

WB hails decision to close down AJM

BSS, Dhaka

World Bank has hailed the government's decision to close down the Adamjee Jute Mills -- which costs the country millions of taka each year in financial losses.

"When I learnt of your government's decision to close down the Adamjee Jute Mills, I was overwhelmed by a sense of respect for your courage and determination to serve the common people," Mieke Nishimizu, World Bank vice president for South Asia region, said in a letter sent to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

He said the closing of Adamjee sends an unequivocal signal to skeptics that you are committed to stemming the financial haemorrhage from state-owned enterprises.

Nishimizu lauded the provisions made to ensure that laid-off workers of the Adamjee Jute Mills will have an adequate safety net in

the form of redundancy payments and retraining.

"The cost of providing generous safety nets will be more than offset by the fiscal savings gained by closing Adamjee and other loss-making enterprises," the World Bank vice president said.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh has also thanked the government for its courageous action of closing the Adamjee Jute Mills.

"With this single stroke you have cut through all of the hesitations and special interests, taking a vital step towards reducing inefficiency and waste and promoting sound economic policies," said Aftab Ul Islam, president of the American Chamber in a letter to the Prime Minister.

The Adamjee Jute Mills had incurred a loss of Tk 591.18 crore during the past Awami League regime (1996-2001) which was Tk 285.37 crore during the BNP government (1991-1996).

3-day media confce begins July 20

The Centre for Development Communication (CDC) has taken up an initiative to organise a three-day long media conference from July 20 to 22 at the National Press Club in the city, says a press release.

The CDC in cooperation with the Mass Line Media Centre (MMC), Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) and Step Towards Development (STD) will organise the conference.

The conference will be divided into five sessions on media related issues. These are: Journalists' security and future of press freedom, columns in newspapers and readers' expectation, government control-free BTV, development of Bangladesh as reflected in media and film, censorship and women.

The sessions will be chaired by Barrister Moinul Hossain, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Bazlur Rahman and Mahubul Jami.

The keynote presentations will be made by Naimul Islam Khan, Mohammad Jahangir, Mofidul Haq, Kamrul Hasan Manju and Arifa Sharmin.

The sessions will be held at 3.30pm and 5.45pm.

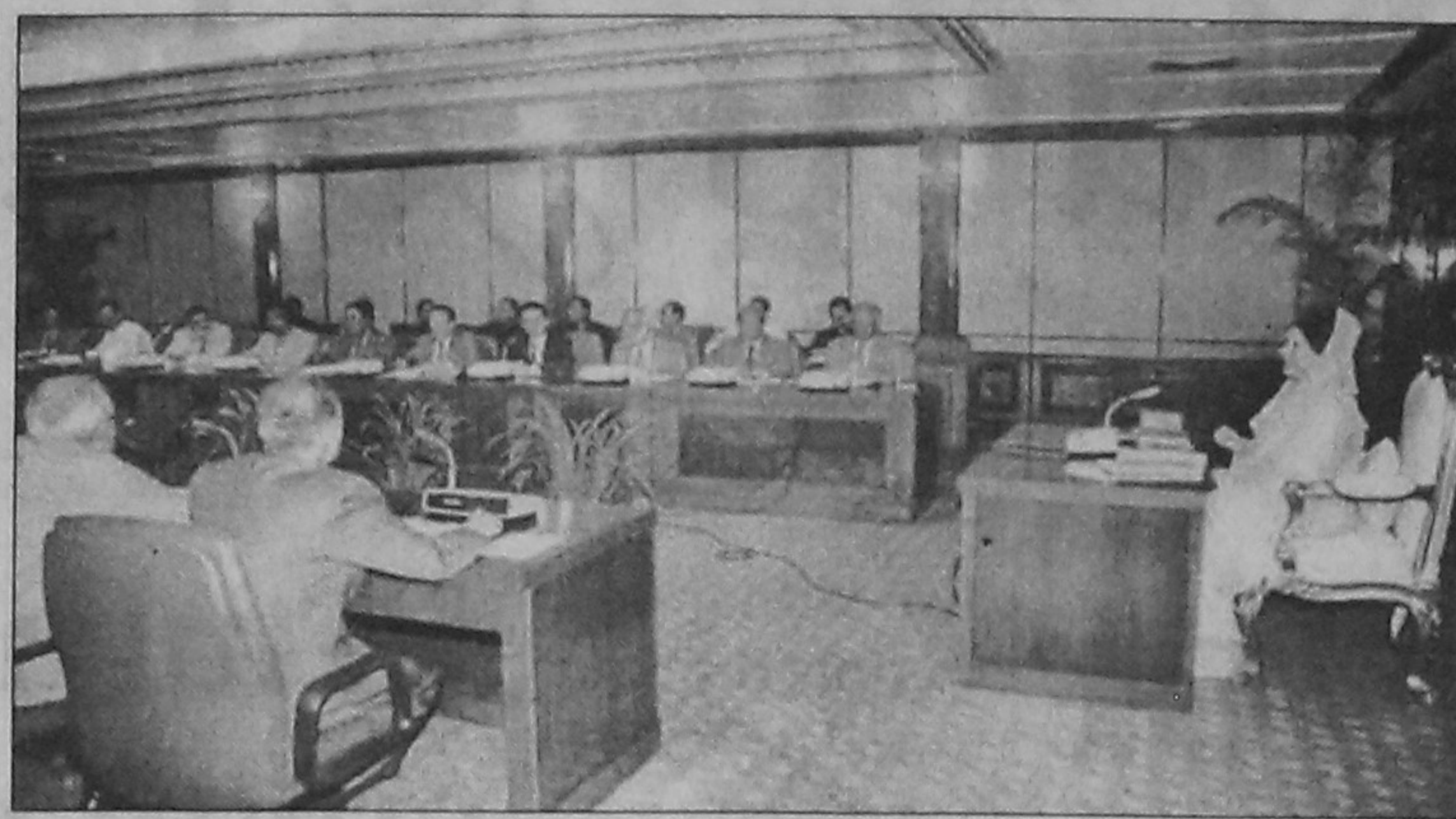
Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Md Sirajuddin, an officer of the Sonali Bank, Secretariat branch, will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and doa will be held at his residence at 14/1 Faridabad Lane after Asr prayers.

Sirajuddin died of a cardiac arrest on July 14.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presiding over the 15th meeting of the Board of Investment (BOI) at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the city yesterday.

GDP growth may fall to 4.2 per cent: ADB

UNB, Dhaka

Lower agricultural growth and decline in export may bring down the country's GDP growth to 4.2 per cent in fiscal 2001-02 (FY02) from 5.2 per cent in FY01, Asian Development Bank estimates.

The Bank, however, has seen some improvements in several macroeconomic areas since March 2002.

The decline, which was evident in industrial production, appears to have bottomed out. Increased worker remittances have offset the export decline and led to a relatively stable level of reserves.

"The fiscal deficit has been notably reduced, and inflation, although gradually increasing, continued to remain modest," ADB said in its quarterly Economic Update Bangladesh, June 2002, released in the city yesterday.

Although large and medium scale manufacturing output has begun to recover, supply side constraints such as hartals, law and

order and transportation problems are likely to limit the extent of recovery, the bank apprehended.

A contraction in exports and imports is also likely to adversely affect service sector activities in such areas as trade, transport and finance, it said.

Total food production is likely to experience a marginal decline, from 26.76 million tons to 26.66 million tons in FY02, and overall agricultural growth is likely to come in somewhat below the 3.1 per cent growth rate achieved in FY01.

Despite the pickup in large, medium and small-scale manufacturing particularly in the second half of FY02, the overall industrial growth rate may be "considerably below" that was achieved in FY 2001, the ADB estimated.

Inflation marked a gradual upturn with the year-on-year rate increasing to 3 per cent in March 2002 from 2 per cent in December 2001. While low food inflation

continues to depress the overall index, non-food items have picked up relatively more sharply -- 4.1 per cent in December 2001 from 5.9 per cent in March 2002.

Merchandise exports declined by 7.7 per cent during the first 10 months of FY02 compared with the same period of the preceding year. Reflecting the decline in exports coupled with trade and foreign exchange restrictions, imports in terms of L/Cs declined by 6.7 per cent.

Increase in foreign remittances largely offset the trade deficit, leading to notable improvement in balance of payments situation, the ADB update noted.

Despite the unfavourable external environment and the political transitions during the year, the revenue outturn in FY02 remained satisfactory. After a slower start early in the year, revenue collection picked up since December 2001.

Besides, containing the current expenditure and drastic cut in ADP helped bring down fiscal deficit from the projected 5.5 per cent to 4.4 per cent of GDP, resulting in lower domestic borrowing.

Commenting on the new budget, the ADB update said achieving the ambitious revenue target projecting a 20 per cent growth would require sustained and determined effort by the tax authorities.

Although the ADP target is quite high, the budget has a conservative growth target for current expenditure, it viewed.

Limiting fiscal deficit to 4 per cent of GDP would depend on meeting high revenue target, controlling unproductive current expenditure and reducing losses of the SOEs, the ADB commented.

Death anniversary

BSS, Dhaka

The third death anniversary of Syed Najmuddin Hashim, a well known journalist and writer, who was a senior government official and country's ambassador abroad, will be observed today.

Hashim's literary and journalistic works spanned several decades. He was a familiar name in cultural and other circles as well in the country.

Justice Fazlul Haq takes oath as judge of Appellate Divn

BSS, Dhaka

Justice Mohammad Fazlul Haq took oath as a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday.

Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury administered the oath of the Judges' Lounge at the Supreme Court building.

Judges of the both divisions of the Supreme Court and senior officials were, among others, present at the oath-taking ceremony.

Earlier on Monday, Acting President Barrister Mohammad Jamiruddin Siraj appointed Justice Fazlul Haq as a judge of the Appellate Division under Article 95 of the Constitution.

He was an Additional Judge of the High Court Division.

Justice Fazlul Haq was born on June 30, 1938 at Jangipur village in Murshidabad district of West Bengal, India. His family settled at Rajshahi in 1948.

He did LLB from Rajshahi University in 1963. He completed Bar-at-Law from London in 1970. He was enrolled as an advocate of the High Court in 1974. He was also a part-time teacher at the Central Law College, Dhaka. In 1990, he was elected Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Dhaka to join submarine cable consortium in Sept

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will join the submarine cable consortium comprising 13 countries of Asia and Europe in September to put the country on the global information superhighway.

"The country will soon be connected with submarine cable network to the developed world over Internet, making data-transmission systems quicker and providing people with improved telecommunications facilities," said Post and Telecommunications Minister Barrister Muhammad Aminul Haque yesterday.

He made the announcement while addressing the certificate award ceremony of Communicative English course at BIAM.

Medicinal plant parks in dists soon

BSS, Dhaka

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has undertaken initiatives to establish 'medicinal plant parks (MPP)' in various parts of the country and activities in this regard have already started in twelve districts.

These parks would provide local drug companies and interested importers with raw materials for herbal medicine.

A senior official of the ministry told BSS that Environment and Forest Minister Shahjahan Siraj has inaugurated medicinal plant parks in Tangail, Mymensingh, Sherpur, Khulna, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Bogra, Rangpur and Chit-

tagong Hill Tracts. He said the ministry has started the project in 12 districts. Neem and some seasonal species of medicinal plants will be planted in the parks.

Shahjahan Siraj has told the news agency that establishment of medicinal plant park in different districts are independent initiatives of his ministry. If proves successful, this special project will help government earn valuable foreign currencies, he added.

The minister said the government would also initiate 'Neem Tree Project' side by side establishing 12 medicinal plant parks in the country. Some two lakh neem tree will be planted under the project, he added.

Water transport bodies reconstituted

UNB, Dhaka

In a bid to prevent accidents of water transports in the riverine routes, the government has reconstituted the regional committees to examine the fitness of such passenger vessels.

The committees have been reconstituted by amending the gazette notification of June 23.

Following are the reconstituted committees:

Dhaka and Narayanganj region: Convenor - Capt. M M Zammel Haq, Principal (Master Mariner), DPIC, Narayanganj; Members - Dr M Masud Karim, Assistant Professor, BUET, Dhaka (Naval Architect), Sajjad Hossain, Chief Engineer, BSC (Marine Engineer), M Saifullah Panna, First Class Magistrate, Dhaka, and Syed Belal Hossain, First Class Magistrate, Narayanganj.

Barisal region: Convenor - Capt. M Shaiful Ahsan, Deputy Harbour Master (Master Mariner), Mongla Port Authority; Members - Dr Khandker Shahriar Iqbal, Assistant Professor, BUET, Dhaka (Naval Architect), Mahubul Alam, Chief Engineer, BSC (Marine Engineer) and Khan M Rezaul Karim, First Class Magistrate and NDC, Barisal.

Khulna region: Convenor - Capt. Wahidur Rahman, Deputy General Manager, BSC (Master

Mariner); Members - Dr M Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Professor, BUET, Dhaka (Naval Architect), M Moniruzzaman Azad, Chief Engineer, BSC (Marine Engineer) and representative of the Deputy Commissioner concerned (Assistant Commissioner and Magistrate).

The committees will examine design, minimum required balance or stability, navigation lamp, uprightness and sufficiency of instruments, life protection and fire-fighting equipment, number of certificate holder master or driver of the vessels.

Besides, the committees will recommend legal action against the faulty vessels and check route permit or fitness certificate and other papers.

The committees will submit reports to the Shipping Ministry within the next three months from July 15, said a PID handout.

Regional confce on ICT in Sept

UNB, Dhaka

A three-day regional conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) will be held in the city from September 15 to 17.

University of Science & Technology, Chittagong

Sponsored by : Janasheba Foundation

Tender Notice

- Sealed Tender in Prescribed Forms are hereby invited from the first class contractors for the executive of the civil works of 20 STORIED BUILDING OF ISLAMIC MEDICAL MISSION Mirpur, Dhaka-1216.
- Tender for the above mentioned work will be received in the office of the University of Science & Technology, Chittagong (USTC) 63, Central Road, Dhaka-1205, Tel-8614959 Ext. 106, 108 on the 05th of August, 2002 upto 12.15 P.M. and will be opened by them on the same day at 4.15 P.M. in the presence of the contractors who may like to remain present.
- Tender documents consisting of condition of contract, specification, schedule of items of works, design drawings shall be obtained from Accounts Department of USTC 63, Central Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205. Phone : 8614959, Ext. 106, 108. at all working days from 18th July, 2002 upto 2.00 P.M. on payment of Tk. 10,000/- only (Non refundable) per copy.
- Earnest Money equivalent to 2% of the quoted amount in the shape of Bank Guarantee, Pay Order, Bank Draft, from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh duly pledged in favour of USTC must be accompanied with the Tender. Earnest Money will be refunded to unsuccessful bidders immediately after the final selection of contractor and to the successful bidder in two equal installments at the time of payments of first two running bills.
- The rates have to be quoted for each item of works both in figures and words.
- The rate will be inclusive of cost of all Materials, Carriage VAT, & Taxes etc.
- The contractor must be a Limited company with minimum 10 years of practical experiences.
- Only those contractors may bid who have got financial capability of investing the entire cost of this project from his own resources if required and get the same paid gradually from the USTC authority when the fund is made available.
- None need bidding if they have not executed project exceeding Tk. 10 crores.
- Tender will be declared informal and will be summarily rejected on the following condition :
 - If any tender has not been signed with date and address in the tender form and pages of schedule of items where rates have been quoted.
 - If there any discrepancy, over writing, ambiguity or omission initiated by tenderer.
 - If any additional condition imposed by the tenderer.
 - If the requisite earnest money is not submitted along with the tender.
 - If each and every page is not signed by the tenderer.
- Running payment will be made but no payment will be made less than Taka 30,00,000.00 (Thirty lac only) within 10 days after approval of the bill subject to availability of fund.
- Security deposit @ 5% to be deducted from the contractor's each running bill.
- The USTC reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders received without showing any reason.
- The USTC reserves the right to reject the lowest tender received without showing reason.

**Chairman
Construction Committee**

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- Generator must be brand new and of latest manufacture.
- Price is to be quoted in local currency.
- Two sets of maintenance manual, operation manual & parts catalogue are to be supplied alongwith the generator.
- Installation is to be done by the supplier's specialist.
- Consumables (oil filter, fuel filter etc.) for one year requirement are to be supplied alongwith the Generator.

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It is for the information of all concerned that my client entered into a contract on 30.6.2002 through a Bayana Patra with the owners of the schedule property to purchase the properties mentioned in the schedule below. If anybody has any claim or demand over the properties described in the schedule below, he or she is hereby requested to contact with the following person along with paper and relevant documents within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, otherwise the schedule properties shall be deemed to be genuine and free of all liabilities.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTIES

District Dhaka, P.S. and Sub-Registrar Office Mohammadpur, Mouza Sarai Begumpur, Plot No. 6/2, Block No. F of Plan No. 435/4/13, Lalmatia Housing Estate, Dhaka present Mouza Lalmatia Residential Area, J.L. No. 5, Revenue Survey No. 798, Khatian No. 2463, Plot No. 2552 piece or parcel of land measuring 917 square yards (11.52 kathas, more or less) including two storied building.

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Supreme Court Bar Association Building
Dhaka-1000
Phone : 9666390-1, Ext 253