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The Daily Star

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Biman floats tender for 3 new aircraft

By Shehab Ahmed

Bangladesh Biman floated tenders yesterday for procuring at least three aircraft, including a wide-body DC-10-30 to strengthen its fleet, Biman sources said.

The national carrier invited offers for dry-lease of one DC-10-30 aircraft for three years and bids for dry lease/lease purchase/purchase of one or two F-28-4000 aircraft, they said.

The offers for the DC-10-30 should reach the Bangladesh Biman office on or before See Page 12 Col 3

High Court order on reinstatement of SP Mahub turned down

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday by a judgement on the government appeal set aside the High Court verdict reinstating Mahubuddin Ahmed, Bir Bikram in his office of the Superintendent of Police.

A division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haque and Justice Md Hasan Amin by the judgement on May 12, 1997 on the writ petition filed by Mahubuddin Ahmed, Bir Bikram in his office of the Superintendent of Police.

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See Page 12 Col 7

SMC declared lock-out

Social Marketing Company (SMC) yesterday announced lock-out in all its offices in and outside the capital over a feud with its employees, official sources said, reports UNB.

The decision was taken after some 130 "unruly" employees gheraoed the office of its Managing Director at Uttara yesterday and forced him to sign a bond.

The company, funded by USAID, was established in 1987 to market Orsaline and condoms in Bangladesh.

Its employees went on a strike Thursday protesting what they said, irregularities in the organisation.

100 shanties gutted in city

By Staff Correspondent

At least 100 shanties were gutted in a slum at north Mugdipara under Shabujbagh thana in the city last night.

Fire brigade sources said the fire originated from an oven of a house attached to the slum at around 7 pm and soon engulfed the entire slum. However, no casualty was reported till filing of this report last night.

Seven fire fighting units from four stations rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after an hour.

Call to create new institutions, concepts to alleviate poverty

By Staff Correspondent

A three-day international conference on poverty began today in the city with Prof Mohammad Yunus calling for creating new institutions and concepts for a poverty-free world.

"Poverty is not created by any individual. It is created by institutions we build around us. People fell victim to these institutions. We have to create new institutions and appropriate concepts for a world free from poverty," said Prof Yunus at the inauguration of the conference organised by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) in association with Grameen Trust and the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

"Poverty is created because we believe the poor will always be with us. If we could change our mind, we will create a world free from poverty. It is the desire which creates the world.

100 injured as trains collide at Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Feb 8: A passenger train collided head-on with a goods train at the home signal point of Jamalpur railway junction early today, leaving about 100 passengers injured, six critically, reports UNB.

Railway sources said the collision between Dinajpur-bound North Bengal 7-Up mail train and the Dewanganj-bound DWB shuttle goods train occurred at around 5:50 am.

The goods train carrying fertiliser from Jamuna Fertiliser Factory ignored both the out and home signals and entered the Bahadurabad line which was cleared for the mail train.

Witnesses said the engine of the mail train was badly damaged. One boggy of the mail train and three of the goods train were derailed.

Soon after the accident, fire brigade, police and officials of the district administration and Railways rushed to the spot and sent the injured people to Jamalpur General Hospital, local clinics and health complexes.

The six critically injured were identified as Atar Ali, 30, Tara Miah, 35, of Melandah thana, Jalal, 32, of Islampur, Shamsul Haq, 45, of Lalmonirhat and Sirajul, 45, and Bilal, 25, of Gaibandha district. They were admitted to the General Hospital.

Many of the injured passengers were released after first aid.

Following the accident, the road communication with four thanas of Melandah, Madaraganj, Islampur and Dewanganj remained snapped for four hours. It was restored after removing the mail train by the railway authorities.

To restore the rail communication, a relief train was working from 10 am but it went out of order in the afternoon.

Divisional Railway Manager of Dhaka Rafiquzzaman told UNB that another relief train from Dhaka will reach the spot soon, and hoped that the rail communication would be restored by 8 pm.

Meanwhile, locomaster Yusuf Ali and assistant locomaster Rezwana of the goods shuttle train were suspended for their negligence, officials said.

Senior officials of Bangladesh Railway visited the spot and directed the departmental probe committee to investigate the cause of the accident.



Police searching a room of an Alia Madrassah hostel in the city after a clash between two BCL factions yesterday. — Star photo

One killed, 30 hurt as BCL factions clash at Dhaka Alia Madrassah

By Staff Correspondent

One student was killed and at least 30 others were injured in a clash between two factions of the ruling party backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Alia Madrassah at Baksbazar in the city late Saturday night.

Both the groups fired several gunshots and blasted dozens of bombs. They clashed to take control of Allama Kashgari Hostel of the Madrassah at about 11:30 pm, according to witnesses and police.

Police identified the dead as Ibrahim, 20, son of Azaharuddin Hawlader of Patuakhali. A first year non-resident student of Fazole, Ibrahim received bullet wounds in his head. He succumbed at the Mitford Hospital at about 7 am yesterday.

Of the injured, three were See Page 12 Col 8

12000 tons rice without importer creates confusion at Ctg Port

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 8: A large consignment of rice brought by a ship owned by a Bangladeshi and registered in Cyprus, without having any importer in Bangladesh, has triggered speculation and confusion, Customs officials said.

The ship, after visiting some ports in other countries, is now at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port.

A senior Customs official said, "All the information supplied to us seemed foggy as no proper documents in support of the consignment of 12,000 tons of rice could be produced."

He further said, "But we have issued delivery order (DO) for unloading the rice as per a court order. We are just carrying out the court order."

The rice is now being lightered from the ship anchored at the outer anchorage.

The Customs official said the court allowed for unloading of the rice only for storage and

Akhtraruzzaman MP jailed for instigating violence

BNP member of parliament Major (Rtd) Akhtraruzzaman was jailed for three months by a magistrate's court in his home district Kishoreganj yesterday, reports UNB.

Akhtraruzzaman, now in Kishoreganj jail, was charged with instigating violence at Katiadi thana on May 1, 1996.

Twelve others accused in the case were, however, acquitted by the court.

The BNP lawmaker was present in the court when the Magistrate gave the judgement yesterday afternoon.

"How did he provoke violence sitting in the OC's room at that time?" Akhtraruzzaman's wife Salma Zaman told a hurriedly called news conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the evening.

She said her husband might have earned the wrath of the government as he always speaks for democracy and human rights.

Salma Zaman said she will appeal to Judge Court in Kishoreganj today against the See Page 12 Col 7

Rice stock sufficient: PM Remain alert against unscrupulous traders

SATKHIRA, Feb 8: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today called upon the people to remain alert so that no unscrupulous traders could create hardship in public life by increasing prices of rice and other essentials, report agencies.

"There is sufficient stock of rice in the country and more rice is being imported and as such there is no reason for increasing prices of rice in the country," she told a mammoth public meeting at the Government High School maidan here this afternoon.

The Prime Minister said that various steps including distribution of rice under Open Market Sale (OMS) had been launched throughout the country to bring the situation under control. The OMS would soon be started at thana level, she said.

The Prime Minister said that stern actions would be taken against those who would

JS discussion on President's speech begins

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday began general discussion on the Presidential speech, with the opposition parties continuing their boycott of Parliament proceedings.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed gave the inaugural speech on the opening day of this year's first session in January with the opposition parties — Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh — remaining absent from the House.

Ruling Awami League MP See Page 12 Col 6

Appointment of 160 OMS dealers in city to be finalised today

By Staff Correspondent

The government is scheduled to finalise the appointment of at least 160 dealers in 80 city markets today, to replace the mobile open market sale (OMS) of rice which had been introduced since January 28, sources concerned said.

The four-member OMS selection committee of the Food Division See Page 12 Col 1

Decision on Tullow, Chevron-Texaco partnership soon

Star Report

The high powered Investment Committee of the government is likely to come up with a decision in a couple of days about partnership between Irish company Tullow and US joint venture Chevron-Texaco in Block 9.

Tullow and Chevron-Texaco were scheduled to hold a government-mediated meeting today over joint exploration of oil and gas in Block 9. But the meeting will not be held now as the Investment Committee is yet to give a decision about their partnership.

The government negotiators are now intending to finalise selection of different oil companies in the 12 blocks by February 15 and move on to advanced negotiations afterwards.

But so far, the question which company or companies would get Block 9 and Block 11 remains unresolved. The Negotiation Committee of the government See Page 12 Col 5

Shantibahini arms surrender tomorrow

Decades-old insurgency in CHT to end

By Special Correspondent

The decades-old insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is coming to a formal end with the ceremonial surrender of arms by Shantibahini guerillas at Khagrachhari Stadium, beginning tomorrow.

A total of 743 guerillas will surrender their arms on the first day.

Nearly 2,000 guerillas including regulars are returning to civilian life with the surrender of arms in three phases under the December 2, 1997 agreement between the government and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) which waged the bushwar since 1973.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will receive a gun from PCJSS Chairman Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma at the surrender ceremony in presence of

Ruling party MP defends US HR report

By Staff Correspondent

Hafiz Ahmed Majumder, an Awami League MP, yesterday defended the content of the US human rights report on Bangladesh and observed that the report should be discussed in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Rising on a point of order in the House yesterday, Majumder said: "It is undeniable that human rights of our people are being violated in the country, especially by bureaucrats and police, since long."

The AL legislator, however, See Page 12 Col 2

Khaleda leaves for Jeddah

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday left Dhaka for Jeddah to perform Omrah and for post-operative medical check-up, reports UNB.

During her stay in Saudi Arabia, Begum Zia will be a royal guest of the Saudi King.

Begum Zia was accompanied by her youngest son Arafat Rahman, daughter-in-law Sabila Rahman, BNP's international affairs secretary Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and her assistant private secretary Shamsul Alam.

A large number of leaders and workers, including AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, saw their party chief off at the Zia International Airport.

She is expected to return home on February 20.

Plan to introduce cadre service for legislative drafting

The government is planning to introduce a legislative drafting cadre service as a separate wing under the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, official sources told BSS yesterday.

The new cadre service will be introduced to develop skilled manpower for drafting of laws, rules and regulations.

Public Service Commission (PSC) has already approved the draft organogram and its recruitment rules prepared by the law ministry. It will now be sent for President's approval for its implementation.

The organogram provides 31 manpower which include one additional secretary, three joint secretaries, eight deputy secretaries, eight senior assistant secretaries and 11 assistant secretaries.

The law ministry prepares the draft laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, and the draft of international agreements, treaties and accords.

But due to lack of adequate skilled manpower in this regard, the process has been delaying, the sources said, adding that the present government felt it necessary to overcome the impediment and decided to establish a separate wing for the legislative drafting cadre.

Presently, sub-judges and senior assistant judges are functioning in the draft section on temporary basis and that is why no expertise has been developed in this field, the sources aid.

But in India and in the See Page 12 Col 2

1662 Bangladeshis in jails of 28 countries: JS told

Some 1662 Bangladeshi nationals are in jails of 28 foreign countries. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said in Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

"We have requested the concerned countries through our foreign missions to send the list of exact number and details of the detainees in foreign jails," Azad said responding to a question from JP member Mrs Zeenath Hossain.

The Foreign Minister said it is difficult to determine the exact number as everyday some people are getting released See Page 12 Col 2

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Supplement
Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 3-page supplement on 'Arsenic Pollution: Immediate Tasks and Future Vision' on Pages 13, 14 & 15



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Begum Khaleda Zia at the Zia International Airport prior to her departure for Jeddah yesterday. — Star photo

Alok murder Half-day hartal in Khulna today

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 8: All political parties except the Awami League have called a half-day hartal in the city tomorrow in protest against killing of Chhatra Mottree leader Alok Kumar Dey, Alok, former president of Chhatra Mottree, was gunned down by unidentified assailants on Friday night near his residence at Daulatpur.

Police have so far arrested five persons in connection with the murder.

NOTICE

National Export Trophy for the year 1996-97

Export Promotion Bureau invites applications from exporters for award of National Export Trophy for the year 1996-97.

- The trophy will be product-specific on the basis of the following classifications:
 - Jute goods, b) Finished leather, c) Frozen food, d) Tea (preference will be given for packet tea and coffee), e) Readymade garments, f) Handicrafts, g) Agricultural products, h) Industrial products as a group, i) Chemical products as a group including ceramic, pharmaceuticals and sanitary wares, j) Raw jute, k) Hosiery, specialised textiles and knitwear, l) Electronic products, m) Leather products, n) Mechanical toys and o) All other products.
- Provision is also there for the award of one best exporter's trophy irrespective of the product areas. For selecting the best exporter of the year on the basis of highest export earnings, the export earnings in question will not be single product basis i.e. his product coverage must be extensive and will not be less than five products.
- The intending exporters are to apply in the prescribed proforma to be had from Export Promotion Bureau's Head Office in Dhaka, Regional Offices at Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Branch Offices at Comilla, Sylhet, Bogra and Barisal as well as offices of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh Chambers of Industries, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka and Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi and Exporters Association of Bangladesh, Dhaka. Prescribed proforma may also be obtained from the concerned Trade Association of Bangladesh.
- Applications in prescribed proforma duly filled in must reach the undersigned on or before 28-02-98. For further information, Export Promotion Bureau may please be contacted.

DFP-2409-4/2 G-209
Major (Rtd) A K M Nizamul Alam
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