested in cutting down the loss, who is going to reduce it?"

He further said an "institutionalised corruption system" grew in Titas from the early nineties. It contributed over Tk 118 crore to the national exchequer besides making a net profit of Tk 30.18 crore in '95-'96".

Titas sold gas worth Tk 963 crore in that year.

Titas Gas

From Page 1
with the unscrupulous employees of Titas.

"So if you leave out power and fertiliser units and domestic users from the process of system loss, the 'actual system loss' is about 40 per cent" pointed out an official.

The Annual Report said that in 1993-'94 Titas introduced a "RMS Sealing programme for industrial consumer" to cut system loss.

"(It) could not be sustained through the following year (95-'96) due to lack of proper logistics, particularly on the transport front. So effective steps to reduce system loss were retarded," the report said.

It also said that system loss could not be controlled due to lack of manpower, besides other reasons.

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They also sought a mandatory injunction on publication of HSC results without the results of the 6,686 examinees.

Meanwhile, the Board Committee could not come to a decision relating to the fate of the 6,686 examinees at a meeting today and the meeting was adjourned, members of the committee said.

When contacted, Chairman of the Board Sher Mohammad refused to say anything about the proceedings of the meeting.

But when asked about the senior Assistant Judge Court's order, the chairman said, "we must abide by the court's order."

PM leaves Manila for home today

MANILA, Sept 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves here for Dhaka tomorrow winding up her week-long state visits to Indonesia and the Philippines, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister was invited by President Soeharto of Indonesia and President Fidel V Ramos of the Philippines to visit their countries.

The bank also sanctioned loan for a large-scale dairy farm, having 9 lakh litre annual milk production capacity, to be set up in Sylhet at a cost of Tk 6.5 crore.

The bank sanctioned Tk 4.5 crore for 11 frozen food units for covering the deficiency in fisheries sectors and achieving standard for export to Europe.

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