

PM'S DIRECTIVE

Complete appointment of college teachers by Sept 30

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday directed the authorities to complete the appointment of college teachers by September 30 through a special BCS examination.

She also directed them to fill at least 70 percent of the vacant posts of non-gazetted government officers by October 31.

The prime minister's directive came at the sixth review meeting on the ministries and divisions held at the International Conference Centre.

Cabinet Secretary Sadaat Hossain informed the meeting that 1,288 officers had already been appointed in different cadres through the 21st BCS examination and another batch of 2,226 officers through the 22nd BCS examination.

"Recruitment examinations for primary schoolteachers in six divisions have been completed and appointments will be given soon," he said.

Examinations have also been completed for the appointment of 3,000 health assistants at field level and their recruitment is in the final stage, he added.

Sadaat Hossain apprised the prime minister that as per her directive at least three doctors had been appointed in each upazila hospital. He also said the cases involving

minor crimes against women and children have already been disposed of.

The meeting was told that televisions and fans have been provided to many jails and daycare centres for children set up.

The cabinet secretary said the 'speedy trial' was working effectively, raising the confidence of the people in justice.

"Significant progress has also been made in ensuring full-time presence of all district and upazila level government officers in their respective stations," he said.

The meeting was also told that the implementation of Mohra project to supply drinking water to the residents of Chittagong city had started and tubewells had been installed.

It was learnt that three Sri Lankan companies have been given permission to set up agro-based industries in Ishwardi Export Processing Zone.

About other economic issues, the cabinet secretary said the foreign exchange reserve has increased maintaining a steady position while the growth of remittance continued at 12 percent.

Finance Minister M Saifur

Rahman, LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Health Minister Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Huq, Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami and Prime Minister's Political Secretaries Harris Chowdhury and Mosaddek Ali attended the meeting.

Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui and other secretaries were also present.

Businessman robbed of Tk 1.2 lakh in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A businessman was robbed of Tk 1.20 lakh in broad daylight yesterday in the port city.

A gang of four muggers stopped the rickshaw in which Nurul Islam alias Jewel was travelling at Noor Mohammad Road and snatched the money after hitting him in his head with the butt of a pistol. The gang fled the scene in a

CNG autorickshaw.

Witnesses alleged that a team of police was patrolling the area only a few yards from the scene but they did not come to the rescue of the businessman.

Police, however, denied the allegation and said they have chased the muggers in vain.

Jewel, a businessman of Reazuddin Bazar, filed a case with Kotwali police, but no-one was arrested.

Two more BNS ships arrive at Mongla

UNB, Dhaka

Two more Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV), BNS Sangu and Turag, procured by Bangladesh Navy from the UK arrived at Naval Jetty Digraj of Mongla yesterday.

Bangladesh Navy procured five OPVs and three of them, BNS Korotoa, BNS Kapodakha and BNS Gomoti, reached the country earlier.

During their 8000-mile nautical voyage, BNS Sangu and Turag made brief stopovers at Tangier in Morocco, Port Said in Egypt, Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, Raysut in Oman and Colombo in Sri Lanka as goodwill visits as well as to replenish ration, fuel and provisions.

The ships had a complement of 10 officers and 125 sailors. Besides, two officers of the Sri Lankan Navy joined them on way home as a goodwill contingent of the Sri Lanka Navy.

Chehlum



Chehlum of Kazi Phool Akhter Begum, mother of Kazi Rahamat Ullah, judge of the Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children

Repression, Dhaka, will be held at her village home at Balusair in Narsingdi after Juma prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

She died of old age complications at her village home on March 27 at the age of 89. Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the chehlum.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Nurul Islam Bandary, a freedom fighter and ex-MP, will be held at House # 99/C, Road # 11, Banani after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He died on May 3 after a prolonged illness.

He was buried at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur with full state honour.

Husband to die for killing wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Tribunal yesterday sentenced one person to death for killing his wife on June 30 in 2002.

Judge Mohammad Abu Hanif of the Speedy Tribunal-3 gave the verdict at a jam-packed courtroom in absence of the victim's husband and accused AK Rashid Jewel. The tribunal acquitted Noorjahan Begum, mother of the convict Jewel as the charges brought against her were not proved. The tribunal dropped the name of accused Dr Kashem from the case as he died during the trial of the case.

The punishment of the convict will be effective from the date of his arrest or surrender, the judgement said.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 11 out of 19 prosecution wit-

nesses.

In the case filed with Ramna thana, it was alleged that Jewel, owner of Hotel Al-Jewel and his parents often tortured Noorjahan Akhter Bakul for dowry. The accused tortured Bakul to death on June 30 at their 40/A Topkhana residence as she refused to bring dowry from her parents.

Later, victim's father Noor Mohammad filed a case accusing Jewel, his parents- Dr Abul Kashem and Noorjahan Begum the following day. The investigation officer of the case pressed charges against Jewel and his parents under the Special Act for Prevention of Women and Children Repression on September 27 in 2002.

The trial was completed in 37 working days.

Special Public Prosecutor Nurul Iman Babul appeared for the state while Advocate TM Akbar defended the accused.

Youth beaten up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat up a youth for taking away an unspecified amount of money from the office of the Public Works Department (PWD) at Segun Bagicha in the city yesterday.

PWD employees and local people caught Afzal, 25, as he tried to run away after taking away the money from a cabinet of the office. However, two of his accomplices managed to escape.

Local people said the three stole about Tk 5 lakh when accountant Sudhir was busy paying salaries to the staff at about 10:00am.

Sudhir raised an alarm when he saw a youth running out of the office.

The mob soon caught him and beat him up, leaving him injured seriously.

Police rescued Afzal and sent him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Later, he was shifted to Orthopaedic Hospital.

Quoting the local people, hospital sources said Tk 3.75 lakh was found in and around the office after the incident.

Ramna police said the PWD officials lodged a complaint but did not mention whether the youth took away any money.