

Metropolitan

Govt takes pragmatic measures to strengthen nat'l economy: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that her government had taken pragmatic measures including strengthening private sector to give a greater push and inject dynamism to the national economy, reports BSS.

Talking to the members of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka who called on prime minister at her office in the city, Sheikh Hasina sought cooperation of all, particularly the business community, for implementing various reform measures taken by her government in the economic sector.

Earlier, the newly elected President of the MCCI, Laila Rahman Kabir, apprised the prime minister of the various aspects of her organisation and suggested periodical meeting between the prime minister and the members of her organisation in the interest of taking various fruitful decisions in economic and commercial fields.

Proshika donates Tk 4 lakh for warm clothes

Proshika donated Take four lakh from its disaster management fund for distributing warm clothes among the poor in the cold wave swept northern region of the country, reports BSS.

Proshika Human Development Centre earlier donated one-day salary of its employees equivalent to Take three and a half lakh for purchasing winter clothing for distribution among the cold-wave stricken people of northern Bangladesh.

Of the Take four lakh donated from its disaster management fund Proshika handed over Take one lakh to the fund of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), while the rest of the money would be spent for purchasing warm clothes for distribution among the poor by the members of the organisation.

Besides, Proshika collected huge warm clothings from its staff and their family members for distribution.

The organisation has already started distribution of clothings among the victims of the cold wave which is sweeping the country.

Process finalised for chartering wide-bodied aircraft

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain has said the flight schedule of Biman will be improved with acquisition of a leased aircraft by this month, reports UNB.

Biman's flight schedule, particularly in its domestic sector, will be improved a lot and the situation will return to normal by the end of February," he said addressing the Biman executives at its Head Office on Tuesday.

The minister said the process has been in final stage for chartering a wide-bodied aircraft for this year's Hajj flights.

He asked the Biman officials to discharge their duties without any fear and favour in the greater interest of the country. "You will get full support from my side in this regard."

Mosharraf said Biman officials will have to serve with a sense of dedication to uplift the image of Biman as a truly international airline.

He also laid emphasised on making the national flag carrier a commercially viable, profit-earning service oriented organisation.

Engineer Mosharraf Hossain freely exchanged views with the officials and sought suggestions from them. Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Mohammad Ismail Hossain was present.

Discussion on role of women & media held

Speakers at an open discussion Thursday said that the media could play the pivotal role to create public opinion for the empowerment of women and ensuring equal rights in the law of heritage, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Nari Progiti Sangha (BNPS) organised the discussion where representatives from different women organisations and journalists exchanged their views. The discussion titled "Condition and position of the women in Bangladesh: Role of media" was held at the conference room of BNPS in the city Tuesday evening.

The speakers said media of a country like Bangladesh, where fundamentalism and superstitions were thwarting the progress for many centuries, could help the people think and judge properly. They alleged that the coverage of women in the mass media was always very poor and even distorted.

They criticised some newspapers for gruesome depiction of rape and other victims of repressions.

The speakers, however, demanded ban on publishing news involving women unethically in crime reports. They also demanded for publishing the photos of the criminals instead of the rape victims.

She appealed to the prime minister to expedite the work of the labour law reform committee.

The prime minister told the MCCI members that the prime objective of her government's economic policy is to achieve quick prosperity and reduce dependence on others.

While outlining various measures of her government in economic field the prime minister said that stress was given to bring back discipline in this vital national sector. "We are not encouraging any kind of bad loans," she said.

The prime minister expressed happiness that the image of the country has been enhanced in the outside world following various realistic measures taken by her government.

Other members of the MCCI who called on the prime minister included M Shamsul Alam, Zafar Ahmed, M A Awal, M Kamrul Huda, Mahbub Jamil, Ramzul Seraj, Feisal Siddiqui, Geoff Williams and C K Hyder.

HC asks govt not to arrest Salahuddin Quader & his brother

The High Court Tuesday asked the government not to arrest Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury and Giasuddin Kader Chowdhury in the cases in which they were earlier granted anticipatory bail by the court.

The court also gave opportunity to the government to file counter reply by tomorrow against the allegation made by the two BNP lawmakers in two separate petitions with a prayer for direction not to arrest them.

The matter will come up for hearing Tuesday.

Barrister Rafique-ul-Haq with Barrister Moudud Ahmed appeared for the petitioners before the High Court division comprising Justice Mozammel Hoque and Justice Awlad Ali.

They submitted to the court that they only prayed for an order that the petitioners cannot be arrested in the cases where they have been granted bail by the High Court on December 3 last, nor can be arrested under Special Powers Act or under any preventive detention of law before and after the parliamentary sessions called from January 14.

In reply, Attorney General Barrister K S Nabi submitted before the court that there is no attempt of arresting the petitioners in the cases where they have been granted bail by the High Court.

Projects for rehabilitation of distressed being implemented

CHITTAGONG, Jan 7: Labour and Manpower Minister M A Mannan said the present government is implementing a number of projects for rehabilitation and employment opportunities of the distressed and shelterless people, reports UNB.

He was addressing a public meeting at the number three market of south Pahartali on Tuesday after paying visit to the affected areas.

He said arrangements will be taken to rehabilitate the evicted people of the south Pahartali. He also said necessary instructions have been given to City Corporation and district administration in this connection.

City Corporation Major A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Ward Commissioner Jafar Alam also addressed the meeting.

Earlier, the minister visited the police line hospital and the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) of the city to see for himself the conditions of the people injured in the incident at Jangal south Pahartali. He also asked the doctors to ensure better treatment for the injured.

Mannan said the people who have not yet got the compensation of their land acquired by the Chittagong Cantonment will be paid soon, said an official handout.

Expressing deep condolence for the dead and sympathy for the injured the minister assured that a committee would be formed to investigate into the causes of such unwanted incident and exemplary punishment would be given to those responsible for the attack.

Govt to provide loans for jute mills, traders

The government has decided to provide necessary bank loans for jute mills and jute traders, reports UNB.

The decision came from the 2nd meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Jute Ministry held at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Chaired by Committee Chairman Shamsul Haque, the meeting discussed the proposed jute policy elaborately.

The issues ranging from purchasing of jute at fair price, strengthening the activities to diversify the jute market and protecting the rights of jute growers also came up at the meeting for discussion.

It also discussed the issues to promote the quality of jute and jute goods, and innovative better seeds by IJIO and BARI.

Committee members State Minister for Jute A K Faizul Haque, Advocate Mosharraf Hossain, Emdadul Haque Bhuiyan, Jalaluddin Talukder and Mujibur Rahman attended the meeting.



Prof Abu Sayeed, Minister of State for Information distributing certificates among the participants of a three-week long training course titled 'Production of Educational Television Programme' jointly organised by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the National Institute of Mass Communication yesterday.

— PID photo

More TV, radio programmes should be made for educating children, juveniles

State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed yesterday called upon the Radio-TV producers to make good films and programmes for the children of the country, reports BSS.

Expressing his dissatisfaction over the present standard of children's programmes in BTV and Betar he said more programmes should be made for educating the children and juveniles.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the concluding and certificate awarding ceremony of the three-week long training programme on "educational television production" at the National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMC).

A total of 10 participants from Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Bangladesh Open University (BOU) completed the course, aimed at making good producers for educational programmes.

NIMC and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JAICA) jointly organised the training course.

Yoshiakazu Kaneko, the ambassador of Japan to Bangla-

desh, was present on the occasion as the special guest.

President over by Abdullah Al Mamun, director general of NIMC, the function was also addressed, among others, by JAICA country representative Yuji Okazaki, course director NHK, Japan, Ryosaku Shimoo and course participant Sohel Ahmed.

A meeting on the priority setting of researchable areas in agriculture was held yesterday in the conference room of BARC with Advocate M Rahmat Ali, MP, in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting identified broad researchable areas in all aspects of Agriculture including crops, fisheries, livestock and forests to address the national needs which will bring immediate benefit to farmers.

The committee was constituted earlier by the governing body of the BARC. The meeting was attended, among others, by eminent agricultural scientists Dr S M Hasanuzzaman, Dr Z Karim, Executive Chairman, BARC and heads of the different agricultural research institutes.

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