

Japan trade union body to help secure training visas for Bangladeshis

The National Federation of Labour Unions (RENGO) of Japan will support Dhaka's move to secure training visas for Bangladeshis workers to learn technical know-how through practical work in that Asian country, reports UNB.

The assurance was conveyed by RENGO Deputy Secretary General Yuzo Machida during a meeting in Tokyo with Awami League presidium member Amir Hossain Amu, said an official release yesterday.

Amu was assisted by Bangladesh Ambassador Rashed Ahmed in the meeting, where Mr Machida also responded positively for a closer cooperation between his trade union federation and Sramik League, the labour front of Awami League.

The AL leader briefed the Japanese trade unionist about government's achievements and sought their support for granting training visas to Bangladeshis to help convert a huge manpower to productive officials and workforce.

Bangladesh had earlier placed a proposal with Japanese government for issuing training visas to the workers for acquiring skills through practical work in the technologically advanced country.

Also, Amir Hossain Amu had a friendly and fruitful meeting with former Finance Minister of Japan and President of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarian League Hiroshi Mitsuzuki MP in Tokyo.

During the meeting, Amu briefed him about the latest socio-economic situation in Bangladesh and the achievements of the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He also explained that the implication of the verdict of Bangabandhu Murder case would set a healthy precedence for institutionalising democracy, rule of law and to put an end to coup, killings and conspiracies against the elected governments.

Amu also sought Mitsuzuki's cooperation and assistance in implementing Rupsha Bridge, Dhaka Eastern By-pass Road and Embankment Project and other vital projects and also for granting training visas to Bangladeshis workers.

Mitsuzuki highly appreciated the achievement of the government of Sheikh Hasina for her sincere efforts to establish democracy, rule of law and for significant development of self-reliant Bangladesh.

He pledged his personal, LDP party and government support for strengthening bilateral relationship and enhanced Japanese assistance to Bangladesh including private investment.

Mitsuzuki assured that he will work closely for implementation of vital projects including Rupsha Bridge and training visa for Bangladeshis through coordination with Bangladesh Ambassador Rashed Ahmed.

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Teachers and students of Dhaka University paying their last respect to Prof Narendranath Biswas at the Aparajayo Bangla on the campus yesterday.

System loss, outstanding bills blamed for power crisis

CHITTAGONG, Nov 28: Lack of power generation capacity compared to the demand is responsible for the present power crisis, says a joint report of the energy ministry and Power Development Board, reports UNB.

The situation is not improving due to system loss and outstanding bills accumulated over the years and dependence on donor countries and agencies after the independence, according to the report.

The report attributed the failure to increase power generation as well as supply and distribution in consistency with the growing demand to the withdrawal of investment and assistance by the donor countries and agencies in this sector after fiscal 1989-90.

The reserve margin of power gradually reduced to almost nil starting from 1989-90. The absence of reserve causes frequent disruption in power supply.

The average reserve margin was 305 megawatt or about 50 per cent of the total actual power generation of 606 MW in 1975-76 against installed capacity of 766 megawatt while the maximum demand was 301 MW, according to the report.

In 1996-97, the margin came down to only 34 megawatt while actual generation rose to 2,148 MW against installed capacity of 2,908 MW and the demand of 2,114 MW.

The report says that power generation is hampered as gas supply cannot be ensured to the gas-based plants and generation in the 20-30 years old plants is being reduced. Generation in the Karnaphuli Hydro-Electric Power Plant also came down due to fall in the water level of Kaptai lake.

The outstanding bills of PDB and DESA increased day by day and rose to Tk 2,418.06 crore till December 1997.

There was, however, a downward trend of system loss of both PDB and DESA. The cumulative system loss of the two organisations came down to 32.9 per cent in 1996-97 from 41.03 per cent in 1991-92, according to the report.

The report said system loss would be reduced to 15 per cent if illegal connections to heavy industries are snapped.

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JCD rally in city demands arrest of BCL leader

Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally in front of the Vice Chancellor's office on Dhaka University campus demanding arrest of a BCL leader and release of its jailed GS Habibunnabi Sohel, reports UNB.

Addressing the rally, JCD president Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie said BCL resorted to terrorism on the campus since Awami League came to power. The VC did not take any action against the BCL 'terrorists', he alleged.

Annie alleged that the BCL activists led by Rizvi picked up JCD activist Shaon, a first year student of Bangla Department, Friday midnight to the Chhatra Sangsad office from his room and beat him mercilessly. Later, JCD activists rescued him.

The JCD also alleged that Rizvi beat up another JCD activist Mahubul Alam Pahary, a 1st year student of Islamic Studies Department, on the roof top of the Zia Hall on Thursday night and tried to throw him from there. But, he ran away and escaped.

After the rally JCD leaders met with the Vice Chancellor. They demanded arrest and trial of the terrorists.

Vice Chancellor Prof Azad Chowdhury assured them of looking into the matter and formed a one-member investigation committee with Proctor Dr Nurunnabi.

50 injured in Gopalganj clash

From Our Correspondent
GOPALGANJ, Nov 28: At least 50 people were injured in a clash between the supporters of two chairman candidates in Gohala Union under Mukshudpur thana of the district today.

Injured candidate Motaleb Mollah and ten others were admitted to the Mukshudpur Thana Health Complex, hospital and police sources said.

The clash erupted at Baman-danga at around 10 am when the supporters of candidate Abul Kashem attacked a procession of Motaleb's supporters with sticks and lethal weapons. Abul Kashem is a resident of Bamandanga village.

Mukshudpur police rushed to the spot and lobbed tear gas shells to bring the situation under control. A tense situation was prevailing in the area.

Woman killed in Tangail

TANGAIL, Nov 28: An old woman was crushed under the wheels of a truck on Victoria Road here today, reports UNB.

Police said, Nihar Kana Ghosh (65), wife of late Jatish Chandra Ghosh, and her granddaughter Chitra Ghosh fell down from the rickshaw they were boarding when the truck knocked it down at 3 pm.

The truck then ran over Nihar Kana leaving her dead on the spot while Chitra escaped but sustained injuries.

Police seized the truck but its driver managed to flee the scene.

Seminar on computer edn

By Staff Correspondent
A seminar on "Computer Education and Job Opportunity" was held at Dhaka College in the city yesterday.

Organised by a computer training institution, CITN, the seminar was addressed by Prof M Abdus Samad, Dr Lutfor Rahman, Prof Abdul Kader and Prof Mahfuzur Rahman.

Discussions spoke on job opportunity for those having computer training and the facilities of computer education in Bangladesh.

Principal of Dhaka College Prof Jahana Begum presided.

CU VC underscores need to restructure edn system

CHITTAGONG, Nov 28: Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University Prof Abdul Mannan today underlined the importance of restructuring the country's education system to build up efficient human resources to face the challenges of the 21st century, reports BSS.

Prof Mannan was inaugurating a seminar on "proposed national education policy-review and recommendations" at Chittagong University library auditorium here today.

Organised by Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA), the inaugural session of the seminar was presided over by CUTA president Prof Hamida Banu while CUTA general secretary Prof

Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury gave vote of thanks.

Prof Mannan said since 1944 many education commissions have been formed but the nation failed to achieve any fruitful education policy.

Prof Mannan said the Khudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission submitted its report to Bangladesh government in 1975 but following assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman the report could not be implemented.

The present government in the light of Khudrat-e-Khuda Commission has formed a time-befitting national education policy headed by Prof Shamsul Haq in 1997. Prof Mannan said adding that if the proposed national education policy is implemented, there will be a qualitative change in the education system of the country.

A keynote paper was presented in the first session by Prof Mamtazuddin Patwari, Dr Badiul Alam, Dr Aslam Bhuiyan, Prof Ranjit Dey, Prof Belayet Hossain and Prof M Haorun-Ur-Rashid, among others, participated in the discussion on the papers.

Dr Mahubullah presented a paper on "proposed national education policy: Higher education and research" in the second session, presided over by Dr Anupom Sen.

Later one minute silence was observed to pay respect to the memory of Prof Naren Biswas of Dhaka University.

Young labourer killed in bomb attack in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Nov 28: A young labourer in the suburban Kashiadanga under Rajpara thana died instantly in a bomb attack by miscreants on Friday, reports APB.

Witnesses said Kishori, 28, died on the spot when a group of hoodlums threw a handbomb on him while he was working in a field in the afternoon.

Police recovered the body from the spot and sent it to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with the local police.

Prof Abul Mansur presented the keynote paper at a discussion meeting organised by the Shipkaka Academy in observance of the 50 years of fine art movement in Bangladesh. The discussion was held at the National Museum auditorium yesterday. — Star photo

Shahjahan, Mahitul elected DRU President, GS

By Staff Correspondent
The new executive committee of the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) for the year 1999 has been elected yesterday with Shahjahan Sardar of the Itifaq and Mahitul Islam Raju of the Sangbad as its president and general secretary respectively.

Chief Election Commissioner of the DRU elections, journalist ABM Musa, announced the results at the Jatiya Press Club premises last night. Earlier, polling took place at the Press Club auditorium from 9 am to 3 pm yesterday. Out of 434 registered voters, 406 exercised their rights in yesterday's polls.

President-elect Sardar garnered 226 votes while only other candidate vying for the position, Jafar Wazed of the Muktakantha got 152 votes.

Raju became new general secretary bagging 170 votes while close-in-the-race Monowarul Islam of the Manav Zamin casting 153 votes and a third contestant Peer Habibur Rahman of the Bangla Bazar trailed behind with a paucity 50.

Rashed Chowdhury of UNB got elected as vice-president casting 187 while his only rival Mahfuzur Rahman of the Janata narrowly missed the show getting votes just three less than Chowdhury.

Other elected office bearers are: Joint secretary — Mujtahid Faruqi (Sangram), treasurer — Siddiq Islam (Bangla Bazar), organizing secretary — Kuddus Afrad (Rupali) publicity and research secretary — M Abdullah (Inquillab), sports secretary — Motahar Hossain Masum (unopposed) (Sangbad), cultural secretary — Mahmuda Chowdhury (Dinkal), and office secretary — Mahmudur Rahman Khokon (ABAS).

Newly elected 11 executive committee members are: Shahed Chowdhury (Muktakantha), Nurul Amin Pravash (Bhorer Kagol), Shaukat Ali Sagar (Protham Alo), Simal Dutt (Bhorer Kagol), Saiful Islam (ABAS), ANM Kudrat-e-Khoda (Bangla Bazar), Khairuz-zaman Kamal (Al-Amin), Shahawut Hossain (Muktakantha), Jamshid Ahmed (PROBE), Nazimur Reza Rubel (Purbanchal) and Nityya Gopal Tutu (Al-Amin).

Of member-elects, Shahed secured highest number of votes-303 while Pravash followed him closely bagging 300 votes.

Earlier, the annual general meeting (AGM) of the Dhaka Reporters' Unity was held on November 25 at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium.

Firearms seized in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Nov 28: A special team of the detective branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) in a drive recovered three different kinds of firearms, five cocktails and other ammunition from different parts of Doublemooring thana here this afternoon, reports BSS.

CMP sources said the team led by Assistant Commissioner Mia Lutfor Rahman arrested four persons from Barisal colony, Bastuhara colony and Kadamtali Pura Masjid lane of Doublemooring thana.

On the basis of the statements of the arrested, the DB police recovered a revolver, a foreign-made gun, five cocktails, five rounds revolver bullet and three cartridges.

The arrested Mohammad Alauddin, Mohammad Ayub, Abdul Hakim and Mohammad Farooque confessed that they possessed the unauthorised firearms to dominate the illegal drugs trade in the areas.

Tk 1cr project for distressed children in Pabna

PABNA, Nov 28: A project for the distressed children at a cost of about Tk one crore is progressing fast at Kabirpur area of the town, reports UNB.

An official of Social Service Department said the preliminary works of the scheme started in fiscal 1994-95 but it remained incomplete due to various reasons.

He said at the first phase 100 orphan children will be admitted after turning the Pabna Shishu Sadan into a 'Child Family'. There will be a number of units and each unit will consist of 10 children and a mother is to look after it. Residential facilities including education up to secondary level including technical education will be given to the children.

The construction work of the scheme will start in the current month and Tk 76 lakh has been allocated in two phases for the purpose.

'Dhaka city protection dam construction along Balu river to begin soon'

The government will soon start construction of a cross-dam on the eastern side of Dhaka City along the bank of river Balu covering Demra to Tongi to protect the capital city from the onslaught of floods, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman disclosed in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on "the implications of floods on the environment of Dhaka," Rahman said completion of the proposed cross-dam would be followed by phase-wise construction of a ring road and circular rail route around the city.

Under a pilot project initially the government would construct a rail line from Baniani's Kamal Ataturk Road to Tejgaon Old Airport to check the environment pollution from vehicular traffic, he said.

Besides, the government has a plan to dredge the rivers around the city for a circular riverine route, he added.

Held at the auditorium of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) the discussion was jointly organised by Poribesh Rokkha Shopoth (POROSH), Coalition of Environment NGOs (CEN), Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Manobik Shahajja Sangstha (MSS) and

Study and Research Group (SRG).

Moderated by former minister and chairman of POROSH, A M Muhiht the discussion was participated, among others, by noted environment activists, including Khushi Kabir, Prof Nazrul Islam, Dr Selimul Huq, Komal Siddiqui, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Amirul Islam and Reazuddin.

Dwelling on the need for expansion of the city area with the fast increase in population, traffic and other loads, the LGRD and Cooperatives Minister said the government had already taken up a plan to expand the Rajuk area of Dhaka City to 1,529 kilometres from the existing 829 km.

Under a master plan, the minister said, the government would develop a good number of satellite and new model towns around Dhaka City. The proposed satellite and new towns included Purbachal new town project, expansion of Uttara model town project, East Baridhara project, Jhilmit town project and Dhamsona new town project.

The minister welcomed the recommendations of the environment activists for checking the impacts of floods in the city

and said the government had already instructed the concerned authorities to construct new roads, embankments, parks, graveyards and cemetery above the 1998 flood level.

Referring to the suggestions for increasing the use of surface water, the minister said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had already instructed to construct one pond in each ward throughout the country for exclusive use of the water for drinking purposes.

He said the present government had taken measures to expedite the setting up of a Taka 100 crore water treatment plant at Saidabad and setting up of another two water treatment plant at Gandaria and Faridabad, in the city.

About the preservation of ponds, canals and wetlands, Rahman said the Prime Minister had instructed strictly to preserve them for the sake of maintaining environment in the city areas.

The environment experts, in their deliberations, strongly pleaded for preservation of khas land for exclusive use of parks, playgrounds and realisation of fund for the construction of proposed flood protection embankments from rich businessmen and affluent people.

Body of Naren Biswas handed over to DMC

By Staff Correspondent
The body of renowned educationist Prof Narendranath Biswas was donated to the Anatomy Department of Dhaka Medical College according to his last wish for research of medical students yesterday, says a press release.

Earlier, teachers and students of the Dhaka University paid their last respect to the noted researcher and phonetics expert. Prof Biswas died on Friday.

The body of Naren Biswas was first kept at the Aparajayo Bangla. Later, his body was taken to Bangla Academy premises.

Then his body was also kept at TSC, Dhaka University VC Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, ex-VC Prof Mohammad Muniruz-Zaman Miah, PSC Chairman Prof M Mostafa Chowdhury, senior teachers, officials and cultural activists paid their tributes.

Meanwhile, Education Minister A S H K Sadeque has expressed deep shock at the death of Naren Biswas.

In a message of condolence, the minister prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul. He also conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) president Dr Kazi Faruq Ahmed, in a message of condolence, expressed profound shock at the death of Prof Naren Biswas. He said the death of Naren Biswas is an irreparable loss to the nation.

B Chy warns against bid to rig Pabna-2 by-polls

PABNA, Nov 28: BNP leader Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury today warned that an allotment for ousting the government would start from the district if the by-election in Pabna-2 constituency was rigged, reports APB.

"We will launch movement for dislodging the Awami League government from here if it fails to conduct the by-election in a free and fair manner," he declared at a gathering at Sujanagar College ground.

Badruddoza accused the ruling party of trying to rig the forthcoming Pabna-2 by-election "as they had stolen votes in all previous by-elections."

The by-election in the constituency will be held on December 10 as it fell vacant following the death of Awami League MP Ahmed Tafazzul on June 27 last.

The deputy leader of the opposition in parliament said the ruling party was once again hatching "conspiracy" to steal votes the way they came to power by rigging the general election in 1996.

In a bid to "destroy" BNP, he alleged, the government has mounted "repression" on its leaders and activists through arrests, harassment and "false" cases.

Badruddoza asked the government to refrain from such "undemocratic" activities or face dire consequences.

He demanded immediate release of 35 Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal activists who, he claimed, were arrested by Sujanagar police recently.

Sujanagar police said they have prepared a list of 300 "terrorists" of whom 35 were detained with a view to ensuring a free and fair by-election in the vacant seat. But Badruddoza accused the administration of victimising the activists of BNP and its front organisations through large scale arrests ahead of the polls.

"Ruling partymen have unleashed terrorism, but they are getting off scot-free," the BNP leader told the meeting.

He said the countrymen were passing days in "great hardships" due to price-hike of essentials and deteriorating law and order situation. "But the government seems indifferent to their sufferings."

The BNP leader urged the voters to elect the party candidate in the by-election and "thereby express their no confidence in the present government."

Chaired by president of Sujanagar thana unit of BNP, Abdul Latif Master, the rally was also addressed by party MPs Lutfor Rahman, Fazlur Rahman Parul, Rafiqul Islam Bakul and party candidate AKM Selim Reza Habib.

Khan Ata's death anniversary Dec 1

The first death anniversary of eminent musician and film director Khan Ataur Rahman will be observed on December 1, said a press release yesterday, reports BSS.

A *milad mahfil* will be held at the Shruti Recording Studio premises established by Khan Ata, on the day after Magrib prayers.

Family members have requested all friends, relatives and admirers of Khan Ata to attend the *milad mahfil* to pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Five hurt in city clash

By Staff Correspondent
At least five people, including a nine-year-old girl, were wounded when two groups of local hoodlums locked in a clash in city's Hazaribagh area yesterday.

Of the injured, Rukhsana, daughter of Anis, a resident of Gajmahal in Hazaribagh area was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bomb injuries, hospital sources said.

Rukhsana was injured while she was going to a nearby grocery shop at around 12:30 pm.

Both the group chased each other and hurled crackers for about half an hour.

Police, however, could not confirm the incident till filing of this report last night.

ACAB elections Helal-Mowla panel projection meeting

By DU Correspondent
The Helal-Mowla panel held a projection meeting at a city hotel yesterday to introduce its candidates for election to the executive committee of Association of Cargo Agents of Bangladesh (ACAB).

Helaluddin Akbar and Gollam Mowla are contesting the election for the post of president and general secretary respectively.

For 9 other posts, the candidates of the panel are MA Latif, M Iqbal Ali, Javed Bin Karim, ABM Rafikuzzaman, Demien Gonsalves, Capt (Rtd) Zahir Uddin Ahmed, Md Ali Azgar, MA Sobhan and Leslie John Diaz.

Earlier, a 19-member election monitoring committee of the panel with Parvez Hasan Khan as president had been formed.

The ACAB election will be held on December 12.

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

পানির অপচয় বন্ধ করুন।। ম্যানহোলসের ঢাকনা চুরি রোধ করুন

Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA enlisted 1st, 2nd & 3rd class supplier contractors/bonafide suppliers/manufacturers for supply of different materials for maintenance of FM Division of Dhaka WASA. Tenders will be received up to 12:00 noon of 21/12/98 and will be opened on the same day at 2:00 PM in presence of the tenderers or their representatives (if any).

Schedule of tender/bill of quantities will be available at the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka and all MODS Zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other details will be available at the office of the undersigned.

Address: "WASA Bhaban" 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka

S D M Kamrul Alam Chowdhury
Executive Engineer
Procurement Division
Dhaka WASA

WASA-P.I-322/98
DFP-24809-24/11
G-2684

BJMC Advertisement International Tender Notice

Eastern Jute Mills Ltd, Atra, Khulna, Bangladesh invites sealed tender under 21st Japany Bebt Relief Grant (1st Tranche) for Import of (1) Sewing Machine Parts, (2) Rubber Aprons, (3) Conveyor Belt, Power Grip Belt, Two Leg Flyer and different size of Chains, (4) Hydraulic Pump (for FLT Cloth Rolling Up Machine), (5) Ball & Roller Bearings and (6) Hydraulic Baling Press Machine's Pump (P-1 and P-2) on C & F (C) Dhaka Airport and Benapole Boarder basis.

Tender will be received up to 11:30 AM on 12.01.98 and will be opened in presence of tenderers (if any) at 12:30 rM on the same day. Tender documents with details specification, terms and conditions will be available on the working days, except on the date of opening from the office of the General Manager (Finance), BJMC, Adamjee Court, Motijheel, Dhaka, the Dy. General Manager (A&F), BJMC, Chittagong Zone, Sattar Chamber, 99, Agrabad, Chittagong, the Dy. General Manager (A&F), BJMC, Khulna Zone, Hafizuddin Road, Khalishpur, Khulna, and the Manager (A&F), Eastern Jute Mills Ltd, Atra, Khulna against payment of Tk 100/- per set for group no. 1, 2 & 3, Tk 200/- for group no. 4, Tk 300/- for group no. 5 and Tk. 500/- for group no. 6 (non-refundable). The Tender shall be accompanied an earnest money @ 1% on quoted price, but not less than Taka 1000.00 (one thousand) only must be deposited along with each tender in favour of Eastern Jute Mills Ltd, Khulna. The mill management reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

BJMC: 850
dt. 19.11.98
DFP-24824-24/11

G-2687



Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Central Coordination Council brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding trial of all war criminals. — Star photo