

Dhaka, Thimpu agree to promote trade, investment

Bangladesh and Bhutan have agreed to work together to bolster their existing trade and investment relations, reports UNB.

The two countries reached a consensus at a formal meeting at the state guest house 'Padma' here yesterday.

Commerce Secretary Golam Rahman and Bhutanese Foreign Secretary Dasho Ugyen Sheringpa led their respective sides at the meeting.

Taking stock of the present bilateral trade between the two countries, the meeting reviewed various proposals, including tariff facilities.

The two sides also agreed to ease export-import process and increase warehouse facility in border areas.

Apart from SAPTA, different aspects of increasing trade between the two countries on the basis of bilateral discussion also came up in the meeting for discussion.

Chairman of Bangladesh Tariff Commission AYBI Siddique, Vice-chairman of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) AB Chowdhury, Bhutanese Ambassador in Dhaka Dasho Lhatu Wangchuk and senior officials of the two countries were present.

Union leaders force WDB official to leave office

By Special Correspondent

Trouble erupted again at the WAPDA Bhaban yesterday when a section of union leaders forced a high official of Water Development Board (WDB) to leave the office, demanding cancellation of transfer orders of a group of engineers.

WDB sources said, the union leaders were demanding cancellation of transfer orders of 11 executive engineers and posting of 200 sub-assistant engineers.

They went to the office of Yakub Ali Chowdhury, Additional Director General of WDB, and asked him to carry out

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Inside Today

Article

Role of Media in Bangladesh Politics

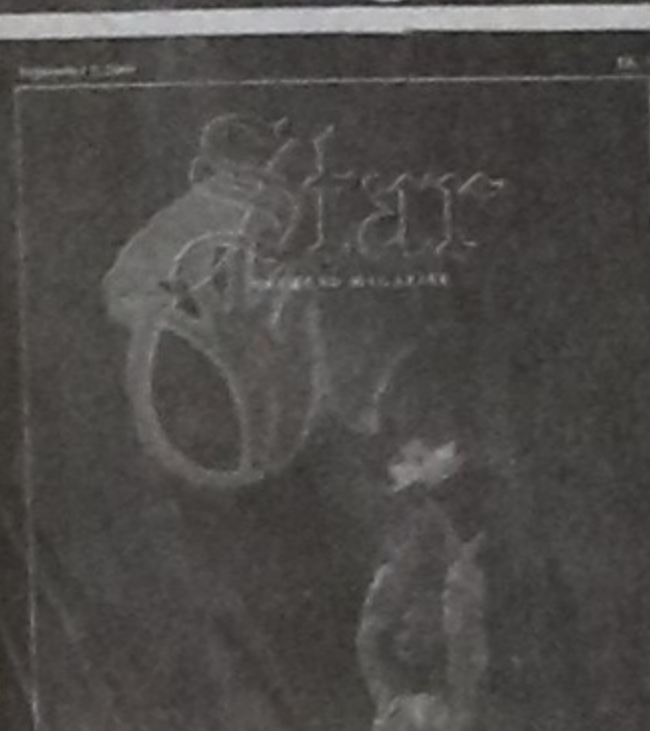
Column: Currents and Crosscurrents by M M Rezaul Karim

Supplementary Report of Hamoodur Rahman Commission: Some relevant extracts Sixth instalment Page 4

Supplement

A four-page supplement on the 'National Day of Malaysia' on Pages 13-16

Star Magazine



Nrityanchal

Creating a Future for Dance

Compared to other countries, Bangladesh is still lagging behind in developing dance as a profession. Yet dance is the ultimate expression of human beauty. This week's cover story of our weekend magazine is on Nrityanchal, an institute that devotes itself to promoting dance and dance artists.

Sun Rises	Sun Sets
6:31	6:17 pm
5:40 am	

Prayer Timings

August 31

Azan	Jamaat
5:30	5:05
Zohr	12:45 - 1:15
Asr	4:45 - 5:00
Maghrib	6:30 - 6:35
Esha	8:00 - 8:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Erhsad's JS seat declared vacant

The parliament seat of former President and Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad was yesterday declared vacant following his conviction in a corruption case, reports UNB.

A Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat notification ordered vacating the Rangpur-3 seat with retrospective effect from the date of High Court verdict upholding his conviction.

Ershad, who was elected from five parliamentary seats in his home district in 1996 general elections, retained Rangpur-3 seat vacating the rest.

The parliament secretariat said Ershad was found guilty in a corruption case by the higher court that sentenced him to five years imprisonment committing a lower court verdict.

As per Article 66(2) (Gha) of

the Constitution, Ershad is no more eligible to remain as parliament member and the seat will fall vacant from the date of the pronouncement of the verdict," the notification said.

The High Court judgement in the much-talked-about Janata Tower case was given on August 24.

Meanwhile, copy of the judgement along with all necessary documents in Janata Tower Case was sent to the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday at about 5:20 pm, according to our Court Correspondent.

The copy was later received by Mohammad Tariq Hossain, Naib Nazir of the court at about 5:30 pm.

The High Court staff brought the records in two steel-made containers to the trial court

amid tight security.

The file along with the copy of judgement of the High Court will be produced before the Second Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court today and Judge Abdus Salam Sikder is expected to pass an order regarding the surrender of Ershad.

Earlier, a lower court had awarded him a seven-year imprisonment.

In default of paying the fine of Tk 5.50 crore, Ershad will have to serve another two years in jail as per the HC judgement in the appeal case.

The court also fined 18 others, including Ershad's wife Roushan Ershad. They have to pay Tk 10,000 each or suffer two years imprisonment.

After prolonged hearings, See page 11 col 5

Speaker has no right to cancel my JS seat, says Ershad

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party chief and deposed President H.M Ershad yesterday said the Speaker has no right to cancel his membership in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Giving his reaction to The Daily Star last night on the cancellation of his membership of the parliament, he said it is the Election Commission, not the Speaker, which can cancel the membership.

A Jatiya Sangsad notification yesterday declared the Rangpur-3 seat from where the former President was elected vacant with retrospective effect from the date of High Court verdict that upheld his conviction by a lower court.

Ershad added that it was done at the behest of the government and that the act was in violation of all the rules and norms.

There is 30 days appeal See page 11 col 6



Relatives of Delwar Hossain wailing. Police recovered the bullet-hit body of the young man from a slum near Dayaganj Bridge during hartal hours yesterday. Both BNP and Awami League claim Delwar as their activist. — Star photo

Proposal to 'modify' Kaptai dam, increase water level

Serious environmental disaster feared

By Sharier Khan

The Power Development Board (PDB) is pursuing a proposal to 'modify' Kaptai dam and increase the water level in Kaptai Lake to 90 feet from 76 feet at present to implement its proposed Kaptai Hydro-power Plant units 6 and 7, sources concerned said.

The inhabitants of Kaptai area now cultivate land above the 90 feet level during dry season. Many fear that if the 'low water level' is raised, it would trigger a serious environmental disaster.

The proposal for this Tk 720 crore Japanese aided project is

now awaiting approval of the ECNEC. It would add only 100 MW of power from the two new units.

The project cost is at least Tk 250 crore to Tk 300 crore higher than that for a land-based power plant with similar production capacity, the sources pointed out.

Construction of the original dam which had begun in October 1957 made thousands of people homeless as vast areas went under water, resulting in a four-decade old socio-economic crisis.

However, PDB believes that

the project would not be environmentally hazardous.

"An addition of two more units at Kaptai is not likely to create any effect on the atmosphere, biosphere, human habitation, socio-economic life and environmental landscape of Chittagong Hill Tracts," said a PDB official. PDB had studied the feasibility of adding more units to make up the loss of energy due to spillage in the monsoon season and to improve the capacity of the station to respond to increasing demand for power in the country.

See page 11 col 7

'Healthy' General kept in hospital

By Special Correspondent

Major General Imamuzzaman, Bir Bikram, GOC of Bogra Division, has been kept under unexplained circumstances at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka for over two weeks, several sources said.

General Imamuzzaman, famous for his heroics in the Battle of Belunia, was admitted to the CMH on August 16 on orders from Army Headquarters on the alleged grounds of having high blood pressure.

Hospital sources said he was made to go through all sorts of tests, which revealed there was nothing wrong so far as his health is concerned. No treatment or medication has been prescribed for him in the last 15 days.

The inner lock of his VVIP Cabin has also been removed without any apparent reasons, according to sources.

Speculations are rife that General Imamuzzaman, who still has seven more years of service, would be asked to resign.

Earlier, he was called to Dhaka following an incident in Bogra in which a junior officer violated his orders and, as GOC, Imamuzzaman gave him a serious reprimand. An enquiry board headed by a Brigadier investigated the incident and cleared Major General Imamuzzaman of any wrongdoing.

Imamuzzaman as GOC of 9 Division moved troops and See page 12 col 8

Sporadic violence during hartal

By Staff Correspondent

A dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal called by the four-party opposition alliance passed off by and large peacefully yesterday, barring some sporadic incidents of violence in the capital and some other areas of the country.

The BNP and its partners in the alliance - Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Okiya Jote - called the hartal to protest price-hike of petroleum products and gas.

In the city, at least 10 people were injured in violence and nine others were picked up by police from different areas during the hartal hours.

The office of DCC Commissioner of Ward No. 53 at Siddheswari was ransacked by anti-hartal activists, leaving the office secretary injured.

The Ward Commissioner, Ariful Islam of BNP, said that an anti-hartal procession led by Ramna thana Awami League President Abul Bashar led the attack at about 11 am. Office secretary Hifzul Bari was injured in the attack and treated at a local clinic.

Furniture in the office building were damaged and posters with photograph of BNP Chairperson Khaleeda Zia were See page 12 col 4

Bullet-hit body of young man recovered from shanty in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police recovered the bullet-hit body of a young man from a slum near Dayaganj Bridge at Demra in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Delwar Hossain Bablu, 28, a resident of Belbatt in Demra area.

Family members said Delwar was killed as a sequel to enmity with his rivals in the area.

Meanwhile, both local BNP and Awami League claimed Delwar as their active member.

BNP leaders said he was joint secretary of Jubo Dal of 86 ward. Delwar's body was recovered See page 11 col 5



Liaquat (third from right), a former leader of Jubo League, is seen leading an anti-hartal procession in the city's Maghbazar area yesterday. Earlier, it was reported in the newspapers that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had asked law-enforcing agencies to arrest three former Jubo League leaders for their involvement in criminal activities in the city. Liaquat is one of them. — Star photo

Select judiciously, PM asks Army Promotion Board

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the armed forces to strengthen the hands of government for a strong base of democracy in the country, reports UNB.

Hasina, who is also in charge of the Defence Ministry, said all activities of the armed forces would always be guided under their respective chain of commands.

"Our government is determined to keep the armed forces above all political inclinations and controversies," she said chairing a meeting of the Army Promotion Board-2000 at the Army

Headquarters at Dhaka Cantonment in the morning.

The Prime Minister said a disciplined and strong army plays a catalyst role in consolidating democracy in a country. Those who say that helping the government or work for the government to build the nation are indeed want to do politics with army.

She said army leadership would have to be reposed in those officers who are able, conscious, intelligent, and have no personal interest or political ambition in consolidating

democracy.

Hasina asked the Army Promotion Board to maintain complete neutrality and select judiciously the capable leadership who would contribute to raise an efficient army, strengthen democracy and help the government in advancement of the country.

"I have full confidence in your wisdom, intellect and judgement. I hope you would be able to rise above all personal liking or disliking and would be successful in selecting competent leadership on the basis of See page 11 col 7

1700 BFIDC rubber workers not getting salaries for 3 months

3000 tonnes of rubber lying unsold. Four gardens incurring loss for last four years

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Aug 30: Over 3000 tonnes of rubber worth about Tk 15 crore have been lying unsold for several months. The rubber was produced by four rubber gardens of the Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC) in Sylhet region.

Due to lack of space in the godowns, a substantial quantity of it is lying under the open sky.

Part of it has already rotten, sources said.

On the other hand, some 1700 workers and employees are not getting salaries for the last three months. It has created discontent among the staff members of the state-run organisation. Meanwhile, suppliers and contractors have been pressing for payment of outstanding dues amounting to

about Tk 2.75 crore, sources said.

Sources attributed the situation to poor management, irregularity, corruption, absence of coordination and adoption of faulty policy for production and marketing of rubber. The four rubber gardens in Sylhet could not achieve their production target in the last six years.

Though the gardens had

made profit in three financial years, they incurred huge loss in the last four consecutive years. The yearly loss stood at Tk two crore on average, according to an official.

The gardens are located at Satgaon, Bhatara, Rupajethara and Shajibazar. Local rubber industries were the main buyers of the rubber. But they have lost See page 11 col 4

রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ
রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

"ঝিলমিল আবাসিক এলাকায় পুট বরাদ্দ" সংক্রান্ত সময় বর্ধিত প্রসঙ্গে

- বুড়িশা নদীর দক্ষিণে ঢাকা মাওড়া মহা সড়ক সংলগ্ন মনোরম পরিবেশে (ঝিলমিল) আবাসিক এলাকায় কর্মবশী ২.৫০ কাঠার ৩৭৬টি, ৩ কাঠার ১১৪৪টি ও ৫ কাঠা আয়তনের ১৫২টি আবাসিক পুট বরাদ্দের জন্য অস্থায়ী বাংলাদেশী বাস্তবকার্যের নিকট হইতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনক্রমে আগামী ১৫ই অক্টোবর ১৯০৭ বাংলা সাল/ ৩০-৯-২০০০ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত (ব্যাংক চলাকালীন সময়ে মধ্যে) জনতা ব্যাংক, রাজউক ভবন কর্পোরেট শাখা, রাজাবাগ কর্পোরেট শাখা, উত্তরা মডেল টাউন কর্পোরেট শাখা, আব্দুল গনি রোড শাখা ও আরমানিটোলা শাখা, ঢাকা কর্তৃক গ্রহণ করা হইবে।
- জনতা ব্যাংক রাজউক ভবন কর্পোরেট শাখা, রাজাবাগ কর্পোরেট শাখা, উত্তরা মডেল টাউন কর্পোরেট শাখা, আব্দুল গনি রোড শাখা ও আরমানিটোলা শাখায় নগদ ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিয়ে আবেদনক্রমে ফরম ও প্রসপেকটাস সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।
- প্রসপেকটাসে বর্ণিত নিয়মে প্রতিটি দরখাস্তের সাথে জামানত বরাদ্দ ২.৫০ কাঠা ও ৩ কাঠার জন্য ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা এবং ৫ কাঠার জন্য ২,০০,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ) টাকা ব্যাংক জমার নামে বা বে-নামে রাজউকের আওতাধীন এলাকায় কোন আবাসিক জমি বা আবাসিক বাড়ি/ফ্ল্যাট থাকিলে দরখাস্ত করিতে পারিবেন না। তবে ঢাকার পুরাতন অংশের বাসিন্দা যাহারা বংশানুক্রমে কমপক্ষে ৫০ (পঞ্চাশ) বৎসর যাবৎ সেখানে বসবাসরত এবং পুরাতন ঢাকায় ২.৫ (আড়াই) কাঠার অধিক জমির মালিক নহেন, অনাদিলে ঢাকা শহরে অন্য কোন অংশে আবাসিক জমি/বাড়ি/ফ্ল্যাট নাই তাহারা বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য শর্ত পূরণ সাপেক্ষে আবেদন করিতে পারিবেন।
- আবেদনকারীর বয়স ৩০-০৯-২০০০ইং তারিখে কমপক্ষে ৩০ (ত্রিশ) বৎসর হইতে হইবে।
- যাহারা পূর্বে রাজউক বা অন্য কোন সরকারী সংস্থা কর্তৃক কোন আবাসিক জমি অথবা বাড়ি/ফ্ল্যাট পাইয়াছেন তাহারা জমি বরাদ্দ লাভের জন্য আবেদন করিতে পারিবেন না।
- আবেদনকারীর অবশ্যই নিজের আয় থাকিতে হইবে এবং ইহার সমর্থনে প্রমাণপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
- প্রকল্প এলাকায় ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত বাস্তবকার্য প্রসপেকটাসে বর্ণিত নিয়ম অনুযায়ী আবেদন করিতে পারিবেন। তবে তাহাদিগকে রাজউকের আরোপিত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী পূরণ করিতে হইবে।
- জমির মূল্য ২.৫০ কাঠা পুটের জন্য প্রতি কাঠা ২,৫০,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা, ৩ কাঠা পুটের জন্য প্রতি কাঠা ৩,০০,০০০/- (তিন লক্ষ) টাকা এবং ৫ কাঠা পুটের জন্য প্রতি কাঠা ৩,৫০,০০০/- (তিন লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র ধার্য করা হইয়াছে।
- অসম্পূর্ণ দরখাস্ত এবং ভুল তথ্য সম্বলিত দরখাস্ত বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। যদি কোন পর্যায়ে কোন মিথ্যা তথ্য গোচরীভূত হয় তাহা হইলে রাজউক কর্তৃক জমাকৃত জামানতির টাকা বাজেয়াপ্ত এবং পুটের বরাদ্দ বাতিলসহ অন্যান্য আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হইবে।
- পুটের আবেদনকারীগণের নিকট হইতে দেশী/বিদেশীক মুদ্রায় গৃহীত জামানত রাজউক প্রয়োজনে নগদায়ন করিতে পারিবে। সেই ক্ষেত্রে নগদায়ন হইতে প্রাপ্ত সমপরিমাণ টাকা জামানত হিসাবে ফেরত প্রদান/সম্বরণ করা হইবে। জামানতের অর্পণের উপর কোন সুদ/মুনাফা/বিনিময় লাভ প্রদান করা হইবে না।
- রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ না দর্শাইয়া যে কোন বা সকল আবেদন বিবেচনা কিংবা নাকচ করিয়া দেওয়ার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

Fax No: 9563951
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জিডি-৮০৯

চেয়ারম্যান
রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ।