

Reforms to help overcome KAFCO crisis, hope shareholders

KAFCO shareholders yesterday expressed their optimism that the latest reform initiatives would help the industry overcome its crisis and become viable, reports UNB.

Fresh discussions among stakeholders would pave way for long-term financial assistance required for rejuvenating the fertiliser factory, the board of directors of Karnafuli Fertiliser Company felt in a meeting here.

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, while addressing the representatives of partners of the multinational fertiliser company, said Bangladesh government gives priority to making KAFCO a profitable concern since it is a landmark in the foreign investment here.

Besides, the success of KAFCO, that involves financial assistance of JBIC, would expedite implementation of other Japanese-aided fertiliser projects here, the minister hoped.

Despite being the single-largest shareholder representing 43 per cent shares, Bangladesh government did not earn a single farthing from this giant plant that went into commercial operation

Lipi's body could not be exhumed

SATKHIRA, Dec 14: Police could not exhume the body of Shamsunnahar Lipi today as her family members obstructed policemen, reports BSS.

On instruction by the District Magistrate, Satkhira, First Class Magistrate Rakibul Bari along with police forces, went to the village home of the deceased at Keragchi under Kalaroa upazila to exhume her body.

Lipi was killed in stampede at the Kalaroa College Centre of SSC examination on March 2.

When the magistrate, along with the police forces reached the graveyard, Lipi's father Anwarul Islam prevented them from exhuming the body and said, I did not file the case. So I would not allow to exhume the body. He said, if it is done without my consent, you would also have to make a grave for me by the side of my deceased daughter Lipi.

Then the magistrate, along with police forces returned back and submitted report to the district magistrate in this regard.

Shahabuddin

From page 12
The President expressed the hope that the partnership the two countries have forged, would continue to flourish in the coming days under your leadership.

The President also wished health, happiness and success of his US counterpart.

In a similar message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina extended her heartiest congratulations to George W. Bush.

Your victory is indeed a tribute to your impeccable credentials, dynamism and drive and a clear manifestation of the trust and confidence that the American people have reposed in your leadership," she said in her message of felicitation.

I look forward to working in close cooperation with you in the coming days. I sincerely hope that the relationship between our two countries which has undergone a qualitative change in recent years, would continue to flourish under your administration," Hasina added.

The horrific night

From page 1
Seeing Bangabandhu's blood-stained body on the staircase, a weeping Begum Mujib refused to go downstairs.

Then Pasha took her and other family members except Russel and Sheikh Naser back to the bedroom, took a sengun from a havildar and shot dead Begum Mujib, her two daughters-in-law and Jamal.

Meanwhile, Russel was brought downstairs where he stood along with the staff and disarmed police guards in front of the house in a row.

He got frightened and asked plaintiff Mohitul, also standing in the row, "brother (bhaiya), won't

Opposition plans

From page 12
holding of upazila polls and appointment of Zila Parishad chairmen, and isolating the government from people through sustained campaign.

Another leader said the opposition would have succeeded much earlier had the movement strategies been perfect in the past. Imprudent and unrealistic programmes announced in the past at the influence of the hardliners and low-ranking leaders of the liaison committee caused serious damage to the parties, especially the BNP, instead of expediting the anti-government movement.

He said side by side the militant movement after the Ramadan, the alliance was also planning to submit an mass resignation from parliament to further expedite the programmes. Although no decision regarding the resignation from parliament was made, the resignation could be tendered at one stage of the post-Eid movement.

A policy maker of BNP recently told The Daily Star that Khaleda Zia had instructed secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to think about future programmes and sit with other party leaders to finalise a strategy to be launched after the Eid.

From page 1
(dismissed) Syed Faruq Rahman and Colonel (dismissed) Sharif Rashid Khan filed two writ petitions on December 1, 1996, challenging repeal of the ordinance.

After 16 days of hearing, the High Court in a verdict on January 28, 1997 declared that the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill was passed by the parliament through legal procedure.

During hearing of the writ petitions, a Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Mozammel Haq and Justice Abdul Matin appointed six amicus curiae. They were Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Dr Kamal Hossain, Rafiqul Haq, M Nurullah, Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed and Amrul Islam.

After passage of the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill, Colonel



Military personnel have been deployed at different street corners to control the excessive traffic jams that is typical in the last few days leading to the Eid. - Star photo

10 death sentences upheld

From page 1
awarded by District and Sessions Judge of Dhaka Kazi Golam Rasul on November 8, 1998.

Justice Khatru Huq upheld the trial court's death sentence to all the 15 accused, completing the order at 11 am.

Justice Ruhul Amin in his order dismissed the appeals against the trial court verdict preferred by Faruq, Sharif and Huda and granted Lt Col (rt) Mofluddin's appeal. He upheld the lower court death sentence of nine on two counts - for murder and for conspiracy to murder and revised that of another, Capt (rt) Abdul Majed, upholding the death sentence on one count only, conspiracy to murder. Majed was a party to the criminal conspiracy and thereby abetted the incident in the early hours of 15th August, 1975 in the house of the then President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," he said.

Both the judges said the death sentences should be carried out in the existing mode of execution.

They made no mention of Kazi Golam Rasul's order that the verdict be carried out by firing squad or by hanging.

Lawyers from both the state and the defence sides, relatives of the accused, scores of other lawyers and journalists were present when the orders were made.

After the orders were dictated, there was a heavy rush for obtaining the copies, which were given at 2 pm.

Zobaida Rashid, wife of col (rt) Rashid, was cleared of the

Earlier, since the morning, tight security was maintained in and around the court.

Uniformed and plain clothes police kept vigil and none was allowed to enter the court without pass. Hundreds of people were dropped from the charge sheet.

The arrested accused were produced before the court on January 20, 1997, gazette notification on the absconding accused were published on February 3 and trial started on March 1 that year at a building adjacent to Dhaka Central Jail. The verdict was given on November 8, 1998 and the death reference was sent to the High Court on November 11. It was enlisted for hearing on March 30, 2000. On April 10, Justice Amirul Kabir felt embarrassed to hear the reference. A stick procession led by some ministers was brought out on April 18 demanding expeditious trial of the case.

Another HC Bench comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice Abdul Matin felt embarrassed. The hearing by the death reference bench finally began on June 28.

Bangabandhu's family members killed on the night of August 15, 1975 included his wife Fazilatunnesa, sons Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel, nephew Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni and his wife, brother-in-law Abdur Rob Serniabat and members of his family. Only two daughters of Bangabandhu survived as they were abroad. Sheikh Hasina, now Prime Minister, was in Germany and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana was in London.

The charge sheet was submitted on January 15, 1997 accusing 27 people including six civilians. The names of five of them including Khandaker Mustaque Ahmed, who headed the post-coup government, and Mahbubul Alam Chashil were dropped from the charge sheet as they were dead.

Lawyers from both the state and the defence sides, relatives of the accused, scores of other lawyers and journalists were present when the orders were made.

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Zobaida Rashid, wife of col (rt) Rashid, was cleared of the

charges by the High Court. Three others - Naik Yunus, captain (rt) Nurul Huda and Abu Musa Majumder, a civilian, were dropped from the charge sheet.

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Tribute to martyred

From page 12

Sheikh Hasina, also President of Bangladesh Awami League, then placed another wreath on behalf of the party. Colleagues in the cabinet and senior partymen were present by her side. Later on, she visited the mass graveyard at the memorial premises and offered farha.

The prime minister then went to the Rayerbazar Mass Graveyard and placed wreaths at the memorial built there two years ago in remembrance of intellectuals who were gunned down at the marshy periphery of Dhaka in 1971. She also placed wreath there on behalf of the party.

Main Opposition BNP observed the Intellectuals Day paying glowing tributes to and making a fresh vow to realise the dreams of the illustrious sons of the soil.

Leaders and workers of BNP wearing black badges started assembling in front of Mirpur Shah Ali Mazar Gate from 8.30 am before going to the Mirpur Intellectuals Memorial at 9 am to time just for political mileage.

Visitors told The Daily Star separately that the collaborators of 1971 should be tried without any further delay.

Organisations that placed wreaths there include Awami League, Projonno '71, Uddihi, BSL, Bangladesh Mahila Awami League, Dhaka City Corporation and Awami Garib League. Different other professional, political and social organisations also placed wreaths.

National dailies brought out special supplements on the lives and sacrifices of the martyred intellectuals. Bangladesh Television, External Affairs Minister of State of the same Ministry Ajit Kumar Panja separately today. Both the ministers reiterated their commitment to enhance cooperation with Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the spokesman said, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary C M Shafi Sami called on External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh and Minister of State of the same Ministry Ajit Kumar Panja separately today. Both the ministers reiterated their commitment to enhance cooperation with Bangladesh.

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