



Pitiable condition of the pavement near Tejgaon truck stand following incessant rain yesterday.

— Star photo

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The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) in co-operation with Det Norske Veritas (DNV) is going to organise a day-long training workshop on:

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For details and Registration Form please contact:

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Deputy Secretary (Training), DCCI Training Centre (1st fl.)
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Democracy, parliament go hand in hand: President

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said democracy and parliament go hand in hand and success of democracy in a parliamentary system depends on effectiveness of the legislature, reports UNB.

He made the observations talking to a visiting six-member delegation of German parliament, led by chairman of its South Asian group Brigitte Adler, when they called on the President at Bangabhaban yesterday.

"Since the beginning of the nineties, Bangladesh has been practising the nascent democracy with a view to establishing it on a firm footing," President Shahabuddin told the German lawmakers.

Welcoming the delegation he hoped that the Members of Parliament of the West European country would play an effective role in strengthening democratic practices in the South Asian region through exchange of ideas and views with

the parliamentarians.

Justice Shahabuddin said interaction among the members of the legislative bodies of Bangladesh and Germany would enhance their reciprocal understanding.

Thanking the President for receiving her and the members of the delegation Brigitte Adler said Bangladesh could play a vital role in furthering democratic norms and values in South Asia.

She appreciated Bangladesh's membership in the UN Security Council, saying: "It has opened a new opportunity for Bangladesh to act positively for peace and security in the region."

Adler said they would apprise the German government and other parliament members of the peace process and development in the post-insurgency Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The members of the delegation included Ingrid Holzhueter, Holger Ortel, Marie Luise Doett, Chemsens Schwalbe, Guido Large.

German Ambassador in Bangladesh Uwe Schramm and Additional Secretary of Bangladesh Parliament ANM Hafizul Islam were present on the occasion.

CPA takes up Tk 1142.50cr modernisation project

CHITTAGONG, Oct 18: Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has undertaken five modernisation and expansion projects at a cost of Taka 1142.50 crore to make the country's biggest sea port self-reliant by the year 2005, chairman of CPA Commodore Golam Rabbani said here today, reports BSS.

Work on the five long and short term projects which have been included in the current Annual Development Programme (ADP) will begin this year, Rabbani told this at a crowded press conference at the port training centre auditorium here.

He said the projects have been designed to cope with the growing demand and meet the challenges of the 21st century in the light of free market economy and international shipping trade.

Rabbani said in addition to the five projects two more projects on procurement of one grab hopper dredger and infrastructural development of container handling at X and Y shed areas at a cost of Taka 126 crore are awaiting government approval.

P&T secy not satisfied with telephone rev office situation

Post & Telecommunications Secretary Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury yesterday paid a surprise visit to the Telephone Revenue Office (North) at Tejuri Bazar here, reports BSS.

Chowdhury expressed his dissatisfaction at the unhygienic, dirty and haphazard condition of office files and documents and the crowded condition inside the office.

He directed the concerned officials to take measures to remove sufferings of the telephone subscribers under different exchanges, including Mirpur, Gulshan, Maghbazar and Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Chowdhury asked the officials of T and T Board to replace the existing system by computerised system relating to the activities of the telephone revenue.

Later, he visited the Post Office Bhaban at Gulshan Model Town and expressed disgust at the indiscipline condition of the office.

Elaborating the development projects Rabbani said in order to meet the continued demand of the container handling a one thousand metre long container terminal will be constructed at Newmooring area with a total of 67 container handling equipment at a cost of Taka 737.24 crore.

The project, which was approved by the ECNEC on May 12 last, is expected to be completed by June 2004, the chairman said.

The chairman said a Taka 302 crore project has also been taken up for procurement of 142 container handling equipment including four ship-to-shore gantry cranes in order to meet the increased number of container arrivals at the port.

Of the 142 equipment, tenders for procurement of 13 straddle carriers, nine reach stackers and three container movers have already been invited while a committee has been formed to invite the tenders for procurement of rail mounted ship-to-shore key gantry crane and rail mounted yard gantry cranes as the equipment are quite new for the Chittagong Port, Rabbani said.

He further said the procurements of the equipment will be completed in two phases by the year 2001 next.

To check the environmental

hazards and marine pollution of the port a Taka 70.45 crore project has also been undertaken, the chairman said adding that a panel of consultants will be appointed to sort out ways and means for the development of environmental management of the port.

The two rest projects are procurement of a high powered tug with 3000-3200 VHP at a cost of Taka 22.34 crore and setting up of a 33 KV Sub-Station and renovation of the existing eleven KV Sub-Station at a cost of Taka 10.47 crore.

The port officials including Mohasin Sarkar, Col Azim, Capt Ameerul Islam and Sultan Mahmud also spoke on various issues of the port.

They said at present different types of 11 vessels remain sunken in the port channels. However, they emphatically said that the navigation of the port is not being hampered at the moment.

Narrating the background of the deployment of army in the port the port officials said the productivity of the port has remarkably increased and security measures have been tightened as the members of the army are playing their due role.

Extensive measures have also been undertaken to reorganise the security system of the port, they further said.

USTC teachers urged to resume duties

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 18: Sixteen teachers of the University of Science and Technology in Chittagong (USTC) urged the teachers of Medicine Faculty who resigned Wednesday to resume their duties.

In a written statement today the teachers including deans of the Basic Medical and Pharmaceutical Faculty, Medicine Faculty and Business Administration Faculty said that the strike enforced by the Medicine Faculty teachers have paralysed the academic activities of the university and the medicare services of the Bangabandhu Memorial Hospital (BMH).

They also sought intervention of the Chancellor of the USTC, President Sahabuddin Ahmed and Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury into resolve the crisis faced by the university.

Seventy teachers out of 77 of the Medicine Faculty resigned from their services on Wednesday in protest of what they termed the illegal termination of Dr Imam Uddin, Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Department and President of USTC Teachers' Association by the University President national Professor Dr Nurul Islam on September 21.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association BTMC Bhaban, 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. Fax-813951

ATTN. BUYING HOUSES & BUYERS REPRESENTATIVE

Representatives of all Buying Houses/Buyers representatives in Bangladesh will be invited in the different programs of BGMEA including BATEXPO'99 which will be held from 31 October to 02 November'99 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka. All Buying Houses/Buyers representatives are requested to send the name(s) of their representative(s) along with address & Fax No. to BGMEA Secretariat by 25 October, 1999 in order to enable BGMEA to send their invitations in time.

Secretary

MR Training & Services Program (MRTSP)

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Applications are invited for the post of Director, MRTSP from Bangladesh nationals. The candidates will be between 35 and 55 years with at least 2nd class Masters degree in any discipline. The candidates should have five years experience in health and family planning and administrative affairs, especially, in planning, programming and monitoring. Salary and other emoluments will be fixed on the basis of qualification and experience. Interested persons are requested to apply to the President, MRTSP as per above address with a passport size photograph and other relevant documents on or before October 30, 1999. Eligible candidates will be notified beforehand and interviewed at the central office of MRTSP on November 9, 1999 at 10:00 am.

D-662

GCO demands rescheduling of DU Oct 13, 14 exams

By DU Correspondent

Gangotri Chandra Oikya (GCO) at a press conference yesterday demanded immediate announcement of fresh dates for the examinations of Dhaka University which had been scheduled for October 13 and 14.

"We are demanding rescheduling of the examinations as they could not be held properly," the GCO leaders said while addressing the press conference at Madhu's Canteen yesterday.

The DU authorities' bid to hold the examinations defying the strike on October 13 and 14 was "politically motivated", they alleged. They also condemned the police attack on their activists during the strike and demanded punishment to those involved.

GCO also announced fresh programmes in protest against the police action on the agitating students of Jahangir Nagar University (JU) and to press home their demands, including immediate reopening of JU and withdrawal of its hiked admission fees.

The programmes include procession and rally on DU campus on October 26, demonstration in the capital on November 1 in protest of threat against the agitating students of JU, demonstration across the country on November 10 and a central representative's conference in Dhaka on November 20.

Their next course of action will be announced at the conference.

GCO's demands also include resumption of bus service at Chittagong University, making Rajshahi University dormitories free of Shibir activists, disclosure of the 60 'enlisted' terrorists of DU, formation of a complaint cell to handle harassment cases, withdrawal of the statement of 11 vice-chancellors of universities and more allocation for the universities.

Nurul Islam, Monjur-e-Khoda Tarik, Saiful Islam Tapan, Hasan Tarik Chowdhury Sohel, Sabbah Ali Khan Collins, Abdul Abad Minar and Sharifuzzaman Sharif were present at the press conference.

EC urges to abide by code of conduct

The Election Commission yesterday urged all concerned to abide by the election code of conduct during the coming by-elections in two parliamentary constituencies, reports BSS.

According to a release of the Election Commission, the by-elections to Faridpur-4 and Tangail-8 seats will be held on October 27 and November 15 respectively.

It said no candidates or persons on behalf of any candidate will be able to make any contribution or grant openly or secretly to any organisation in their respective constituency from the day of the announcement of election schedule till the day of election. The candidates, it said, will also not be able to make any commitment of contribution and grants to any organisation.

After the announcement of the election schedule, the release said, no candidates or political parties will be able to use the government media, government officers and employees and government vehicles.

Under such circumstances, ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers or persons enjoying similar rank and status have been advised by the Election Commission not to make any commitment or enjoy government facilities or protocol till the by-elections are complete.

A separate press release of the EC said, a total of 33 nomination papers out of 35 were found valid on scrutiny today for the by-election to Tangail-8 parliamentary seat.

The nomination papers of SM Ali Akbar and M Enayet Karim were cancelled, it added.

Human rights groups call for end to border violence

By Staff Correspondent

Three leading human rights organisations in a letter to Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka expressed concern over recent tension and incidents of killings along border areas with India.

Leaders of Odhikar, Ain O Salish Kendra and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust said in most cases, poor people of both the countries are the victims of these incidents.

We are concerned over the incidents by the opposing border security forces along the border districts of Sylhet, Jamalpur, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Kushtia, Khulna, Jessore and Feni over the last few months. According to Bangladesh press over the last two weeks 23 Bangladeshis were kidnapped from various areas of the Sylhet district alone, they said.

Random firing at different border points has resulted in a number of deaths of both Bangladesh Rifles personnel as well as civilians. This year, 22 Bangladeshis, including three BDR members were reportedly killed and 34 injured by BSF firing, they added.

We feel that such a violence tantamount to breach of the code of conduct of international border patrol. Such actions are in gross violation of the human rights of individuals concerned, and contrary to the principles of good neighbourliness and that of SAARC spirit. We urge you to communicate to your government our concern and, take steps to ensure complete and immediate cessation of such violence.

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