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BOI plans to set up industrial parks

The Board of Investment (BOI) is contemplating to set up industrial parks in and around the city. Its executive chairman Farooq Sobhan said yesterday, reports UNB. Foreign investors are more interested in setting up their industrial units in these areas due to basic infrastructure supports, he said at a meeting with the leaders of local chambers in the city.

PM witnesses BAF firing exercise

RASULPUR (Tangail), Feb 19: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina witnessed a spectacular demonstration by aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force at the BAF firing range here today, reports UNB. The demonstration called "fire power" is an annual event of the air force.

In the firing exercise, sections of F-7, A-511, FT-6, L-39, AN-32 aircraft and MI-17 helicopters carried out live firing with guns, rockets and bombs over the targets.

The accurate marksmanship of the BAF pilots drew spontaneous applause from the spectators. Sections of BAF transport aircraft also paraded over the stores and equipment on the targets after the firing.

The one-and-a-half-hour demonstration was rounded off with a spectacular low level aerobatics carried out by L-39ZA and F-7 aircraft which kept the spellbound during the maneuver.

The Prime Minister wearing deep blue cap and jacket of BAF showed keen interest in the demonstration. She inquired about the events and praised the skill and efficiency of the BAF pilots.

Six BNP MPs

From page 1 and Swapan "joined the government compromising all established morals and scruples." The MPs — Barrister Aminul Haq, Ziaul Huq Zia, Rezaul Karim, A F M Nazmul Huda, Abu Hena and Mizanur Rahman Shinha — also protested some reports published recently in a section of the Bengali newspapers that hinted that they would also desert the BNP. They termed the reports as "baseless" and called upon the people "not to pay heed to such canards".

The statement said that the joining of the BNP parliamentarians in the government has been manoeuvred jointly by the Intelligence agency of a foreign country as well as by some government officials and agencies. The two lawmakers had shattered the aspiration of people in general and their respective electorate in particular, the statement added.

The chamber leaders asked the BOI to work for local investors alongside foreign investors. The government should give BOI the full authority to work independently, they said. They called for identifying various kinds of bottlenecks and removing those. The BOI will have to sort out the problems first and then launch investment campaign, they added.

The chamber leaders emphasised the need for incorporating private sector representation in the BOI's one-stop service to make it more useful. They also laid emphasis on developing entrepreneurship an identifying new areas of investment. Farooq Sobhan said BOI is pursuing various strategies, including ascertaining the rate of return on investment (RRI) and making specific (sector wise) project profile to promote and mobilise foreign investment. "RRI is very essential information for investment decision," he said, adding that research and analysis department will be strengthened for monitoring and evaluation exercise.

"If we can prepare project profile directory, investors will be able to take decision on their part," he said. MCCI President Liala R Kabir, DCCI President R Mahmud Khan, BCCI President Sharif M Afzal Hossain, Am-Cham President Forrest E Cookson, FICCI President AKM Shamsuddin Ahmed, ICC (Bangladesh) Executive Board member ASM Quasem and FBCCI Secretary Sayed Jamaluddin attended the meeting.

Khaleda

From page 1 formed. BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told newsmen Wednesday that the government's on-going move to snatch his party lawmakers would not block their way back to the parliament. As a primary step, BNP has reportedly prepared a list of some twelve MPs who were vocal against the boycott and its creating pressure on the government to swallow the government offers. Some of the 'suspected' MPs were learnt to be untraced. The government attempts to "snatch" some more BNP lawmakers may succeed in a couple of days, said ruling party sources.

On Wednesday, Begum Zia was quoted as telling her party's top leaders over telephone from Saudi Arabia that desertion by a few opportunists would not harm her party. "It is very usual that some people will come to the party and quit it. This will never bring any loss for the party", she reportedly commented. The BNP chief also advised her party colleagues not to lose morale at such happenings and to guard against the government "attempt" to create confusion and mistrust among the party rank and file through spreading falsehood about fresh defection.

Mannan Bhuiyan also made similar comments. Those were weeks in the party "clearance of weeds would help the party grow further", he told reporters on Wednesday.



BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan addressing a discussion meeting at the Ramna Batmul in the city yesterday. The meeting was organised as part of the party's Ekushey programme.

KNM goes into production of whiteprint

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Feb 19: Khulna Newspaper Mill has gone into production of 'whiteprint' on experimental basis. At the initial stage, the mill has produced 49 metric tonnes of whiteprint till February 17, said a reliable source. Of this, 28 metric tonnes have been sold at the rate of Taka 25,500 per tonne, the source added.

JS session

From page 1 seeking establishment of a paper mill in Naogaon. Speaking on the resolution, Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed gave a dismal picture of the existing four newspaper mills in the country. He blamed the wrong policy pursued by the past governments that rendered the newspaper mills sick. He said the present government took up remedial measures. Khulna Newspaper Mills has now improved the quality of its products and the newspapers have started buying newsprint again from there, he said.

The minister told the members that setting up of a paper mill in Naogaon will be considered when adequate raw materials including gas are ensured to make the project viable. On his assurance, Begum Haq withdrew her resolution. Another resolution was moved by Mustafizur Rahman demanding a technical training centre in Sandvip. He later withdrew the motion following assurance by State Minister for Youth and Cultural Affairs that setting up of a non-residential technical centre there will be considered.

Central Jail

From page 1 Minister last year. The other decisions taken at the meeting and still under active consideration of the government included, increasing the number of kitchens, interview rooms and prison staff in various jails. At present, there is only one kitchen for about 6000 prisoners in Dhaka Central Jail and about 300 prisoners meet their relatives through only 10 interview rooms everyday. A decision to increase the number of kitchens on the basis of one kitchen per five hundred prisoners is under way, sources said, adding that the authorities were also planning to increase the number of interview rooms for both convicts and under-trial prisoners.

Amar Ekushey programmes

From page 1 taken up an unprecedented series of measures to ensure a congenial atmosphere in and around the Central Shaheed Minar where people from all walks of life will throng to pay homage to the martyrs of the historic Language Movement on the day. Like previous years, there will be only one entrance at the memorial plaque and another way for exit. The DU authorities have imposed a ban on holding of all sorts of rallies and processions in the area. Meanwhile, the new murals on the wall in front of Bangla Academy will be inaugurated at 11 am today. Gazul Haque, a hero of the Language Movement, will inaugurate the mural depicting the heroic struggle of Language Movement and the Liberation War. Poet Shamsur Rahman, the president of Bangla Academy, will preside over the inaugural function. To observe the Shaheed Day, different socio-cultural and political organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes.

Intensify movement to resist alien culture: BNP

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday called upon the people to intensify the ongoing anti-government movement to resist alien culture, imbued with the spirit of Ekushey, reports UNB. Addressing a discussion meeting at the city's Ramna Batmool, he said the language movement was launched against the Pakistani rulers to protect our own culture from the aggression of alien ones. "But our own culture and heritage are now at stake due to cultural aggression of our neighbouring country as the ruling party is pursuing a subservient foreign policy," the BNP leader alleged.

Ekushey Observance Committee of BNP organised the discussion as part of its three-day programme, marking the historic 21st February. He said Bangladesh was not emerged as an independent nation for distortion of its own history or becoming dependent on others. The BNP Secretary General also accused the government of using police against its political opponents for raising voice against its undemocratic activities. There have been reports that the government is also trying to curb freedom of press through secret threats, he told the meeting. Earlier, a procession of Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal, led by Khurshid Jahangir MP, and Khaja Ahasanullah, from the party central office joined the rally parading the several city streets. Presided over by Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, the rally was addressed, among others, by M K Anwar, Khurshid Jahangir MP, Hafizuddin Ahmed and Rezabuddin Chowdhury. Earlier, the BNP Secretary General attended the founding anniversary function of Jatiyatabadi Tanti Dal at its central office. Speaking on the occasion, he said the local weaving factories, textile and garments industries are now on the verge of collapse due to wrong economic and industrial policy of the government.

UN relief workers

From page 1 However, the arms inspectors would seem to face a large job in searching the compounds since they contain more than 800 buildings, including palaces, government offices, villas, warehouses and other structures. Iraq's state-controlled newspapers today kept up their criticism of the United States, with the daily Al-Qadissiya saying "the American position is starting to get further and further from other countries' stances. Even the British stance has changed, as was seen clearly in the (statement by) Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, who said that it is wise to get a UN authorization for the use of force," said the paper.

3 electrocuted

From page 1 and Mont. 16, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The incident happened when Halima with her child and two daughters went to hang wet clothes on an electric wire at Korail slum at about 1.30 pm. Chan Mia rushed to Halima and her daughters when they cried out for help. Eventually all of them died on the spot. The bodies of the three were sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death case was lodged with Gulshan thana in this regard.

Foreign wage earners' demands

By Staff Correspondent An organisation of foreign wage earners yesterday urged the government to take necessary steps for rehabilitation of those Bangladeshi workers abroad who might lose jobs due to recent economic slowdown in South-East Asian countries. Bangladesh Overseas Intellectuals and Community Group (BOICG), an organisation of Bangladeshis working in Saudi Arabia, at a press conference in the city yesterday also put forward various concerns of foreign wage earners for consideration of the government. BOICG president Dr Md Abdur Rahman placed a seven-point charter of demands. The demands include: Issuance of wage earners unit certificates and shares through wage earners mutual fund; provision for a 20 per cent quota in the government allotted housing lands for wage earners, and quota for the wards of wage earners in the educational institutions.

2 killed as train hits truck on level-crossing

JESSORE, Feb 19: Two people were killed and two others injured critically when a train hit a truck near Panchkabar in Abhaynagar thana today, reports UNB. Police said the accident occurred when the Syedpur-bound Rupsha Express hit the truck on a level-crossing in the area. The driver of the truck died on the spot. Another dead was identified as Elias, 30. The injured — Mahbab, 30, and Akhul Sabur — were sent to Khulna Hospital.

SMC incident

From page 1 of the 170 employees opted for it. So they have locked out the company," alleged Mohammad Abdul Gafur, General Secretary of the Sramik Karmachari Union. SMC is the world's largest private sector social marketing company. It meets 65 per cent of the country's demand for condoms, 20 per cent demand for contraceptive pills and sells about 55 million packets of Orsaline annually at a subsidised price. "Foreign donors give us the materials free and we should sell those at a minimal price. But prices fixed by the company is at least 50 per cent exaggerated," alleged Gafur. When asked how long the stock of contraceptives and Orsaline may last at the vendors' level, the leaders replied that it may last for two months with the company currently remaining shut. The union leaders alleged that the SMC's management was sacking dedicated employees and was replacing them with their relatives. "You see there are at least two close relatives of the Managing Director in the Board of Directors," said Gafur. Farida Yasmin, Vice President of the union said that six of the union leaders who were on ball were facing harassment and threat from mastans and police. "Two persons came to my house yesterday in my absence and threatened my children of dire consequences if I get involved in any union activity," Yasmin claimed. She alleged that police were refusing to accept any case or even general diary. The union leaders demanded immediate release of Mosharraf Hossain, President of the union who was arrested on February 12. When asked about their next course of action they said, on February 20 all the union members will participate in a yes-no vote on action programme. "Only after the vote we will be able to launch a movement," said Gafur. They urged the government to immediately intervene to bring the company back to operation in the greater interest of the nation. None of the SMC officials could be reached for comment.

3119 docs to be appointed thru' PSC soon, JS told

Some 3,119 doctors will be appointed through Public Service Commission (PSC) shortly, Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf told parliament yesterday, reports UNB. Replying to a supplementary question of Abul Kalam Azad (AL-Jamalpur), he said already 1,024 doctors have been appointed in different hospitals. The Health Minister said a proposal for appointing the new doctors has been sent to the Finance Ministry. After receiving the Ministry's approval, new doctors will be given appointment as early as possible. In reply to Abdur Rashid Sarker (JP-Gaibandha), Yusuf admitted that there are some mismanagements in the Thana Health Complexes. He assured the House that disciplinary action would be taken against the doctors who are willfully irregular at the government hospitals, mainly the thana health complexes and district hospitals. Responding to Srimiti Bharati Nandy, the minister said the government has a plan to upgrade 31-bed hospitals to 50 beds in phases. Replying to Kazi Sekandar Ali (AL-Khulna), he said the government has no plan to constitute a Health Commission. Parity in promotions demanded. The Committee to Realise Demands for Removal of Disparity in Pay, a meeting at AG Bhawan yesterday expressing concern at the reported proposal to keep 80 per cent of promotions at higher posts in administration for BCS (administration) cadres. The Committee comprises 15 cadres. In a press release the Committee said they are deeply concerned at the news that proposals have been forwarded for approval of the Prime Minister to fill only 20 per cent of vacancies at the levels of deputy secretary, joint-secretary and additional secretary with 28 other cadres only. The meeting, chaired by Mesbahuddin Ahmed, opined that such disparity would be against all principles of justice and inconsistent with the government's policy to bring dynamism in the administration.

Fire at garments factory in EPZ

By Staff Correspondent A fire broke out at a garments factory in the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Savar last night. Savar police said the fire broke out on the third floor of the six-storey building of Young One Ltd, a Korean sports wear garments, at about 8 pm. The origin of the fire could not be known immediately. No casualty, however, was reported till filing of this report. Four fire-fighting units from Dhaka rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after one hour. The extent of damage could not be ascertained immediately.

Student dies

From page 1 rickshaw, in which Manik and his sister Kulsum were returning home after drawing Tk 20 (thousand) from a bank, near their house at about 11 am on February 9, police said. Brandishing sharp weapons the muggers asked them to give money. As Manik declined to do so, they stabbed him in his abdomen and fled away with the money. Manik was rushed to DMCH where he succumbed to his injuries yesterday morning. The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. However, none was arrested till filing of this report last night. A case was lodged with Mohammadpur thana in this regard.

BOT basis

From page 1 vested capital along with interests and a reasonable amount of profit before the project is transferred to the government. "Such private sector participation is expected to encourage additional financial, technical and managerial resources, greater efficiency and expertise besides quicker implementation of projects in the field of road infrastructure development. This will result in a substantial reduction of financial and administrative pressure on the part of the government", an official hoped. Charges for road use and rents from auxiliary services associated with the projects will be the principal sources of revenue for the repayment of the investment and profit. An attractive package will be offered by the government to ensure that individual projects are made financially viable and adequate support is provided to the entrepreneurs for the BOT mechanism, officials said.

Vacate seat

From page 1 ter reached the Speaker's office at around 10 in the morning. Dr Alauddin joined the government as State Minister for Water Resources on Tuesday. BNP expelled him hours before the swearing in ceremony. Earlier, BNP leader and Chief Whip of the Opposition Khandakar Delwar Hossain wrote a similar letter to the Speaker demanding vacation of seat of another party lawmaker, Hasibur Rahman Swapan who was appointed Deputy Minister for Industries on February 9. Swapan was also expelled from the party hours before his becoming the deputy minister. Both the BNP letters are now under legal examinations at the Speaker's office.

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APTECH

From page 1 "To achieve that goal we have also prepared a comprehensive computer training course," she noted. Abdullah Abu Sayeed thanked the company for introducing computer training in Bangla language because it will be very helpful to those who are not much familiar with foreign language. Dr Abdus Sobhan urged the government to implement the recommendations prepared by Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury for overall development of computer industry in the country. Rizwan Bin Farouque emphasised computerisation in all government offices and organisations for better work and development of human resources.

ALPP meet

From page 1 it clear to us today that this is not the end of everything as our government has got over three more years to govern in the current spell. There is a long queue and we have to wait in patience." The ALPP meeting was a very brief one, lasting only 20 minutes. Other than the Prime Minister, Food and Agriculture Minister, the Chief Whip and one MP spoke. Both the Prime Minister and Food Minister spoke about the current rice price situation in the country. Sheikh Hasina said that OMS (open market sale) programme was on and rice was being imported through public and private sectors. Besides, a 2.5 per cent development tax on rice import has been withdrawn, mentioned Hasina. Food Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury informed the AL lawmakers that dealers would be appointed soon to extend the current OMS programme up to union level. She said that OMS rice would be made available twice a week at union level. Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah briefed the ALPP meeting about the current session of parliament, which has been adjourned till March 1. Sources told The Daily Star that after resumption, the current session may be prolonged. An AL lawmaker proposed that the parliament session be held in the afternoon instead of morning hours to solve that quorum problem. The Prime Minister however rejected the idea and asked all party MPs to attend the House in time.

Advertisement for Gas Line Distribution (গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ অভিযান) featuring the logo of Bangladesh Gas Pipeline Corporation (BGPC) and text in Bengali regarding gas supply and safety.

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