



BUET teachers, officials and students brought out a procession in the city yesterday as part of BUET Safety Day '98 programmes. — Star photo

BB Governor suggests NCBs to expand micro-credit schemes

Governor of Bangladesh Bank Lutfar Rahman Sarkar yesterday said increased share of savings of the nationalised commercial banks (NCB) should be utilised as micro-credit for poverty alleviation in the rural areas of the country, reports BSS.

He said NCB's savings of 22.5 per cent come from the rural areas whereas these banks spend only 18 per cent of the total savings for those areas.

The governor suggested that in addition to the total savings from rural areas, quantum of savings from the urban areas should also be diverted into the rural areas.

Addressing a seminar on "Micro Finance Programs of Commercial Banks" at the BIBM auditorium, the governor acknowledged the importance of micro-credit scheme for poverty alleviation and said, "We must go with micro-credit scheme and the size of the cake should be enlarged if we want to develop our manpower."

Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) organised the seminar in which a number of officials from different nationalised and private commercial banks took part.

Internationally reputed economist and Chairman of Grameen Bank Prof Mohammad Yunus, Dhaka University Professor Durga Das Bhattacharya, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr M Sohrab Uddin, former deputy governor A B M Mahbub Amin Khan and former managing director of City Bank Limited M Taher Uddin also spoke on the occasion. Dr Bandana Saha and Shah M Ahsan Habib of BIBM jointly presented the keynote paper on the topic.

Lutfar Rahman said micro-credit scheme is a reality for Bangladesh now as the country needs to develop its huge human resources. "Bangladesh is rich with its mineral and human re-

sources, but now it requires 'political will' and changing of 'attitude' to be self-reliant and developing one in the true sense," he added.

Narrating his experience as a banker, the Governor said it will not be sufficient to disburse credit only, supporting services will also be provided for proper utilisation of the loan.

Prof Yunus said there should be no doubt about the micro-credit scheme in Bangladesh. "The debate can take place how it will be implemented to make it effective, viable and sustainable in the country," he said.

He said micro-credit should be described as the credit for poorest of the poor who have no security in terms of money and asset.

Giving a brief account of emergence of the Grameen Bank, Prof Yunus said the bank

was born due to repeated failure of my gesture to convince the central bank about the benefit of micro-credit scheme in Bangladesh.

He said Grameen Bank model should be considered the last solution for poverty alleviation and self-employment generation in the country. "I called upon you all to be innovative," he said, adding that Grameen Bank has paved the way to think alternative.

Prof Durga Das lauded the micro-credit system and said recovery rate of the system is almost cent per cent.

He said the credit scheme of Bangladesh should be freed from the vested quarters. "Commercial banks have to come forward with increased allocation to spread micro-credit scheme at the grassroots level."

Obituary

Advocate Mozammel Haq, ex-public prosecutor of Pabna and a veteran lawyer died of complex ailment at his residence on August 15. He was 59, says a press release.

He was buried at Arifpur graveyard. His kulkhwani was held on Aug 16.

The Pabna Bar Association held a condolence meeting at the Bar premises.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter. His wife Begum Sharifunnessa is the Headmistress of Pabna Govt Girls' High School.

Death anniversary

The death anniversary of A Hakim Khan, ex foreman of Jamee Finlay Motor works, will be observed today by several sociocultural organisations through *Quaran khwani* and milad mahlis.

He was a devoted social reformer of Rajpara, PS Nawabganj, Dhaka and also the founder of Hakim Motors.

ADAB seeks donors' help for flood victims

ADAB has requested the donors and the international community to extend their support for immediate relief and rehabilitation of the flood-affected people of the country, reports UNB.

The request was made when the ADAB leaders met the representatives of the Dhaka-based donor agencies, foreign missions and the UN bodies to apprise them of the flood situation in the country.

The chairperson of ADAB, Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed, presided over the meeting. The international organisations which were represented in the meeting are: SCF (UK), MSF-Holland, Islamic Relief, TDH-Netherlands, USAID, CARE, Save the Children-UK, Concern-Bangladesh, UNICEF, FAO, Aus-AID, OXFAM-UK, European Commission, UNDP, IPRC, Royal Danish Embassy, Shapla Neer, CIDA, Canadian High Commission, Save the Children-USA, Terre-des-Homes Lausanne, Embassy of Japan, DFID, World Food Programme, Red Barnet and Action Aid.

Officials representing the in-

ternational and bilateral agencies suggested that a formal appeal be made on behalf of the government for mobilising international assistance.

The ADAB chairperson, however, insisted that the donors consider appeals of ADAB, mainstream NGOs and the civil society.

The NGO leaders said that in a grave situation like this, the international development partners of the NGOs should not wait for a formal appeal from the government.

Immediate needs were identified as food (dry and baby food), emergency medicines, ORS, water purifying tablets, safe drinking water, water containers, temporary sanitary latrines, fuel and firewood, fodder, vaccination for cattle and tubewells.

The post-flood needs include seeds, seedlings and other agricultural rehabilitation support, creation of job opportunities, repairing of houses and medicines and health support for diseases like typhoid, dysentery, hepatitis and diarrhoea.

'Deprived' DU BCL activists for full-fledged committee

By DU Correspondent

Some "deprived" activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), demanded formation of a full-fledged committee for its Dhaka University unit alleging that the present activities of the DU unit are against the constitution of the party.

The "deprived" activists submitted a memorandum to the president and general secretary of the DU unit of BCL on August 18 and demanded formation of the committee within three days. The deadline expires today.

The present three member committee with president, general secretary and organising secretary was formed in July 1994. They were entrusted with the responsibility to form a full-fledged committee for the DU unit. Bahadur Bepari, Abdul Wadud Khokon and Sajjad Hossain were made president, general secretary and organising secretary respectively.

In the memorandum, the activists said that as the committee, if formed, would be the "defaulted" committee of 1994, the then activists of BCL should be considered for different posts.

They also promised to accept the committee even if they did not get their "deserving" posts in the committee.

The deprived activists also have planned to launch movement if their demands were not met by the stipulated time which expires today.

The president or general secretary of the BCL could not be contacted for their opinion yesterday.

Six policemen accused of trying to violate girl

By Court Correspondent

One Monwara Begum yesterday accused six policemen including the officer-in-charge of Daudkandi thana of trying to violate her.

She filed a case with the CMM's court, Dhaka in this regard.

In her complaint, Monwara Begum said that the OC of Daudkandi thana and five of his constables had kept her in confinement for 10 days since July 18 last at different places and tried to violate her during illegal confinement. Eventually, she managed to escape and came to Dhaka.

Monwara Begum further alleged that the accused came to Dhaka on August 5 and made unsuccessful attempts to kidnap her from Demra area.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mortuza Ahmed recorded her statement and said he would give a decision on the next course of action on Sunday.

'Cooperative movement to be strengthened'

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya yesterday said the rules and regulations are being revised 'to strengthen' the cooperative movement in the country, reports BSS.

The present government believes in national development through cooperatives," he said while inaugurating a special general meeting of the Bangladesh Jatiya Palli Unnayan Samabayta Federation at the National Press Club auditorium.



Female students of Jahangirnagar University brought out a procession on the campus yesterday demanding punishment to those involved in the alleged rape of 3 female students in last 3 months. — Star photo

Hasina hands over family savings certificates worth Tk two lakh

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday handed over family savings certificates worth Taka one lakh to each of the two families who rendered valuable services for restoration of democracy, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina handed over family welfare certificates valued Taka one lakh to Kohinoor Akhter, wife of Mustafizur Rahman Bablu of Lalmonirhat, who was killed by BNP terrorists on March 24, 1996 during the non-cooperation movement.

The Prime Minister gave another one lakh Taka worth savings certificate to Rahima Khatun, mother of Mushahid Hossain Badsha, who was killed by BDR firing in 1986 during the anti-autocratic movement.

Mustafizur Rahman and Mushahid Hossain are two brothers and the entire family was on the verge of ruin at the tragic death of these two valiant members.

Govt urged to accept SOFA

By Staff Correspondent

Eight eminent citizens of the country expressed concern over the rejection of the proposed Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with the US government in a statement issued recently, says a press release.

They urged the government to ensure the independence of the country through military cooperation by accepting SOFA.

In the statement, they demanded that Bangladesh should expand the scope of exercises and contacts of its defence forces outside the SAARC, particularly with USA, China and the Islamic countries.

They said that the government had shamefully compromised the sovereign rights of Bangladesh by rejecting the SOFA proposal yielding to Indian pressures.

Terming the South Asian nuclear tension as a regional issue, they said that the issue was skipped as a bilateral issue by the SAARC summit. The leaders at the summit neither expressed concern about nuclear weaponisation by India and Pakistan, nor urged them to sign NPT or CTBT.

The signatories of the statement include Prof Talukder Moniruzzaman, Sadek Khan, Dr Mahbub Ullah, Dr Aftab Ahmed, Dr Shamsur Rahman, Fazal M. Kamal, Amanullah Kabir and Dr Osman Haider Chowdhury.

Rape incidents protested JU female students gherao VC's office

By Staff Correspondent

At least 500 female students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday staged demonstration and gheraoed the Vice-Chancellor's office demanding exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for raping three students on the campus during the last three months.

In a memorandum to the VC in-charge, the female students threatened to boycott classes en masse from Wednesday if the authorities failed to identify culprits and take action against them by Tuesday.

"Some armed goons of an influential student organisation is involved in the rape incidents and they are being backed by a quarter of the administration," mentioned the memorandum.

When contacted Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, Secretary, Ministry of Education said, "We are yet to get any official information from university authority."

The law should take its own course in this regard," he added. The education minister, however, could not be reached last night for his comments in this regard.

Two provosts of the four female residential halls in a meeting with the VC-in-charge, yesterday informed that they came across some allegations of rape cases on the campus, and wanted more time for detailed investigation in that regard. However, the other two provosts said that they did not find anything worth of the alleged rape cases.

On Wednesday, the provosts were directed to submit report on the alleged rapes by yesterday.

Another high level meeting of the deans, provosts, and proctors of the university reviewed the law and order situation on the campus and resolved to take some measures to strengthen the security on the campus.

Meanwhile, JU unit of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in a press release refuted the reports published in a section of newspapers which said one of their leaders were involved in the rapes.

BCL also urged the authorities to identify the culprits and ensure punishment. Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Bangladesh Chhatra Union in separate statements also demanded stern action against the rapists who violated three girl students at gun-point on the campus.

When contacted, the VC-in-charge Prof Azizul Haq Bhuiyan told The Daily Star, "This kind of heinous crimes on the campus cannot be tolerated and this should not go unchallenged." We will do our best to try the culprits," he said.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BRAC is looking for Environmental Researchers for its Research and Evaluation Division.

Persons having interest to build his/her career in research and good grasp in various aspects of environment may apply. They will be based in Dhaka. The job will however, require extensive traveling and stay in the rural areas.

A sound academic background in Bachelors and Masters degree, (Ph.D preferred) in environmental science / environmental study from a recognized institution is required. The incumbent(s) should have excellent command in English, some work experience in the relevant field and good interpersonal skills. Women are particularly encouraged to apply. Salary negotiable.

Interested candidates please apply with detailed curriculum vitae and a recent photograph to Personnel Department, BRAC, BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212 no later than August 30, 1998.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Pathfinder International invites applications for the position of Finance and Administration Manager. It is a senior management position. The selected candidate will be based in HQ in Dhaka but will require field trips to rural areas.

Qualification Required:

- MBA in Finance/Qualified Chartered/Cost and Management Accountant
- Ten years experience including at least five years in senior Finance and Administration capacity
- Knowledge of USAID rules and regulation would be preferred
- Strong oral and written skills in Bangla and English
- Hand-on experience of commonly used computer software
- Experience on administering Grant would be preferred

Competencies Required:

- Provide leadership to the Finance & Administration Department and assist senior management in forward planning and decision making.
- Prepare revision to the Accounts Manual, Chart of Accounts and accounting procedures, as require from time to time
- Ability to supervise all aspects of accounting function and maintain accounting records of HQ and projects.
- Responsible for preparation of budgets, follow up and reporting of financial information to donors and to the NGO Affairs Bureau
- Responsible for policy formulation and implementation of office administration and personnel matters

Interested candidates should apply with detailed curriculum vitae, one copy of photograph, name of two professional referees, contact phone no. & current and expected salary to the Advertiser, Box No. A-1575/C/o, The Daily Star, Dhaka by August 31, 1998

'New laws must to put an end to issuance of religious sermons'

By Staff Correspondent

Panelists at a day-long national seminar in the city yesterday raised their voice in favour of a 'uniformed family code' and pleaded strongly for introducing new laws putting an end to issuance of religious sermons, commonly known as Fatwas.

Some of the discussants at the seminar expressed deep concern at the formation of a committee by state-run Islamic Foundation for issuing sermons.

The seminar titled "Law Reform to Make it More User Friendly for Women" held at LGED Bhaban, was jointly organised by two non-government organisations - Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha and Institute for Law and Development.

Participants at the seminar were critical of so-called 'safe custody' system, which they think, adds miseries to victims in most of the cases whereas accused gain bail from courts.

Addressing at the concluding session as chief guest Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury laid emphasis on proper application of existing laws though, she acknowledged that, there were def-

initely laws that need reforms. The delay in trials frustrate the people who seek justice. A mass awareness is the call of the hour," said the minister urging upon the women organisations to gear up activities at grassroots level.

She favoured suggestion to introduce laws banning Fatwa and said rural women, those vulnerable to repression, could be ultimate beneficiary of legal counseling if 13,500 elected women members of Union Parishads be trained on minimum rights of women and legal procedures.

Barrister Tania Ameer presented a detailed keynote at the seminar dwelling on issues like marriage registration, child marriage, dowry, divorce and maintenance, polygamy, adoption, property right and judicial activism. Justice K M Sobhan, Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan and journalist Sontosh Gupta discussed on the keynote while participants from the audience also took part when the floor made open for all.

Elderly women activists and former lawmaker Begum Noorjahan Morshed chaired the in-



The wreckage of a bus that collided with a truck in Bandar thana under Narayanganj yesterday, killing eight workers of Adamjee Jute Mills. — Star photo

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Bangladesh Airlines
Tender Notice
No. DACPN/349/98
Lease of Aircraft for Hajj 1999

Bangladesh Biman Corporation invites offers (tenders) for lease of Aircraft for its Hajj Operation for the year 1999. Tender should be submitted based on tender schedule.

2. The tender in sealed envelope addressed to Deputy General Manager, Planning, Bangladesh Biman, Dhaka, should be submitted in the tender box placed in the Reception Counter of Bangladesh Biman, Balaka Bhaban, Kurmitola, Dhaka, Bangladesh latest by 11:00 hrs BST (05:00 hrs UTC) on or before September 30, 1998 and the same will be opened immediately after the closing time in presence of the bidders or their authorised representatives, if any.

3. Tender schedule will be available from Biman Head Office, Dhaka and Foreign Stations of Biman on all working days during office hours from September 01, 1998 at a cost of USD 100 or TK 4700 only.

A M Badrudduja
Deputy General Manager, Planning

The Security Printing Corporation
(Bangladesh) Ltd.
Gazipur

International Tender for Supply of Spare Parts, Consumables and Chemicals for Air Conditioning Plant

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for supply of Spare Parts, Consumables and Chemicals for Air Conditioning Plant for this Corporation. Tender paper showing terms and conditions with specification will be available from the office of The Security Printing Corporation (Bd.) Ltd., Gazipur and its Liaison Office at 16, Naya Paltan, Dhaka during all office days between 2.00 to 4.00 PM. from 23.8.98 to 3.9.98 on payment of Tk. 500.00 (Taka five hundred) only (non refundable) per set of tender schedule. Earnest money @ 25% (two and half per cent) of the total tendered amount shall be deposited in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee along with the tender in favour of The Security Printing Corporation (Bd.) Ltd., Gazipur.

The tender(s) under sealed cover addressed to the Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur will receive in his office chamber upto 3.00 PM on 24.9.98 and shall be opened at 3.05 PM on the same date at Gazipur in presence of tenderers (if any). Tenders may be sent also through Postal/Courier Services which must be reached within the scheduled time.

Kh Nur Alam
Deputy General Manager (P&S)