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DCCI submits memo to PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the members of the business community to make the best utilisation of the existing liberal industrial policy and contribute to the progress and prosperity of the country, report agencies.

Talking to a DCCI delegation at her office, she said, "The government has given priority on economic diplomacy and the Bangladesh missions abroad have been directed to put emphasis on attracting trade and investment in the country."

The delegation of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) led by its President R Maksud Khan and senior vice president Masudur Rahman called on the Prime Minister to apprise her of various aspects of the business community.

The business leaders submitted a memorandum containing the problems and prospects of the business community.

They appreciated the three-day business summit held in Dhaka at the personal initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and suggested an action plan for successful implementation of the summit declaration.

They expressed satisfaction over the government's decision to give top priority to power generation and set up a reception cell and one-stop service cell for the foreign investors under the Board of Investment (BOI).

The delegation members included Zafar Osman, Moham. Md Habibullah, AFM Obaidur Rahman, Khandaker A. Salam, Walur Rahman, Reazuddin, Aftabul Islam, Ashraf Ibd. Nur, Jahurul Islam Chowdhury, Golam Mustafa and AM Mubash-Sher.

Trophies for best exporters Feb 12

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will distribute National Export Trophies among the best exporters of 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 fiscal years at the Osmani Auditorium at 10.00 am on February 12, reports UNB.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, high government officials, BFCCI representatives and chiefs of different missions in Bangladesh, will attend the function.

AL reaction

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the issue he discussed with the BNP.

Meanwhile, speculations are there that Holtzman may mediate between ruling party and BNP. Holtzman's meeting Begum Khaleda Zia was part of his ongoing parleys with BNP leaders at different tiers on the parliamentary stand-off, sources said. BNP has been boycotting parliament since August 30 last year.

50 buildings

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said Aminur Rahman.

The steering committee which drafted the BNBC, 1993, was formed in June 1991. The 18-member body headed by the chief architect, department of architecture, Ministry of Works, also had representation from the Institute of Engineers, Institute of Architects, Rajuk, Fire Service and Civil Defence, Standards Testing Institution, Geological Survey of Bangladesh, BUET and Military Engineering Services.

Another 16 editorial subcommittees were formed with engineers from various professions for preparing the BNBC.

The BNBC provides a uniform standard covering all aspects of planning, design, and construction of buildings, including electrical, mechanical, sanitary and other services.

To preserve the cultural heritage of the nation, special requirements and waivers for alteration and renovation of buildings of historical and architectural value have been specified in the Code.

It also outlines the administrative requirements for enforcement of the code.

Considering the difficulty in maintaining adequate technical personnel for enforcing and verifying compliance with diverse provisions of the code, a professional practice-based certification, enforcement and administrative structure has been proposed in the code.

The code specifies the requirements for five prevention and protection measures in the building.

The fire protection requirements of the code are based on the principle of providing reasonable protection within achievable means.

The code also provides for 'safe and scientific demolition' of buildings where necessary.



Thousands of Indonesians holding government discounted train tickets fight to get through the gates at Senen train station in Jakarta yesterday. Millions of Indonesians return home to the provinces this week to celebrate Eid and with the country's current economic downturn, the government has subsidized train tickets to offset the price of travelling home. — AP/UNB photo

First two cycles this yr

Quantum of water double at Hardinge Bridge point

The quantum of water Bangladesh received at the Hardinge Bridge point in the river Padma in the first two cycles of current lean period is more than double compared to the same period of last year, reports UNB.

Official data shows that on an average, 182,286 cusec water was discharged at the point during January 1-10 period this year as against 70,829 cusec in the corresponding period of 1997.

In the same period, 164,763 cusec water was discharged at the Farakka point as against 62,019 cusec in the corresponding period of the previous year.

During January 11-20 cycle, 154,292 cusec water was discharged at the Hardinge Bridge point as against 55,788 cusec in the corresponding period of last year.

The highest 200,765 cusec water was available on January 1, the first day of the first cycle of this year's lean period, at the Hardinge Bridge point.

The lowest quantum of water

BB showcase

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Anisur Rahman Khan, Anisur Rahman, Berek, Ahsan Habib, Nani Gopal, Anisur Rahman, Abdul Jallil, and Hanif.

BB adds: The BB authorities yesterday put all the CBA and non-CBA union offices of Bangladesh Bank and its branch and regional offices under lock and key.

The Bank officials with police escorts locked the union offices in the morning following the decision of Sunday's meeting by the Bangladesh Bank authority.

The government earlier decided to ban trade union activities in the central bank after a top official of the bank was roughed up by some trade union activists.

Heavy contingent of police are guarding the Bank offices since January 19 after the untoward incident.

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Meeting today to finalise details of Feb 10 arms surrender

By Special Correspondent

A high-level meeting at Chittagong today will finalise the details of the ceremonial surrender of arms by Shantibahini at Khagrachari Stadium on February 10.

The meeting will be presided by Minister Kalpana Ranjan Chakma, who is going to head the CHT and tribal affairs ministry.

Today's meeting is also expected to prepare the budget and other details of the ceremony which will be attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The first batch of Shantibahini, the armed cadre of PCJSS, will surrender their arms under the leadership of Shantu Larma on February 10.

Meanwhile, it was learnt that the Shantibahini has started preparing their cadres for the surrender ceremony.

BCL leader

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open two rooms of Mohsin Hall occupied by the influential leaders of the Ratan-Tomi group, witnesses said. Police also raided the Zahirul Haq Hall.

BCL sources said that police conducted the raid sending a major violence on the campus following the clash between the two feuding groups of BCL over submitting tender forms.

Tension mounted on the DU campus as an activist of the Tomi-Ratan group was stabbed on the DU campus on Sunday by the activists of the rival Shamim group of BCL.

Activists of Shamim group, who dominate the campus, mainly live in Zahirul Haq and Salimullah Halls of the university. Recently, they ousted the activists of Ratan-Tomi group based in Zahirul Haq Hall, from the DU campus. They were later rehabilitated by the BCL high command in Mohsin Hall.

Recently, they have ousted some activists of the Shamim group from Mohsin Hall igniting the tension.

Campus sources said that both the groups had mobilised large number of arms in the halls as preparation for a possible clash. However, police during yesterday's raids could not recover any arms.

Both other alleged muggers managed to escape.

The incident occurred at around 4:30 pm when three alleged muggers on board the autorickshaw, attempted to snatch gold ornaments from a woman on a rickshaw.

The mob rushed to the spot as the woman raised a hue and cry, police said.

Arrested smuggler escapes from Port thana

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 26: An alleged smuggler arrested by police last night, fled from the Port thana custody this morning.

The accused, identified as Shamsul Huq, was arrested last night with some contraband cigarettes, police said.

The PW mentioned the appointment of Major General KM Shafullah as another reason for resentment among a section of senior army officers.

Though both of them were commissioned on the same day and Zia was senior, Shafullah was made the chief.

Shamsul Huq was arrested last night with some contraband cigarettes, police said.

Earlier, a close aide of the 51-year-old said she would contest the February-March polls from her husband's constituency of Amethi in northern India.

But the statement said: "While acknowledging her desire to deepen her relation with the constituency of her late husband she has decided that for now she will not contest the elections."

The source in the Congress party said the decision was taken "mainly to avert a power struggle" in the once-dominant party.

There is bound to be a tussle for the top party post now. At the time of elections this is called for. Sonia's decision not to contest should be taken in this context," the source said.

Abduction

From page 1

far revealed that the incident was sequel to a feud among the neighbouring families. The real cause behind the incident will be revealed only after the girl is rescued, he observed. Senior police officials were monitoring the case he said and hoped that the girl will be rescued soon.

The SP also said the case was being processed to bring charges against the accused under the Women and Children Repression Act of 1995.

It has also asked the branch not to buy cheques without approval from proper authority.

The branch has also been asked to strictly go by the rules while dealing in matters relating to the interests of directors, it added.

The board further said the advances were adjusted in time and this did not hurt the interest of the public, depositors or shareholders of the bank. Had the head office officials made any adverse comment or sought any direction, the board could take necessary action.

The board has pointed out that the Dhammendi branch of IFIC had meanwhile been audited both by the bank's inter-

est and by the bank's internal audit committee.

The letter maintained that the bank had earned Tk 45.31 lakh as interest and commission by adjusting the IBPs.

The bank remained in a profitable position rather than incurring any loss in the cheque and pay order purchase business," the board said.

IFIC board claims

From page 1

branch of IFIC Bank had purchased 205 cheques and 56 pay orders according to banking rules and regulations. It was found that cheques were sometimes purchased outside the approval power.

According to IBP policy, the management of the bank has the authority to approve IBPs worth upto Tk 15 lakh. But all the 157 cheques and pay orders were above Tk 15 lakh.

The board further said that these IBPs created through purchase of cheques were later adjusted. After adjusting the IBPs, these were sent to the head office of the branch concerned for 'post facto' approval.

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