

Extortion: 2 JCD activists held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists were arrested by Kotwali police while trying to extort money from a spectacles market at Patuatuli in the old part of the city yesterday.

Witnesses said four JCD workers from Jagannath University College went to the market and demanded Tk five lakh from a former president of the market association, Haji Hasan Ali Bhuiyan. They told him that no other JCD man from the university college would come to the market for money if their demand was met.

As the trader refused to pay the money, the JCD activists put pressure on him to make him comply with their demand. As the news spread, others at the market rushed to the spot. The activists then exploded crackers and tried to flee.

Two of them were caught by the traders, identified as Selim and Zia. Police posted near the market saved them from mass beating and arrested them. The other two—Iman and Mesba—managed to escape.

Canadian minister due today

BSS, Dhaka

Canadian Secretary of State for Asia and the Pacific David Kilgour arrives here today on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Foreign Affairs Ministry officials here said that the Canadian secretary of state would have official talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman in the afternoon of the same day to chart out the bilateral relations for the next 30 years.

The two sides, they said, are expected to build upon the vision of bilateral relations as discussed by the two Prime Ministers, Khaleda Zia and her Canadian counterpart Jean Chretien, at Coloum on the sidelines of the recent Commonwealth summit.

The visit takes place also to celebrate the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries in 1972, officials said.

The Canadian secretary of state will, among others, call on the prime minister and the foreign minister.

BOI to be recast

FROM PAGE 12

This was the first board meeting of the BOI since the four-party led government came to power in October last. The Prime Minister is the chairman of the board.

Speaking at the meeting, the Prime Minister asked all concerned to intensify efforts for increasing FDI and generating new employment in the country.

She also emphasised on timely implementation of the investment proposals and regular holding of the BOI board meeting.

According to meeting sources, the executive chairman of the BOI has been given all administrative and financial latitude to take decisions and strengthen the board.

The executive chairman would be able to recruit new people and appoint consultants necessary for bringing FDI and helping investors in any sector.

He would not need prior permission from the government in this regard.

Currently, the board has a plan to appoint at least two consultants in marketing and information service sectors, one BOI source said.

The other important decisions taken at the meeting include forming a committee to prepare a new organogram for the board, converting the existing one-stop service into a cell of utility services, shifting the BOI office to a separate building, and holding investment seminars, symposiums and exhibitions at home and abroad.

The new organogram is necessary for appointing professionals in respective sectors to assist investors. Earlier, most of the people in the board were transferred from the directorate of industry or appointed on deputation from the cadre services lacking in necessary

Bandarban jail

FROM PAGE 12

inside the jail," said one official.

Fire Brigade and Civil Defence Forces have also been put on stand-by near the jail.

Convicted 101 Bangladeshi prisoners in the hill district jail are passing time in "utmost anxiety" for fear of attacks by the distraught foreign prisoners.

Meanwhile, the jail authorities have decided to move out 200 prisoners to Comilla, 50 to Rangamati and another 50 to Noakhali jails in case the situation does not improve.

He said since he took office in November last year, the board received a total of 717 million US dollars worth of investment proposals, of which 522 million were local and 194 million foreign.

The court order came on a writ petition challenging Alamgir's detention for 30 days ordered by the district magistrate on March 22.

Log-in hitch

FROM PAGE 1

Commission (BTRC) against the BTTB for blocking monthly telephone line rent, faced the problem.

The BTTB increased the monthly line rent for the ISPs nearly seven folds. The ISPs were asked to pay Tk 1,000 rent per line from the previous Tk 150. But the BTRC blocked the move following the complaints.

The subscribers of all the members of the ISP Association (ISPA) including Information Services Network Limited (ISNL), Bangladesh Online Limited (BOL), Aftab IT Limited, Agni Limited, BDCOM Limited, Global Online service Limited and Grameen Citech Limited faced the problem.

The ISPA alleged that the internet users of the BTTB's and those ISPs which are not members of the ISPA did not face this problem.

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Graft cases

FROM PAGE 1

Morshed, all accused in corruption cases filed by the Bureau of Anti-corruption.

Justice Badrul Haque and Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury of a division bench passed the order on separate petitions. The government law officers were conspicuous by their absence from the court to oppose the bail when the petitions came up for hearing.

The accused except Mohammad Nasim were implicated in three cases for alleged irregular awarding of tender to a bidder ignoring the lowest one in constructing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Novo Theatre.

Mohammad Nasim and SAMS Kibria, accused of awarding tender for installation of digital telephones without floating international tender, moved the fourth petition.

Former prime minister and also chairperson of ECNEC Sheikh Hasina, who had approved the projects, is the main accused in the corruption cases.

Former state minister for Planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir as member of the ECNEC was also implicated in the corruption cases. He is already in jail in connection with other cases.

Barister Amiul Islam and advocate Abdul Matin Khasru moved the bail petitions.

But some ISPs were dismayed at

Boat capsizes: One killed, 3 missing in Barisal

UNB, Barisal

One person was killed and three others missing as a boat capsized in the Musa river during a storm that swept Meherdiganj upazila on Friday.

Officials said 3-4 fishing boats sank in the river during the 15-minute storm that lashed the upazila at about 5 pm.

Although most passengers of the boats swam ashore, four people were missing after the storm, the officials said.

Later, the body of one Moazzem was recovered from the river, but three people remained missing till filing of the report at about 8 pm. Two of them were identified as Monir and his younger brother Saiful.

According to the officials, over 1,000 houses and educational institutions, including two cluster villages, were damaged by the storm.

Tele link between Meherdiganj and other parts of the country remained cut off for about 19 hours till yesterday noon.

Mayoral post

FROM PAGE 1

commissioner in Dhaka. Forty women candidates have withdrawn their candidature in the city.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reported that only one out of six mayoral candidates has withdrawn his candidature.

Those in the race are incumbent Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP, district BNP general secretary Advocate Qamrul Munir, Workers Party leader Fazle Hossain Badsha, Jatiya Party leader SM Basheruzzaman Hira and independent candidate Solaiman Hossain.

Minu has been nominated by the 4-party alliance.

Rajshahi city BNP president advocate Eklak Hossain has withdrawn his candidature.

Forty-seven ward commissioner candidates and three for women's seats have withdrawn their candidature.

Our correspondent reported from Khulna that four mayoral candidates have withdrawn their candidature.

Those in the race are incumbent Mayor and 4-party nominee Shaikh Tayebur Rahman, independent candidate Sheikh Enayet Ali (former Awami League MP) and CPB leader Advocate Feroz Ahmed.

No AL reply

FROM PAGE 12

Bhuiyan said the dialogue would focus on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's proposal to display portraits of both Mujib and Zia side by side in government offices.

But BNP sources said the government is still awaiting a reply from the AL.

The AL however at a press briefing hours after Bhuiyan's proposal attached some conditions including revival of the law for preservation and display of Bangabandhu's portrait, end to alleged repression on AL leaders and activists, withdrawal of 'false' cases against its activists and allowing the party to hold political programmes.

Mannan Bhuiyan declined to make any comment on the conditions set by the AL, as he is yet to receive any official response to the government proposal.

A number of senior BNP leaders said the government 'truly' wants restoration of a 'congenial political atmosphere' and an end to all controversies.

He said since he took office in November last year, the board received a total of 717 million US dollars worth of investment proposals, of which 522 million were local and 194 million foreign.

The new organogram is necessary

for appointing professionals in respective sectors to assist investors. Earlier, most of the people in the board were transferred from the directorate of industry or appointed on deputation from the cadre services lacking in necessary

knowledge for attracting investment, the BOI sources said.

The existing one-stop services would be converted into a cell of utility services appointing people of the rank of general manager or above from utility service sectors concerned like water, power, gas, telephone and environment.

A general manager from the Petrobangla has already been appointed in the cell to look after the gas line services to the investors.

About relocation of the BOI head office, the government is considering either a building constructed for the NAM summit or the Janata Tower at Karwan bazar as possible choices for the new BOI headquarters.

The ministers present at the meeting include Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, Textile Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Industry Minister MK Anwar and State Minister for welfare of expatriates and overseas employment Major (retd) Quamrul Islam.

Talking to The Daily Star after the meeting, the BOI executive chairman Mahmudur Rahman said the activities of the board would be expedited and investors would be benefited by the new decisions.

He said since he took office in November last year, the board received a total of 717 million US dollars worth of investment proposals, of which 522 million were local and 194 million foreign.

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