

Begum Rokeya Award-2001 distributed Govt firm to establish rights of women in society: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said her government was determined to establish rights of women and integrate them in the mainstream of development activities.

Addressing the Begum Rokeya Award-2001 distribution ceremony, organised by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium as the chief guest, the Prime Minister said, "In our election manifesto we had made 10 pledges in this regard and the implementation of those have already started."

Special bus service for working

Alam murder

FROM PAGE 12 earlier submitted a criminal appeal against the bail rejection order of the CMM's court.

The lawyers prayed for ad-interim bail for the two detained sons of the industrialist stating that the body of their father was still being kept at the ICDDRB mortuary so that they could attend his namaz-e-janaza before the burial.

The prosecution side did not oppose the bail petition on humanitarian ground. After hearing both sides, the court granted them bail till January 23.

Earlier, the complainant of the case Mohammad Motiur Rahman Motin (Alam's son-in-law) submitted an affidavit before the CMM's court where he stated that his brothers-in-law were not involved in the killing of their father and that relation between the sons and the father was good.

In the affidavit, Motin also stated that he would have no objection if the court granted bail to Noor and Jahir and that he would be their guarantor.

Army man IG (prisons)

FROM PAGE 1 Some prison officials preferring anonymity called the appointment into question and said they have long been demanding the appointment to the topmost post of the eligible officers from within the department.

At several meetings, jail officials urged the government to set aside the topmost post for the departmental officers.

Incumbent IG (prisons) holding the current charge Abdul Zahir had strong arguments in favour of appointment of departmental officers to the post. As the joint secretary of the Jail Officers' Association, he placed the demand in a memorandum to the prime minister, urging necessary steps to that end.

It all started in 1977 during the regime of former President Ziaur Rahman to appoint army officers to the post of IG (prisons) and continued up to 2001 with a short break in 1982 and 2001.

AFM A Haque from the defence services was made the first IG (prisons) in 1977. Initially, the process continued up to January 1982.

After takeover of power as president Justice Abdus Satter appointed an official from within the Jail Directorate to the post. But, after the changeover in 1982, the then Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. HM Ershad, who proclaimed martial law, appointed another army officer to the post.

After the political changeover in 1990, an official said it was expected that the democratic government would follow the service

Gynaes

FROM PAGE 1 gynaecologists in the doctors' panel for rendering medicare to the cricketers of Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dr Shahdat Hossain, member-secretary of the medical team, confirmed that the gynaecologists in question have already been replaced with male physicians following strong criticism in the media.

BAU violence

FROM PAGE 1 students, our correspondent said. The police control room at Mymensingh told The Daily Star last night that about 15 policemen were injured during the clashes which continued till about 12:30 pm.

The university authorities informed the agitating students at about noon yesterday that the Prime Minister assured the VC of cancellation of the Cabinet decision. But the students and teachers demanded a government announcement in this regard.

Railway communication between Dhaka and northern parts of the country could not be restored till filing of this report last night. Railway officials in Dhaka said two inter-city trains and one mail train had left Dhaka yesterday morning for northern districts but returned as rail tracks were removed at Mymensingh. Departure of two other trains were suspended till 7 pm for the same reason.

UNB said that all associations including BAU Teachers' Association and BAU units of students' fronts of all political parties expressed their solidarity with the movement for cancellation of the Cabinet decision.

They also demanded cancellation of the decision for the sake of establishing academic atmosphere at the university.

Meanwhile, left leaning 11-party

women has already been introduced as part of her government's first 100-day programme, she mentioned.

This year's Rokeya Award was given to eminent educationist Professor Begzadi Mahmuda Nasir, who has been in the teaching profession for over 50 years, beginning as an English teacher at Kumudini College, Tangail, in 1951.

The function was also addressed by Minister for Women and Children Affairs Khurshid Jahan Huq, recipient of the award Prof. Begzadi Nasir, secretary of the ministry Mahfuzul Huq and acting director general of the Directorate of Women Affairs Dr Nizamuddin Al-Hussainy.

The Prime Minister said when her party was in power in 1991-96, several programmes were implemented for the welfare and development of women. Those programmes would now be further intensified for empowerment of women.

She said her government would continue to implement the programmes to fulfil the international pledges to establish a society free from disparity between man and woman.

Khaleda Zia said the establishment of a society free from gender disparity is no longer a dream of Begum Rokeya, rather it has become the demand of time and now women have been proving their worth in different professions. She said there is need to widen the opportunities for women, who constitute half of the country's population, for the country's development.

In this context, she recalled the role of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman who had created the ministry of women and children affairs for their development. She said President Zia had taken various programmes for women's development, like inducting them

into Ansar and VDP.

The Prime Minister said there is no alternative to education for ensuring empowerment of women in society. In this regard, she said when her party was in power earlier, stipend for SSC female students in 460 upazilas was introduced in 1993, which has created a favourable impact regarding admission of girls at SSC level. This system, she said, has created a positive impact in checking drop-outs.

Autopsy report
FROM PAGE 1 the body hanging from the ceiling. They nonetheless took her to the DMCH where the attending doctors declared her dead.

Family members of Kamrunnessa alleged that the deceased was driven to commit suicide due to the mental torture inflicted on her by her husband during their 13 years of conjugal life.

The couple has a daughter Nusrat, 13, and a son Zahid, 10. Sarajul Islam however said his wife was suffering from mental depression.

Another family source also said that Kamrunnessa had long been suffering from mental depression and was also under treatment of Dr Firoz Ahmed of DMCH.

An unnatural death case was filed with Motijheel police station in this regard.

The body of the victim was taken away by family members from the DMCH morgue yesterday morning for burial at her native village of Ghatail in Tangail.

Sirajul Islam was a deputy director of the Board of Investment and was made an OSD during the tenure of the caretaker government. He was later transferred as ADC (Land), Gazipur.

Blood cancer
FROM PAGE 1 only ten per cent of the total cost. Transportation, food and lodging constitute the main cost," Prof. Mannan, also pro-vice-chancellor of BSMU, pointed out.

"It is quite obvious that awareness about the illness since it is curable can make a lot of difference. At the same time, we need to exert pressure on the government to allocate resources to better management and treatment of the children who die uncare-for," said Afzal Hossain Choudhury, president of ASHIC Foundation and ASHIC Volunteer Corps.

SM Belayet Ali, father of a cancer survivor, narrated his tribulations during the treatment of his son at the BSMU. "I had no one beside me. But Salma Choudhury gave me an almost cost-free shelter and of course, acted as my guardian which I needed so much at that time," Ali said.

A parent of another cancer survivor from Comilla echoed the same ordeal. "I think the most important requirement during treatment is a shelter because you have to stay somewhere away from home, friends, and relatives for months and years together. Such shelters like the 20-bed ASHIC, should be established across the country to ease the mental strain of guardians and parents."

The children and guardians later formed a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club to drum up support to fight the challenges of blood cancer in children.

Rotarian AKM Shamsuddin, also managing director of Aventis Pharma, addressed the press conference.

Saifur
FROM PAGE 1 huge losses, and yet the managing directors of these units are using luxurious vehicles like the "Pajero". What type of a business is this?"

Such affairs do not bode well for the nation, the finance minister said, stressing the need for improving governance in all key areas, which primarily depends on congenial political environment.

"If we want to come out of the present economic situation, we have to ensure good governance in the financial sector. But without congenial political environment, it will remain elusive."

In the absence of good governance, the tax officials are not honestly working to generate expected amount of revenue. Besides, the country is being deprived of huge amounts due to systems loss in power, gas and water, he said.

"We should behave democratically. It is not fair that the members of the parliament would not attend the House," the minister mentioned.

Political leaders should change their mindset and the public opinion should force the politicians to behave democratically. Media have a vital role to play in this regard, he added.

Saifur criticised the previous government for its reluctance to go ahead with reforms.

"It is very unfortunate that instead of using aid from the pipeline, the previous government went for high cost suppliers' credits to finance some fancy projects," he observed.

ERF President Shamsul Haq Zahid and General Secretary Shawkat Hossain Masum also spoke on the occasion.



State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Mosharrif Hossain yesterday inaugurated the launching (inset) of autorickshaws fuelled by CNG at Bijoy Sarani in the city.

Vajpayee, Zhu for dialogue on counter-terrorism

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Giving a new dimension to their bilateral relations, India and China have agreed to set up mechanism for dialogue for counter-terrorism for the first time and to expedite the process of resolving the border issue between them.

The two countries decided to set up the mechanism for bilateral dialogue on counter-terrorism at the level of their foreign ministries, a spokesperson of Indian External Affairs Ministry said late Monday night giving details of the 40-minute one-on-one meeting.

Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji had with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and delegation-level talks here.

India has already institutionalised talks on counter-terrorism with the United States, Britain and Russia.

The two countries also agreed to speed up the process of "clarification" on the Line of Actual Control between them, the spokesperson said. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress of talks on the

issue.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said the border issue between India and China is a "historical legacy" but could be resolved through mutual adjustment and understanding. The two countries exchanged last year maps of the Line of Actual Control on the least controversial middle sector and they are now expected to do the same on the western sector in coming months, official sources said.

As Zhu, the first Chinese Premier to visit India in a decade since Li Peng had come in 1991, began the official part of his six-day tour yesterday, a slew of measures were taken to provide a major boost to Sino-Indian economic ties.

Besides Vajpayee, Zhu had talks with Indian External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh and called on President K R Narayanan. Zhu set the tone of new chapter of trust between the two countries by declaring at a banquet Vajpayee hosted in his honour that China did not pose threat to India nor does it view India as a threat. The remarks by the Chinese Premier assumed significance given the fact that

Beijing has been a staunch ally of Islamabad and New Delhi has noted China's defence supplies to Pakistan over the decades. In the same breath, he said "as the two largest developing countries in the world, China and India have on their shoulders the important responsibility for maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in Asia."

The two sides signed accords on cooperation in space research and other fields of science and technology, water resources as well as on tourism and signalled resumption of direct flights between New Delhi and Beijing.

Of particular importance is the agreement between the two countries on harnessing the waters of Brahmaputra river which originates in the Tibet. The Brahmaputra causes flood havoc in large areas of the northeastern Indian state of Assam every year. Zhu invited Vajpayee for a visit to China and so was Jaswant Singh who is likely to travel to that country by March-end on board the inaugural flight from New Delhi to Beijing.

100-day programme

FROM PAGE 12 1996 share market scam, file cases against those responsible, restore investors' confidence, strengthen the activities of SEC, formulate Money Laundering Act, set up Exchange House and Company abroad.

Bureau of Anti-corruption: So far 18 cases have been filed against important personalities and investigation into the cases are on while inquiry has been started on 62 more allegations.

Cultural Ministry: The year 2002 has been declared as the Year of Book marking 50 years of the historic Language Movement. A month-long programme has been taken up to observe International Mother Language Day at national, district and upazila levels. A book will be published on the history of the great Language Movement.

Education: Establishment of language laboratories in 6 divisional headquarters are in the final stage. Training programmes will be arranged in all districts for improvement of English language teaching.

Declaration of English as second language is being considered. It has been decided to establish a Women's University at Bogra. Distribution of primary textbooks

has been ensured, financial help for students introduced as an alternative to Food for Education programme and all committees on primary and mass education have been reconstituted.

Commerce: Ministerial level visits and meetings took place to get duty- and quota-free access of readymade garments in USA. Lobbying is on and two US Congressmen have given assurance of taking steps in this regard.

Expatriate Welfare: Delegations visited different countries to increase manpower export. Steps have been taken for training of nurses in English language.

LGRD Ministry: An international conference on arsenic problems has been organised in the capital and the Prime Minister has directed measures to find out remedies and follow through with it.

Science and Technology: Internet connections have been given to 12 districts as part of a plan to build a nationwide computer network.

Jute and Textiles: Programmes are being implemented to reduce loss of the enterprises under BTMC. Steps have been taken to make Mirpur Benarashi Project, Rajshahi and Thakurgaon

Sericulture projects profitable.

Power and Energy: Necessary steps have been taken to check power disruption in the summer. Baghabari Power Station has been completed, Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts areas have been brought under rural electrification programme. Ashganj Power Station has been made a company and system loss has been reduced remarkably.

Communications: Separate bus services for working women have been introduced in four routes of Dhaka city. Construction work of a flyover at Mahakhali has begun while an initiative has been taken to set up a road accident research centre.

Environment: Use of polythene shopping bags has been banned and plying of old vehicles restricted in Dhaka.

Dhaka City: Main roads are being made off-limit to rickshaws. Steps have been taken to repair roads and keep the city clean.

The meeting was told that the Department of Films and Publications (DFP) had decided to publish two booklets in Bengali and English and make a short film on these programmes.

Final Test at Chittagong today

FROM PAGE 1 providing live coverage while Bangladesh Betar the running commentary.

Both teams had their final practice sessions at the MA Aziz Stadium, the newest Test venue in the world.

While Pakistan captain Waqar Younis was finding it hard to motivate his team for the final match, his Bangladesh counterpart Khaled Mashud was hoping for a respectable performance after going down in three days in Dhaka.

"We are expecting another win here," said the Pakistan skipper after the training session.

"Of course it is not easy to motivate oneself against a relatively weak side. But we will try to be very positive," said Waqar, adding that there would be one change to the team that played in Dhaka.

Speedster Shoab Akhtar will come in place of injured Wasim Akram, who bowled just 16 deliveries in the first Test before limping off the ground with a hamstring pull.

But Waqar still considered Danish Kaneria as his main weapon. The leg-spinner devastated Bangladesh with a match haul of nine wickets in the first Test.

"He took only a session to bowl out Bangladesh in Dhaka. That's

why we are looking forward to another match-winning performance from Danish," said Waqar.

Bangladesh skipper had little to say about the threat of Kaneria and rather he wanted to emphasise on improving their batting techniques.

"We need to score runs because that is a worrying area of our game. For the last three days we have tried very hard to work on it. Hopefully, we will put on a good show this time," he said adding that they had given less priority to fielding during each session.

Mashud also revealed that he would be a happy man if his side could bat little longer than four sessions in the first innings and even stretch the game into the final day.

The Bangladesh skipper also thought that his team was taking each defeat in their stride.

"I know everybody is feeling embarrassed with our performance. But I can assure everyone our cricket will improve in due time," said Mashud.

Although both teams would announce their final eleven in the morning, Pakistan might be including young right-hander Faisal Iqbal in place of Younis Khan.

The home team, on the other hand, is likely to revert to Javed Omar to open the innings after

Selektor Umar again.

However, Al-Shahriar, who suffered cut on his right hand during the first Test, would be making a return.

This is Pakistan's third visit to Chittagong. They last came here to play in the 1988 Willis Asia Cup. Their maiden visit was in 1980 when they played a two-day match against the Shafiqul Haq Hira-led Bangladesh team.

The match was unfortunately postponed on the second day following crowd trouble.

Squad

Bangladesh (from): Javed Omar, Mehraz Hossain, Habibul Bashar, Aminul Islam, Sanwar Hossain, Khaled Mahmud, Khaled Mashud, Enamul Hoque, Fahim Muntasir, Mohammad Sharif, Monjurul Islam, Hasibul Hossain, Tushar Imran and Al-Shahriar.

Pakistan: Tafeeq Umar, Shadab Kabir, Faisal Iqbal, Izamamul Haq, Yousef Youhana, Abdur Razzak, Rashid Latif, Shoab Akhtar, Waqar Younis, Saqlain Mushtaq, Danish Kaneria, Mohammad Sami, Younis Khan and Wasim Akram.

Appellate Division

FROM PAGE 1 act as per the prime minister's suggestions.

The idea to restructure the Appellate Division was mooted following the movement by a group of BNP-leaning Supreme Court lawyers last year. The lawyers protested appointments of two junior judges, superseding their seniors. The movement culminated in an attack on the chief justice's office by the agitators.

Some senior lawyers led by Barrister Ishfaq Ahmed and Dr. Kamal Hossain pacified the agitators, promising steps to resolve the crisis. A five-member committee led by Barrister Ishfaq was formed.

The committee held a series of meetings with lawyers and resolved that the two senior judges, superseded by their juniors, would be included in the Appellate Division by increasing the number of members from five to seven.

The committee then met the then president, Shahabuddin Ahmed, and former chief justice Latifur Rahman with the proposal to restructure the Appellate Division. Both Shahabuddin and Rahman agreed to the proposal. However, the plan could not take off as former prime minister Sheikh Hasina did not approve of the plan.

Meanwhile, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed told journalists yesterday that the government has met the demand of the lawyers by increasing the number of members of the Appellate Division.

"As a result, speedy trial would be possible," he said. "The

Appellate Division is the highest court of the country and the restructuring is a historic step for ensuring quick justice."

The law ministry has sent a proposal to the establishment ministry to increase the number of bench officers, clerks, orderlies, drivers and other support employees and facilities to complement the restructuring of the Appellate Division. The proposal is now under review by the finance ministry, sources said.

Biman

FROM PAGE 1 rymity told UNB that "violating service code" Mainuddin Ahmed, Assistant Manager of Organisation and Method Section, was transferred to the Sales and Marketing Department yesterday.

"There is no such provision of transfer to the Sales and Marketing Department from other departments of the organisation," he said.

As the news of transfer of Mainuddin spread, the officers and employees of the Biman district sales office at Motijheel and cargo complex at Zia International Airport came out of their respective offices and staged demonstration.

All the four unions of Biman decided to stage demonstrations at Balaka, the head office of the national flag carrier, today.

A union leader said that they would announce greater programme if Mainuddin was not withdrawn from the Sales and Marketing Department.

Victim of globalisation

FROM PAGE 12 "lacks more articulated power structure made up of the armed forces, business, feudal and bureaucratic elite who ruled pre-1971 Pakistan. In Bangladesh today, power and influence remain fragmented."

The business community failed to play as a group and move the country along the classical path of capitalist transformation, Prof Sobhan said. Rather, "the private sector or at least its upper fractions remain disproportionately dependent on state policies, patronage, financing and external diplomacy to sustain both private investment and profitability."

He also said even those privileged fractions of the business community have not used the opportunities to sustain the process of expanded reproduction (investment growth through reinvestment of business profits) of the business sector.

Due to various divisions within the civil bureaucracy, the "bureaucrats are heavily dependent on political patronage rather than on their merit or even power of their cadre to advance their fortunes."

The once powerful armed forces also have not remained far from politicisation. "Each regime has developed an eye for choosing officers who are presumably, for reasons of career advancement, loyal to the ruling party. Such assumptions of political identity in the senior ranks of the armed forces are often based on make-believe rather than facts," he said.

Talking on globalisation, he said Bangladesh has emerged from an aid dependent country to a trade-dependent one. "In Bangladesh's new global environment, the impor-

stance of aid both as an economic and political factor is diminishing."

Aid commitments to Bangladesh have been stagnant and have declined in real as well as relative terms through the 1990s and available aid is being increasingly directed to 'soft' sectors such as human development, poverty alleviation and governance. "These are desirable goals but donors have much less capacity to influence change in these areas. Thus, donors can do little to change the quality of governance in Bangladesh, which remains an inherently indigenous process," Prof Sobhan commented.

However, even with the changing role and direction of aid, the country's attitude towards donors has not adjusted, partly because of development of a 'client class' in the bureaucracy and collapse of policy making ability, he observed.

In this context, Prof Sobhan said, there are 'agents of change' in the country who can challenge the 'rentier elite', but the civil society has to play a catalytic role.

He termed small farmers, non-resident Bangladeshis, non-defaulting and small entrepreneurs, micro-credit borrowers, NGOs, new class of working women and the professional class as the 'agents of change'.

"This numerically significant and economically productive constituency needs both macro-development agenda and a political identity to bind them together behind such an agenda," Prof Sobhan said.

U-turn

FROM PAGE 1 could not be contacted over telephone. Each time an aide picked up the minister's cellular phone and said, "Sir is away."

However, an education ministry policy planner, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star last night if the students and teachers of the university do not like the change of name, the government would revise Monday's cabinet decision and keep the previous name intact.

"The change was recommended on the ground that more agriculture universities have been established in the country, so it would be better to call the one in Mymensingh as 'Mymensingh Agriculture University' instead of 'Bangladesh Agriculture University.' Such renaming would also bring pride for the people of Mymensingh region," he said. The education minister also hails from greater Mymensingh, he pointed out.

He, however, said there might be political motive behind violent protest against the government decision.

Mohammad Ashrafal disappointed the selectors once again.

However, Al-Shahriar, who suffered cut on his right hand during the first Test, would be making a return.

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Two succumb

FROM PAGE 12 Katherpool. Bimal was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition and later shifted to a clinic at Dhanmondi.

A goldsmith by profession, Bimal, died at the clinic at about 1:15am yesterday. His body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Another victim, Kaisul Islam Jewel, 22, who was critically injured when hoodlums stabbed him in front of his sister's Khilgaon residence on Sunday, died at the DMCH at 9am yesterday.

The body of Kaisul, son of Mohammad Nazrul Islam, was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

In another incident, Tejaigon police recovered the body of a young man from Lake Road near Zia Uddayn in the city's Tejaigon area yesterday evening.

There were marks of injuries on the body and blood was still coming out of the mouth and nose when the body was recovered.

Tejaigon police suspected that the deceased might have been killed in a road accident. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

An unnatural death case was filed with Tejaigon police station in this regard.

British minister

FROM PAGE 12 omy, development of education and its stance on regional peace and stability.

Benn also showed keen interest in the government policies and its enunciation of free market economy for strengthening private sector in the country and the steps taken for development of women's education, reduction of population growth and children's welfare.

Terminating Britain a major development partner of Bangladesh, the UK minister said relationship between Bangladesh and Britain is historic and British assistance and cooperation to Bangladesh flow accordingly.

The prime minister said her government had inherited a shattered economy and took measures to put the economy into a proper shape.

Khaleda Zia sought more UK assistance for education sector in Bangladesh.

Benn said there has been a UK-sponsored programme in Bangladesh's education sector where British assistance would increase.

Responding to a request of the prime minister for introducing a direct London-Sylhet flight to make the journey of expatriate Bangladeshis in the UK easier, Benn said a positive progress in this regard could be achieved during the meeting between State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Meer Nasiruddin and his British counterpart when the former visits London soon.

The impact of the September 11 attack in New York on garments and frozen foods sectors and measures undertaken by the government to revitalise the national economy and developments in the region including the Indo-Pak relationship came up for discussion.

On the Afghan situation, the prime minister said Bangladesh would like to participate in the peacekeeping under UN umbrella in Afghanistan and also in its reconstruction by providing doctors and engineers and other professionals when it would get such proposals.

He discussed trade and recently-concluded meeting of World Trade Organisation.