

LDF blames govt for accepting donors' conditions for aid

UNB, Dhaka

Left Democratic Front (LDF) at a meeting yesterday strongly criticised the government for, what it said, accepting unreasonable conditions of IMF and World Bank for assistance.

"It's a shame for the nation the way the BNP-led coalition government got crazy for foreign aid," said a resolution of the LDF central coordination council meeting.

The LDF alleged that the government in the face of pressure from the IMF and World Bank has taken steps to privatise and shut

DU vacation

begins tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

The nine-day vacation of the Dhaka University will begin tomorrow on the occasion of Eku-shay February and the holy Eid-ul-Azha.

The university activities will resume on February 28. The resident students have already started leaving their respective dormitories.

Attendance in the classes is now very thin.

Robbery at Sitakunda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A gang of armed robbers looted gold ornaments and valuables worth over Tk 8 lakh from a house in Kadam Rasul area under Sitakunda Upazila on Sunday night.

About 15 robbers stormed into the house of Haji Aminur Rahman at around 11.30pm breaking open the door and confined all the eight inmates to a room, police said.

Later, they decamped with the booties including 32-tola gold ornaments, Tk 82 thousands, one VCD, a cell phone and other valuables.

down a large number of profitable and loss-making industrial and service units, including 800 branches of state-owned banks.

"As a result, a vested quarter will plunder the national property. On the other hand thousands of workers will lose their jobs."

The LDF observed that the government is bowing to illogical conditions of the IMF and World Bank to cover up its failures in dealing with reserves, checking state wastage and huge expenses of the large cabinet.

The LDF asked the government to refrain from taking anti-people decisions. It warned that the people would build up a united resistance if the government takes such moves following pressure from the donors.

LDF coordinator Saiful Haq presided over the meeting at the Workers' Party office. Also present at the meeting were Bimal Biswas, AFM Mahbubul Haq, Tafazzul Hossain, Ashraf Hossain Ashu, Bazlur Rashid Feroz and Abu Hamed Shahabuddin.

The meeting decided to observe "demand day" across the country on March 3 to mobilise opinion against privatisation, layoffs and price-hike.

Sanskrit & Pali exams results published

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Sanskrit and Pali Education Board yesterday published the results of the year 2000. The percentage of pass is 66.62.

A total of 14,637 students appeared in the examination of which 9,752 passed.

Of the total number of students passed in the examination, 2,172 secured first division, 7,177 second division and 403 third division, said a press release of the board.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding that a national herbal garden be set up in the country.

Rescued children need proper rehabilitation in society

BSS, Dhaka

The children rescued from the traffickers are in dire need of proper rehabilitation as well as integration in society.

"These rescued children have been living in an inhuman condition at different childcare homes, including government ones which lacked sufficient food, educational and medical facilities, recreation, security and some other physical and mental problems," Prof. Burt Galaway, an expert on children rehabilitation observed at a function in the city yesterday.

Prof. Galaway was sharing his experiences on rehabilitation of trafficked children with different stakeholders related with organisations in their rehabilitation at Bangladesh Institute of Advanced and Management (BIAM) after a month-long visits to a number of childcare centres in the country.

"The childcare centers I have visited in one month across the country lacked adequate facilities to live in," he said.

Department of Women Affairs of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in cooperation

with Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD) organised the programme for bringing about some changes in the existing coordinated programme to combat child trafficking (CPCCT) for qualitative changes in the life of the ill-fated children.

Director General of Department of Women Affairs Begum Touhida Faruki chaired the function while it was attended by representatives of different stakeholders like ILO, UNICEF, NGOs and Norwegian Embassy to Bangladesh, law-enforcing agencies like Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Police.

To bring qualitative changes in life of ill-fated children and their rehabilitation, Prof. Galaway said technical assistance is badly needed for giving childcare centres an institutional shape, as institutions would be the last resort for rehabilitation.

Engr Company at UNMEE replaced

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh replaces its 160-member engineers' company (BANENGR-I) at the UN Mission for Eritrea-Ethiopia (UNMEE) with a new contingent, BANENGR-II.

The new contingent, led by Lt Col Ghulam Mostafa, left Dhaka for Eritrea early yesterday. A four-member delegation is also with them.

The remaining 98 members of the unit are expected to leave for Eritrea February 24, said an ISPR press release.

Chief of General Staff of Bangladesh Army Maj Gen Ahsan Nazmul Amin saw the army personnel off at the Zia International Airport.

Earlier, the 62-member first batch of the existing company (BANENGR-I) returned home after successful completion of their stay with the UNMEE for a year. The remaining 98 members of BANENGR-I are likely to return home on February 25.

All members of the BANENGR-I received UN medals in recognition of their professional efficiency and earned appreciation from the UN Force Commander and other UN officials who had visited the mission area during their stay.

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Liver transplantation now possible in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

In a breakthrough in health services, surgeons are poised to make liver transplantation, the most complicated surgery on human body, possible in the country.

"We are developing specialised surgeons and skilled manpower to go for hepatobiliary surgery, including liver transplantation within a year or less," Dr Zulfikur Khan of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University told UNB yesterday.

Liver transplantation is the only treatment option for liver failure and liver cirrhosis, and the

hepatobiliary surgeon said they were going to start a new wing. Hepatobiliary surgery, in the hospital soon.

The university is collecting expensive and sophisticated operation equipment like CUSA and Intra-operative Ultra Sound to set another landmark in medical treatment at home.

There is a huge number of patients with liver diseases and they will get best possible treatment in this country after the opening of the wing, Dr Zulfikur said.

"Presently we are doing liver surgery, biliary surgery and pancreatic tumor operation. But after the opening of the wing, we will be able to perform liver transplantation," he said.

The hepatobiliary surgeon, who is now working as Assistant Professor of the Department of Surgery of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University said he had worked at National University Hospital (NUS) of Singapore and joined the liver transplant operations with world-famous surgeons like Dr Roy Calne and Dr KC Tan.

The NUS is ready to help develop the liver transplant unit here, he said, adding that there is tremendous advance in this field all over the world starting from liver resection to liver transplant. There is also tremendous scope for doing work in this field in Bangladesh.

However, Dr Zulfikur said it is a costly operation. Liver transplant

in Singapore will cost Tk 50 lakh. "But in our country it will cost nearly Tk 5 lakh. It takes 12 to 16 hours to complete the liver transplantation."

He observed that many are going abroad - Singapore and India in particular for the treatment of liver diseases. "But now we are capable of dealing with such diseases here," said the surgeon, who is an FRCS.

About the availability of livers for grafting, he said liver can be collected from a body within 24 hours of a person's death and a health person also can donate liver to his close relative.

Bangla Academy Literary Awards today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Literary Awards of the Bangla Academy will be announced tomorrow at a function on the academy premises in the city, academy officials said.

Bangla Academy will give three awards instead of two to the noted writers of the country for their contribution to Bengali language, literature and culture. Each recipient will get Tk. one lakh instead of Tk 50 thousand this year.

The awards will be given to the recipients on the first week of March due to Eid vacation, officials said.

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