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Delta Life policyholders feel 'insecure', want administrator to run company

By Nurul Kabir

Some 100 policyholders of Delta Life Insurance Company have petitioned the government to declare the company's present board of directors illegal and appoint an administrator to run the company.

The Insurance Company Act, 1913 says that on the board of directors of a private sector insurance company, one third of its total members will come from the sponsors, one third from the policyholders and the rest from the shareholders.

the MD of DLICL to reply to the show-cause notice within seven days of receipt of the letter. The deadline expired yesterday, but it could not be ascertained whether the DLICL has duly replied. Neither the MD of the company, nor the Controller of Insurance could be contacted despite repeated attempts.

Grameen Bank seeks Tk 475 cr from BB

Grameen Bank has sought Tk 475 crore from Bangladesh Bank to continue lending in the flood-hit rural areas, reports APB.

able the borrowers to start life anew. Unless the borrowers restart their activities, it would be very difficult for them to pay instalment of loans which would ultimately affect the health of the Grameen Bank, the sources said.

ADB team due today to assess flood damage

A 12-member ADB Flood Rehabilitation Appraisal Mission arrives in Dhaka today, reports UNB.

Sharif denies any progress in talks with Vajpayee

DUBAI, Oct 4: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said in an interview published here today that his meeting last month with his Indian counterpart Atal Behari Vajpayee had not brought about any progress, reports AFP.

without it there can never be peace, Sharif stressed. Sharif and Vajpayee issued a joint statement after their meeting last month, which reaffirmed their belief that an environment of durable peace and security was in the supreme interest of India and Pakistan.

BGMEA clarifies, UNB stands by its report

BGMEA in a clarification yesterday said its attention has been drawn to a news item, created by UNB and published by newspapers on October 1, on its meeting with Board of Investment.

In the clarification, it was stated that the BGMEA president in the meeting said the non-cooperative attitude of a section of people in the service-oriented establishments like banks, customs and police are undermining the image of the agencies concerned as well as of the country abroad.

It said the BGMEA president also mentioned in the meeting that the enormous success in readymade garment sector for a third world country like Bangladesh has been possible following the cooperation of these service oriented agencies, including police.

"As in the past, he hoped that the concerned agencies would continue to extend their helping hand to further develop the garment industry."

He particularly sought the cooperation of Patriotic officials of these agencies, said the BGMEA clarification.

UNB version: The BGMEA didn't contradict the UNB news item as such, and UNB stands by its report.

It should also be categorically mentioned here that the BGMEA president in the meeting with BOI on September 30 did not convey such a soft-spoken version of what the clarification tried to say. Rather, he categorically brought allegations of bribery against the agencies.

Even, he cited examples of bribery when the BOI executive chairman wanted to know how the concerned officials demand money from the garment owners.

Expatriate Bangladeshis remit Tk 3533 cr in 6 months

About Tk 3533.47 crore has been earned in the first six months of the current year as remittances from Bangladeshi workers employed abroad, a high level meeting was told yesterday, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, who chaired a Cabinet Committee meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on employment of Bangladeshis in foreign countries, was further informed that in the first eight months of 1998, 166,446 people were sent abroad through official and recognised channel.

The government has fixed a target to send 202,900 people abroad with jobs during the current year.

Earnings from manpower export last year stood at Tk 6709.15 crore.

The meeting decided to lift the blanket ban on the export of women workers, except house maids, for employment abroad, including to the Middle East. On special cases, where the employer is a financially well-off Bangladeshi national, permission to take housemaids could be given after proper scrutiny.

Later talking to newsmen, Foreign Minister Azad said the Ministry of Labour and Employment has been asked to prepare a policy paper on employment abroad and place it in the next meeting of the cabinet committee.

Education Minister ASHK Sadeque, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, Labour and Employment Minister MA Mannan, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain and State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader attended the meeting.

Later talking to newsmen, Foreign Minister Azad said the Ministry of Labour and Employment has been asked to prepare a policy paper on employment abroad and place it in the next meeting of the cabinet committee.

Adding pain to injury

MAGURA, Oct 4: When the wounds caused by the century's worst flooding are still hurting them, the farmers of Lohagara thana in Magura received the final notice from the local manager of Janata Bank to pay their original loans in 25 days.

Farmer's failing to comply will face a certificate case, the bank official said in the notice, issued on September 6.

The affected farmers expressed their grievances and said they were totally broke because of the devastation caused by the recent flood.

They are requesting the immediate attention of the government to protect them from the manager's hook and not to deal them a rotten hand.

7-party "mismanagement" of post-flood relief activity, was decided at an alliance meeting at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition, M. Shamsul Islam of BNP chaired the meeting.

Meanwhile, BNP organised street protests in the divisional headquarters yesterday demanding release of arrested leaders and withdrawal of cases against party chief Khaleida Zia. The party is also scheduled to hold similar programmes in the district headquarters on Thursday and a public meeting in the capital sometime later.

BNP decided to consult its alliance partners on the issue as they were not happy about its going alone. The smaller parties in a meeting last week said they would not participate in "any agitation programme" decided by BNP unilaterally.

In another development, BNP units in greater Barisal district yesterday formed Obaid-Manzur Mukti Parishad to mobilise support for release of the two party leaders.

OMS of rice

From Page 1 The meeting discussed the matters relating to procurement of foodgrains on commercial basis and their distribution. The issue of speedy arrival of foodgrains received as relief from abroad also came up for discussion.



Police resorted to lathi charge on IOJ activists in front of the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

Hartal observed at Faridpur

FARIDPUR, Oct 4: A half-day hartal, called by opposition BNP to protest the arrest of party leaders KM Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manjur, here today was marked by sporadic clashes, reports UNB.

Witnesses said supporters and opponents of hartal clashed with bricks and chased each other at Goachamot, East-Khabaspur, Chakbazar crossing, Jhiltuli and Niltuli in the town.

Clashes and bomb explosions were reported from Talma and Nagarkanda thana headquarters. None was, however, injured in the clashes.

During the hartal hours, all kinds of vehicles were off the road, and schools, colleges, shops and business establishment remained closed.

Abducted young man rescued: 6 arrested

A young man abducted on Saturday for ransom was rescued from a hotel yesterday and six alleged abductors were arrested.

The arrested are Shamim, Mizan, Palash, Jahangir, Delwar and Ahsan. They had demanded Tk thirty thousand as ransom from relatives of the victim, Sahabuddin, 28, police said.

The kidnappers forced Sahabuddin into an auto-rickshaw in front of the BSIC Bhaban, took him to a residential hotel on Outer Circular Road and held him hostage in a room.

In a joint operation by the Detective Branch and Ramna police, he was rescued and the six were arrested from the hotel room, police said.

IOJ supporters, police clash: 12 arrested

Police used batons and tear gas to disperse supporters of Islamic Oikyo Jote (IOJ) yesterday when they tried to march towards the Secretariat demanding arrest and execution of feminist writer Taslima Nasreen.

IOJ supporters hurled rocks and returned a couple of gas shells back at police during the clash on the busy Tophkhana Road near Jatiya Press Club.

Police arrested 12 IOJ supporters after the clash that also led to disruption of traffic for sometime on the busy street in the early afternoon as many passers-by and vehicles were caught in the melee. Windshields and windows of some cars were smashed.

Police had earlier managed to stop the demonstrators near the second gate of the Secretariat where they arrived from Purana Paltan holding a rally near the Baitul Mukarram mosque.

Pill to conquer chronic shyness

LONDON, Oct 4: A Pill to conquer chronic shyness is to be launched on the British market this week, the Sunday Times reported, says AFP.

Developed by scientists at Bristol and Southampton universities, and marketed by Smithkline Beecham, the pill, called Seraxat, could help more than three million people in Britain, the paper said.

Initially approved as an anti-depressant, the drug increases the level of serotonin in the brain, creating a feeling of well-being and self-confidence. The Sunday Times said the pill transformed the life of a 29-year-old London woman who did not dare leave her home for fear of encountering strangers.

She now spends every weekend pubbing and clubbing to make up for lost time, the paper said.

Dam opens

From Page 1 sources Secretary Dr ATM Shamsul Huda, WDB chairman AKM Shamsul Huq, JRC member Khalilur Rahman and WDB member AFM Nurul Alam were present.

Both India and Bangladesh had made embankments in their own lands on the right bank of the Teesta river.

But a 38-32-metre portion of the embankment in Bangladesh's Dimla thana and 1.8 kilometres in India were not built.

The Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) in its fourth meeting in 1973, took the decision to connect the embankment in the frontier, officials said. Yet the decision could not be implemented for various reasons.

High-powered body to ease city traffic jam

A 12-member high-powered committee has been formed to take emergency measures for improvement of traffic system in the city, reports UNB.

The committee was formed at a meeting held yesterday at the Home Ministry with Home Minister Rafiqul Islam in the chair.

Inspector General of Police AYBI Siddique was made the Convenor and representatives from Army, BDR, Ansar, City Corporation, RAJUK, BRTA, Railway, Roads and Highways Department, DMP and Home Ministry are the members of the committee.

The committee will take rapid and realistic steps to ease traffic congestion at major points including Amin Bazar, Kawan Bazar, Sayedabad and Jatrahari.

The meeting reviewed the progress of implementation of the decisions taken in 11 meetings held earlier.

Home Secretary Shafulur Rahman, Inspector General of Police, Director General of BDR, Ansar, BRTA, Provost marshal of Army, Chief Executive and Additional Chief Engineer, DCC and officials concerned were present.

Chairman of the Task Force on Traffic Alhaj Makbul Hossain MP was also present.

Mintoo

From Page 1 Bangladesh Aluminium Manufacturers Association, Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury of Bangladesh Association of Banks, Md Shahjalal Majumder of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, Alhaj Mohammed Abbas Ullah of Bangladesh Chakchira Projojak, Faribachak Samity, Amir Hossain Khan of Bangladesh Dohan Malik Samity, Enayet Hossain Chowdhury of Bangladesh Electrical Merchandise Manufacturers Association, AFM Fazle Rabbi of Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association, Tareq Kamal of Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association, Alauddin Ahmed of Bangladesh Nut, Bolt, Screw & allied products Mfg Association, Khoka Sikder of Bangladesh Paduka Samity, Md Nawab Mia of Bangladesh Pipe & Tubewell Merchants Association, ASM, Kamal Uddin of Bangladesh Plastic Association, Abdul Haque of Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Association and Khandker Ruhul Amin of Bangladesh Restaurant Malik Samity.

World Habitat Day today

World Habitat Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world today, reports BSS.

The theme of this year's World Habitat Day is "Safer Cities."

Different government and non-government organisations have drawn-up programmes to mark the day.

Death decree against Rushdie 'still valid'

TEHRAN, Oct 4: Some 160 members of the Iranian parliament said in a letter today that the death decree against British author Salman Rushdie remained valid and irrevocable, Tehran Radio said, reports Reuters.

Deputies of the 270-seat Majlis, which is controlled by conservatives, in their open letter "stressed the continuation of the path of the founder of the Islamic revolution," it said.

"We assure the Muslims of the world that in this issue, nothing is valid but god's and Imam Khomeini's verdict, and no one has the ability to follow any other path," the radio quoted the letter as saying.

Delhi plans

From Page 1 - Advani said the federal government would consult the legislatures of India's 31 states and federally administered territories before making the required changes in criminal laws.

There is a feeling of public outrage whenever a woman is raped, and the minister is articulating his views to gauge public opinion," Home Secretary BP Singh told The Associated Press in a telephone interview in New Delhi.

Singh said the changes in rape laws had been part of regular discussions between federal and provincial officials.

Jail killing

From Page 1 Obaid, an MP and a central leader of BNP, Nurul Islam Manjur, a leader of Barisal BNP and Shah Moazzem, Co-Chairman of a faction of Jatiya Party, were sent to the jail on expiry of their four-day remand. They were arrested from their respective residences in the city on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the families of the arrested leaders urged the Ministry of Home Affairs to grant them division on grounds of their health condition. Besides, they also prayed to the District Magistrate for the same, members of the families said.

When contacted, the Central Jail authorities said that they did not receive any order for granting division to the three leaders accused of involvement in the jail killing of four national leaders on November 3, 1975.

Hartal observed

From Page 1 Section 144 was imposed at the thana headquarters to avert further clash.

Taslu supporters held a protest rally during hartal hours with ex-UP chairman Siddik Ali in the chair.

Addressing the rally, the speakers demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for the incident.

Genuine FFs

From Page 1 number of real freedom fighters, the BMS Chairman said though the figure would not exceed three lakh, some 30 lakh people have certificates distributed during different regimes.

AJM deal

From Page 1 other since long. Prior to such exercises, the leaders would also meet separately today with their colleagues.

Officer-in-Charge of Siddirganj thana, Saiful Islam, told The Daily Star that the labour leaders assured them of all-out assistance to free the AJM from violence. "If they honour today's agreement, clashes between the rival groups could be avoided at the AJM."

Rouf

From Page 1 only to the business community, but to the nation at large."

Chowdhury also vowed to forge a grand coalition of politicians, bureaucrats and the civil society to formulate policies on key national issues.

He also promised to identify areas of weaknesses in industrial sector and remove them by following a strategic master plan "which should give a definite sense of direction and details."

Editor: Mahfuz Anam. Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi I/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net