

CU students demand removal of Provost of Priti Lata Hall

From CU Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, July 29: Students of Priti Lata Chhatra Hall of the Chittagong University demanded removal of the Hall Provost as at least 150 students failed to enter their dormitory till at around 1:00 am last night. They gheraoed the Vice Chancellor's office in support of their demand on the campus today and chanted various slogans against Prof Dr Fasiul Alam, Provost of the Hall. Witnesses said more than one hundred female students gheraoed university transport office yesterday protesting the decision of the fare hike of marketing bus from campus to town. Due to gherao programme, these students failed to enter their dormitory at 7:30 pm, the dead line of entrance in the hall. They alleged that Provost Dr Fasiul Alam did not give them permission to enter the hall and locked the main gate while the students entered their hall by breaking the collapsible gate at around 1:30 am.

AGM of Kazi Motahar Hossain Foundation Aug 3

The discussion meeting and Annual General Meeting of Kazi Motahar Hossain Foundation, which was scheduled for today, will now be held on August 3 at the Atomic Energy Centre auditorium. The discussion meeting will begin at 5 pm and the general meeting at 7 pm. A press release yesterday said that today's programme has been postponed due to unavoidable reasons.

Govt decision of banning migration of women condemned

By Staff Correspondent
Naripakkho, a women's rights organisation, yesterday condemned the government's recent decision banning migration of women as housemaids and nurses. Demanding immediate withdrawal of the decision, the organisation also urged the government to take concrete steps to provide a safe environment in which women can freely earn their livelihood as well as enjoy due respect and dignity as human beings and equal citizens of the country. The government's ban on the migration of women workers to foreign countries as housemaids and nurses is tantamount to a gross infringement of women's human rights of freedom of movement, economic self reliance and self determination," a Naripakkho press release said.

Sarwar takes oath as MP

Mohammad Mujibur Rahman Sarwar, newly elected Parliament Member from Barisal-5 constituency, took oath of office yesterday, reports UNB. Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury administered the oath at a simple ceremony at his Parliament office. Deputy leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Opposition Chief Whip Khondker Delwar Hossain and Parliament Members Haliz Uddin Bir Bikram, Amanullah Aman and Alhaj Muhammad Abdul Wahab were present. Parliament Secretary Kazi Muhammad Munzoor-e-Mowla and other officials concerned were also present.

UNFPA roundtable

Participants review tripartite partnership to steer ahead dev

By Staff Correspondent

During the working sessions in last three days' roundtable, participants from about 40 countries reviewed tripartite partnership of the governments, the civil societies and the international communities. Bangladesh is hosting one of the four series of roundtables being held since Monday at a city hotel organised by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with Bangladesh government. The participants identified a number of constraints which frustrated collaboration — the key focus of the roundtable on 'Partnership with civil society to implement the Programme of Action, ICPD+5'.

The working groups came up with eight ways of getting the tripartite relationship going. Some of them include, creating common fora for dialogue and consultation, reexamine concepts and assumptions of partners, promoting respect for other people's experiences, identifying and agreeing on key players in order to allocate roles, responsibilities and duties and developing joint local plans of actions.

While the participants recognised the principles as instrumental in building an enabling environment, they, however, mentioned about some obstacles that impede the development of partnership. Some of them include, divergent and parallel agenda and priorities among partner groups, differing political climate, lack of clear legal framework or guidelines on partnership, lack of information on ICPD, lack of communication among partners and lack of human resource capacity, especially under decentralised governance.

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held at Cairo, put into specific programme of action that calls for global demand for improving quality of care to mankind, and integrating family planning into broader context of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

ICPD urges government, NGOs, and the international or-

ganisations to promote partnership with the private sector steer ahead the programme of action of the conference. The roundtable, participated by some 66 delegates including Bangladesh from about 40 nations, aims at reviewing the status of partnership among governments, civil societies and the private sector and the international communities to advocate ICPD Programme of Action.

It also aims to identify some of the key issues like constraints, lessons learnt since the ICPD with respect to policy, legislative, managerial and financial aspects.

While speaking on financial sustainability, a participant said, "Tax exemption is one of

Tuition fee hike GCO urges DU authorities to withdraw decision

By DU Correspondent

Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), a conglomerate of five left leaning student organisations, yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally on the Jahangirnagar University campus protesting the Dhaka University (DU) authorities' recent decision to increase tuition fees and other charges. The procession, which started from the central cafeteria, marched through the campus and ended at the Arts Faculty premises.

Speakers at the rally urged the DU authorities to withdraw its decision to raise the tuition fees and expressed solidarity with the agitating DU students. They also called upon the student community to come forward to foil the conspiracy to make education costly and to take it beyond the reach of common people.

Urging the government to stop privatisation of education, they demanded that eight per cent of Gross National Product (GNP) to be allocated for education sector.

the issues that need to be considered for further progress in the ICPD Programme of Action."

A parliamentarian during her presentation of the four-day roundtable session said, "Partnership between governments and the civil societies, a 'critical need' for achieving the goals of Cairo Conference, should not only be in formulating and implementing specific projects under the Programme of Action of ICPD but in monitoring and evaluating their performance as well."

Grace Akello, a member of parliament from Uganda addressing on the role of parliamentarians in creating an enabling environment" said, "Elected parliamentarians world over are the voice of the people. They straddle the worlds of culture, religion, race etc. If anyone is bound to know this well, it is the area of parliamentarians."

Therefore, parliamentarians should be at the core of any conception, coordination and implementation of policies on population or any issue that involves civil society, she said. Mirai Charanje of Self Employed Women's Association from India, in her deliberation on 'status of partnership among civil society, government and the international community' said, "Partnership can be strengthened for the poorest of the society, like the women, and can result in workable programmes and policies that have significant impact on them."

"What is needed is to start planning based on women's needs and priorities, and the development implementation strategies that are decentralised, appropriate and in the hands of women," she added. All nations now accept that population concerns are the heart of sustainable development growth and high fertility rate hold back development.

But Cairo Conference also put an end to the concept of 'population control'. The conference recognised that smaller families and slower population growth depend not on 'control' but on choice.

Block bidding: An anatomy

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companies are Enron, Unocal, Pangaea, OMC and Tullow. (Enron is being represented by Yusuf Abdullah Harun, Unocal by Abdul Awal Minto, Pangaea by Quaiyum Reza Chowdhury, OMC by Iftekhar Karim and Tullow by Kazi Shahed Ahmed).

The Prime Minister had said earlier that the government was taking time as it was cautious. She added that the government would uphold Bangladesh's interest and would try to accommodate as many foreign companies as possible in the bidding.

Energy experts viewed her stance very positively because, at that time, a new consciousness began to emerge from the government's practical experience with Cairn and Occidental. Energy experts then said that investment in the energy sector was totally unlike investment in any other sector. A little flaw in contract terms with a foreign company can cost the nation millions of dollars.

In this sector, a foreign company invests money to find a gas field and then takes back the money — on priority basis — within five to seven years after a gas field is found and developed. Therefore, the ultimate stake is for Bangladesh itself. If a company spends recklessly or more than the amount actually required for exploration and development of a gas field and the government can not control it, we all have to pay for it.

It was seen that the government could not afford to buy gas from the foreign companies. It turned out that the price of the gas developed by foreign companies is more than double the price of gas developed by the local company.

In addition, the government did not have any plan to utilise the gas to be supplied by Cairn or Occidental. Therefore, whatever quantity of gas any of these companies will be supplying, the government will be unable to consume it systematically. Besides, after the Magurchara blow-out, it became clear that the government's existing mechanism can not even monitor a single foreign company like Occidental, leave alone several.

The budget hike controversy with Cairn, in which Cairn enhanced its 178 million-dollar Sangu budget (recoverable) to 264 million dollars, showed that the government lacked negotiation skill.

It was therefore expected that the government would take some decisions to minimise these risks and to make the second round block bidding financially more attractive for Bangladesh.

But the Sunday's announcement rather surprised the nation including the people who had been watching this bidding process very carefully. The announcement was surprising because, excepting two components, all the other decisions were taken back in January. If so, then why did the government wait for the last six-seven months?

As per the decision taken back in January-February, blocks 3 and 6 would go to Enron-Okland companies, blocks 5 and 10 to Shell-Cairn companies, Block 7 to Unocal-Triton and Block 8 to Pangaea-OMV. For the most-sought-after blocks 9 and 11, the government's much favoured Irish company Tullow, Chevron-

Obituary

Veteran politician Ekhlashur Rahman Khan (E R Khan) died of coronary thrombosis at his village home at Rouhadah in Bogra recently. He was 64, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, one son and five daughters, family sources said.

He was vice-president of National Awami Party (NAP), Dhaka city unit. He was buried at his family graveyard in Bogra.



JAGPA brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for today's hartal. — Star photo

Exemplary punishment to Rubel's killers demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Following an extensive investigation into the Rubel murder, Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims (BRCTV) has said Rubel was killed by inhuman and brutal torture by five members of DB police who arrested Rubel in suspicion of holding illegal arms on July 23.

In the wake of a three-day through investigation, BRCTV held SI of DB Hayatul Islam Thakur, ASI Abdul Karim Habibul Nuruazzaman, Constable Parvez and Constable Meer Faruk responsible for the killing and demanded exemplary punishment to them.

A five-member BRCTV investigation team led by its general secretary Akram Hossain Chowdhury prepared a report on the Rubel murder following visit to the Rubel's residence, DB office, Ramna thana, Dhaka Medical College.

They also interviewed inmates of Rubel's residence, their neighbours, witnesses of torture, DMCH doctors, Ramna thana OC and Deputy Commissioner of police Syed Bazul Karim to unveil the truth behind the murder.

The investigation was carried out on Friday, Saturday and Tuesday to ascertain the backgrounds, causes and other details of the killing.

The report said Rubel was arrested from his 63/1, Siddheswari Circular Road residence at around 4:30 pm on July 23. Quoting Rubel's relatives, friends and neighbours, the report said Rubel was a meritorious student and there was no case or allegation against him to law enforcing agencies.

The report termed the propaganda by police to ascertain the background, causes and other details of the killing. The report said Rubel was a drug addict, extortionist, illegal arms holder and terrorist as absolutely baseless and condemned the role of police in bringing such allegations against the deceased.

"According to our experience, police always bring false allegations against the victims to hide their own mischief and atrocities," they said.

BRCTV also suggested five recommendations to cope with the situation arising out of the recommendations include judicial

probe into the incident, exemplary punishment to the killers, compensation to Rubel's family, making provision for adequate training for the members of law-enforcing agencies and using psychological pressure in place of physical torture while interrogating alleged criminals.

Meanwhile, Sammitto Nari Samaj (SNS) yesterday strongly condemned the killing of Shamim Reza Rubel and demanded to make the investigation report public, award exemplary punishment to the killers and ensure accountability of police forces to the people.

SNS in a statement said, "This is only a single case of the many incidents of police brutality which has come out recently."

"DB police had also tortured to death Arun Chakrabarty a few months ago and no action had been taken against them," the statement said.

National Committee for Peace and Friendship (NCPF) yesterday protested the brutal killing of brilliant student Shamim Reza Rubel under the DB police custody recently, according to BSS.

In a joint statement to the press convened by NCPF Professor Kadir Chowdhury and Member Secretary Dr Harun Ar-Rasheed said "it's a matter of grave concern for any citizens of the country that a meritorious student like Rubel died in police custody when the duty of police is to ensure security of life and property of the people."

The NCPF leaders expressed satisfaction over the formation of judicial inquiry committee to investigate Rubel's killing under the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Strongly condemning the incident they demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the incident. They urged the government to restructure the existing police administrative system to uphold human values and ensure accountability and transparency.

They also urged 'all concerned' to refrain from doing politics with the incident and not to look at it with petty party interest."

Death anniversary

The 19th death anniversary of Abul Quasem, a retired judge and former president of Chittagong Bar Association, will be observed tomorrow at his village home Sultanpur under Raozan thana in Chittagong, says a press release.



Death anniversary of Nurul Huq Chaudhuri observed

The 40th death anniversary of Nurul Huq Chaudhuri, former (1956-57) Central Minister, Minister for Works, Labour, Minority & Home Affairs, was observed in Chittagong yesterday. Milad Mahfil and discussion meetings were arranged to commemorate the death anniversary of this golden son of the soil, says a press release.

He was elected Member of Legislative Assembly of Undivided Bengal in 1924 and on his direct initiative, Chittagong Port was declared as the 'Major Port' in 1925 and the present status and position of Chittagong Port is the outcome of his relentless efforts.

He had earned name and fame for his non-compromising attitude and the movement against the then British Government as the Chief Whip of the 'Swaraj' Party under the able guidance and leadership of Deshbandhu Chitta Ranjan Das.

He was also elected Member of the Parliament in the year 1955 and he became the Central Minister in 1956 under United Front Government.

Nurul Huq Chaudhuri had not only served the nation as a Central Minister but also looked after the interest of the Bengalis. He provided many Bengalis with jobs and he did not compromise regarding the interest of the Bengalis.

Texaco and Mobil-Petronas were given one month's time to reach understanding for partnerships. It was also decided that further talks with Maersk Olie would continue over blocks 19 and 20.

Compared to the January '98 position, the current decision has two differences: 1. Block 10 was put out of the bid, apparently to favour some other company in future. 2. The partnership formula for Blocks 9 and 11 has been modified. If the earlier formula, the government suggested 45 per cent share for Tullow (both in blocks 9 and 11), 45 per cent for Chevron-Texaco in Block 9, 45 per cent for Mobil-Petronas in Block 11 and 10 per cent for BAPEX (in both the blocks). The present formula benefited BAPEX as the government suggests 25 per cent share for each of the companies in both the blocks.

These changes actually make no difference in the expected impact of the Second Round Block Bidding on the economy of the country. Energy experts believe that considering the PSC experience with Cairn and Occidental, the government should have modified the PSCs and enhanced Bangladesh's share of profit. They also believe that certain blocks like 9, 10 and 11 should have been put out of the bid for future exploration by BAPEX. Both these opinions came out in the press many times. Besides, these were discussed in a brain storming session in Petrobangla. Yet, the current decision ignored these opinions.

From the beginning of the Second Round Bidding the government had shown its inefficiency and lack of clarity and vision in carrying out a proper and professional bidding procedure.

Firstly, it changed the bidding criterion thrice between July and October. It is true that the government has the authority to change the criterion as it wishes. But changing it thrice after 22 foreign companies had submitted bid documents certainly showed that things were not going as it was planned.

Secondly, it had been said in a pre-bid press conference that BAPEX would be given separate blocks and special incentives as our national exploration unit. This was obviously never reflected in the actual bidding process.

Thirdly, before the bid, it was said that the most prospective blocks 9 and 11 would be put in the Second Round Bid-

ding as a special attraction but these blocks would not be actually given to any foreign company.

Fourthly, the negotiation team of the government lacked adequate specialised manpower. Worse, the team was actually not empowered to negotiate but to convey the decisions and messages of the government's high-powered Investment Committee. Bidding in the gas sector is technically complicated. Therefore, it is most likely that the negotiations already held had been faulty.

Fifthly, the government took the charge of finding 'big' partners for one small company. Typically, the partnership question is supposed to be answered by the companies themselves. But the government stressed on it so much that the bidding was actually delayed for this reason. "National interest" or "cautious steps" were the rhetoric used.

Sixthly, it had announced a policy of "one company, one block" while inviting the foreign companies for negotiation in October 22. But in practice, it shifted from this formula. Obviously certain companies have been benefited by the announcement and then shifting from the decision while certain other companies were affected.

Seventhly, from December onwards, the government said that it wanted to accommodate as many companies as possible in the bidding results. Nobody knows the actual gain of this policy for Bangladesh. Finally, no negotiator can actually explain clearly how Bangladesh is going to be economically benefited from the Second Round Bidding in the light of the existing PSC experiences.

We have heard high sounding investment figures like 200 billion dollars, but now we know that whatever the foreign companies invest — they take them away in seven to 10 years. We have heard that new big gas reserves will boost our energy sector so much that the economy will gain a new pace — but we have seen that the government can not handle a daily supply of more 60 million cubic feet from Sangu. We are now seeing reports on government's plans to export gas. If that is the purpose, then the whole vision of boosting the economy is going to be adversely affected, some energy experts say. We think that there should be fact-based public discussion on our energy options to determine which direction we should take.

Government of Bangladesh
Police Headquarters
Dhaka

International Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from the bonafide international suppliers/manufacturers or their authorised agents for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Police during the financial year 1998-99:

1. Name of item (i) Shotgun (ii) Gas Gun (iii) Tear Gas Shell (long range & short range) (iv) Bullet Proof Jacket (v) 12 Bore Shotgun Cartridge (vi) Gas Mask (vii) Audio Hailer.
2. Cost of tender schedule (non-refundable) Tk 750/- for SI. No. 1-6 only & Tk. 400/- for SI. No. 7 only in cash, each set for each item.
3. Tender schedule available from Police Headquarters, E&T Section, Room No. 107, Police Bhaban, Dhaka.
4. Last date of selling tender documents Up to 27th August, '98 on all working days during office hours.
5. Place, date & time of submitting/opening tenders. Tenders will be received on 10th September, '98 up to 12:00 hours at Police Headquarters, Room No. 107, Dhaka & will be opened at 12:30 hours on the same date and venue in presence of tenderers, if any.
6. Earnest money (refundable) @5% (five per cent) of total quoted value of the item.
7. Sample As per approved specification & sample.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender/tenders without any reasons.

Md. Anwar Hossain
Asstt. Insp. Genl. of Police (E&T)
Bangladesh, Dhaka
Tel: 9564313.

DFP-16091-26/7/98
G-1708

BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিলায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, NGFF Ltd, Fenchuganj, Sylhet invites sealed quotation against Tender Enquiry Nos. (1) NGFF/428/TSD(LAB)/85 for Karl Fisher Titrator (2) NGFF/P-429/TSD(F&S)/86 for Fire & Safety Equipment on C&F(C) Chittagong basis under double envelope system. Tender documents may be purchased at Tk. 50.00 & Tk. 25.00 per set (non-refundable) respectively from (1) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong (3) NGFF Ltd, Fenchuganj, Sylhet on all working days during office hour. Quotations against both the above mentioned tender will be received on 07-9-98 up to 11-00 AM and will be opened in public immediately thereafter. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening of the tender.

BCIC-624-23/7/98
DFP-16116-26/7/98
G-1709

Kazi Fazlul Hoque
Addl. Chief Manager (Pur)
NGFF Ltd.

Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
222, New Eskaton Road, Dhaka-1000

Re-Auction Notice

Sealed quotations are invited from the intending buyers/companies for sale of various old construction machinery and materials (as is where it is basis) of a leasing-cum-repairing company presently out of business in CEPZ.

Intending buyers are allowed to see the machinery and materials at Chittagong Export Processing Zone on any working day between 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM up to 29.8.98 in cooperation with the Zone Office.

The tender documents may be procured from the Accounts Departments of BEPZA, 222, New Eskaton Road, Dhaka, CEPZ, South Halishahar, Chittagong and DEPZ, Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka on payment of Tk 200.00 (non-refundable). No tender documents will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

Tenderer(s) must enclose Pay Order/Bank Draft amounting to 25% of the quoted price as earnest money (refundable) from any scheduled bank favouring Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority. Without earnest money tender will be rejected outright.

Tenders must be submitted in sealed envelopes in the tender box to be kept in the office of the General Manager, Chittagong Export Processing Zone, Chittagong and in the Executive Office of BEPZA, 222, New Eskaton Road, Dhaka-1000 before 12:00 Noon on 30.8.98. It will be opened at 12:15 PM on the same day in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Successful tenderer is required to make full payment of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favour of Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority. Earnest money will be adjusted with the quoted price.

Auction order will be issued after receiving the full payment from the successful tenderer. The successful bidder will have to remove the machinery and materials within 30 days from the date of issuance of the auction order. Otherwise it will be treated as authority's property and no claim will be accepted in this regard.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders/offers without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Md Kamal Akhtar
General Manager
Investment Promotion

DFP-16086-26/7/98
G-1707

বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA. PHONES : 894771-9, 894730-4, CABLE: AIRBANGLA, TLX : 642649 DABG BJ

Stores & Purchase Directorate
Ref: DACPF/Int'l Tender/001/98-99 Dated : 28-07-98.

International Tender

Sealed tender is hereby invited for supply of following items to Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Sl.No.	Tender Number	Description of Goods	Cost of Schedule
01.	DACPF/Int'l Tender/001/98-99 dated 28.07.1998	11 Line inflight service items (Disposable Cutleries Items).	Tk.2000.00 or USD.50.00 per set

Tender schedule with details specification terms and conditions will be available at the cost of USD. 50.00 or BDT. 2000.00 per set (non-refundable) from Accounts Officer (Cash & Banking), Biman Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka and Asstt. Manager Accounts (Cash & Banking), Balaka, Head Office, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka and Office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st 12 Storied Govt. Office Building, 1st floor, Room No. 206), Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 as well as with Finance Manager, Biman, Bangkok, Hongkong, Singapore, Tokyo, Dubai, London, Rome, Paris, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Brussels & New York on cash payment on all working days up to 31.08.1998. A formal application in company's Letter Head Pad mentioning tender number and date shall be required for purchasing the tender documents.

Sealed tender should be dropped in the tender box kept in the office of the Dy. General Manager, Purchase, Stores & Purchase Directorate, Biman Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka, main entrance Biman Medical Centre, Security Counter (Ground Floor), Farmgate, Dhaka and Office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st 12 Storied Govt. Office Building, 1st floor, Room No. 206), Segunbagicha, Dhaka latest by 11:00 hrs Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) on 01.09.1998. In case of direct offer foreign manufacturer/principal must submit their offer as per tender terms mentioned in the tender schedule. Tender box will be opened on the same day at 14:00 hrs BST at the premises of Stores & Purchase Directorate, Biman, Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Biman management reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders, increase or decrease the quantity of items without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Dy. General Manager Purchase

GD-599