

CPB protests immunity to WB, IMF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) formed a human chain in the city yesterday protesting the government move to pass two bills—one providing immunity to World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the other providing indirect election to women's reserved seats in parliament.

Passage of the two bills, infringing on the country's sovereignty and people's fundamental democratic rights, will be tantamount to the violation of the constitution, said CPB President Monjurul Ahsan Khan.

All patriotic politicians should vigorously raise their voices against the anti-people bills, he added.

Obituary



Noted film personality and cameraman M Abdus Samad died at the Apollo Hospital in Delhi yesterday at the age of 68.

He won the National Film Award, Bachsas Film Award, Moscow Film Festival award and many other prizes.

Cameraman of many famous Bangla films, including Rupban, Ora Egarajan and Isha Khan, Samad was also the chairman of the Film and Media Department of Stamford University in Dhaka.

Jamir Uddin Ahmed



Jamir Uddin Ahmed, former chief engineer of the then Pakistan T & T, died in Houston, USA, on October 26 at the age of 74, says a press release.

He was the second son of late Magistrate Md Asgar of Sylhet.

He is survived by his wife, one

Jalal Uddin Ahmed

Jalal Uddin Ahmed, a former deputy manager of Shinepukur Jute Mills Ltd, passed away at his residence in Bhairab, Kishoreganj, on Wednesday night at the age of 57.

He left behind his wife, one son and three daughters.

He was buried at the Bhairab Municipal Graveyard yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

CPD Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan, middle, speaks at a dialogue on 'Migration and Mode 4 in health and education sector: Towards a trade and development approach' in the city yesterday. On his right is Commonwealth official Dr Roman Grynberg and on his left is former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury.

Set up mechanism to send workers abroad for temporary jobs

Commonwealth official suggests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A visiting Commonwealth official yesterday called on the developing countries like Bangladesh to establish a mechanism so that people can go to developed states for temporary jobs.

Such system will bring huge economic benefit to both sending and receiving countries and reduce the trend of illegal migration, said Dr Roman Grynberg, deputy director and head, Trade and Regional Integration Department, Economic Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

He was speaking at a dialogue on 'Migration and Mode 4 in health and education sector: Towards a trade and development approach' organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue at its auditorium in the city.

Referring to a system in Caribbean states from where thousands of workers go to Canada for seasonal jobs every year, Dr Grynberg said the developed countries would agree to hire unskilled and semi-skilled workers only if they are certain that the workers would go back home after a certain period.

He also suggested training the nurses to work abroad as the demand for such professionals is very high in the developed world.

The temporary job system would

also help reduce illegal migration as around half a million people enter European countries every year illegally, he added.

Dr Grynberg, however, said the Commonwealth did not negotiate with the sending or receiving countries in this regard but provided technical support and guidelines for capacity-building of the developing nations.

Former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, former commerce secretary Alamgir Faruq Chowdhury, former governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr Farashuddin Ahmed and economist Anaynna

Raihan also spoke.

Amir Khosru said the developing countries would train the workers for a particular job only after getting a secured market.

The speakers pointed out various aspects that create obstacles to movement of workers from the developing countries to the developed ones.

The developed nations do not advocate for free movement of workers fearing that it may cause social problems and cultural shock at their states, they said.

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301-member nat'l executive body announced

UNB, Dhaka

A 301-member national executive committee of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) was formed yesterday with former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Major (retd.) Abdul Mannan as its president and secretary general respectively.

Badruddoza Chowdhury announced the names of 47 members at its temporary office at KC Memorial Clinic yesterday morning.

Former secretary general of Fema Firoze M Hassan and Dhaka University Professor Dr Nurul Amin Bepari have been made joint secretaries.

Mahi B Chowdhury MP was selected as organising secretary while Abdullah Bin Riaz, a chartered accountant, and Major (retd.) SK Nadir Ahmed were made treasurer and office secretary.

The joint organising secretaries are Major (retd.) M Murad Ali khan, Abdur Rouf Mannan and Shahidur Rahman.

Other executives are Major (retd.)

Wahidul Hossain - social affairs secretary, film director Shahidul Islam Khokon - cultural affairs secretary, Khaled Hossain - labour affairs secretary, Brig. Gen. (retd.) Gyasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury - liberation war affairs secretary, Dr Shahdat Hossain - health affairs secretary, Dr M Majibur Rahman - youth affairs secretary, Advocate Shah Ahmed Badal - public relations and publicity secretary, AKM Zainul Abedin Khan - commerce and trade affairs secretary, Surid Sohan - overseas affairs secretary, and Advocate AM Ahsanullah - legal affairs secretary.

The members are Dr Md Abdus Zaher, Kazi Kamal, Gazi Shahidul Huq, S Fahim, Lion Wazed Ali Chowdhury Parvez, Sheikh Shahiduzzaman, Nasir Uddin Sarkar, Shahjahan Khan, Najiba Khandokar, Sabera Begum, Sawkat Bepari, Morol Amjad Hossain, Aziz Akond, Abu Bakkar Siddiqui, Sunil Kanti Tanchagya, Shahin Obayed, Hafizur Rahman Jhantu, Mujibur Rahman Shikder and Jahangir Alam Biplob.

Consider Bangladesh while charting outsourcing, investment strategies

Hasina urges US government

UNB, New York

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has urged the US government to consider Bangladesh and her potentialities while charting its future outsourcing and investment strategies.

Delivering a speech at an international seminar on "Ascend 2004" organised by the Council of Women World Leaders at Manhattan here on Wednesday, she praised the US policies benefiting Bangladesh by way of assisting economic development, "proving its time-tested friendship and reliability as a strong and dependable partner."

Hasina, however, said: "A slight shift in USA's policies, not to mention new ones, political or economic, domestic or international, has a reverberating effect world over."

"Therefore, the USA today needs to contemplate seriously its policies and their repercussions on the lives of the people of the world, besides its

own."

"If the USA's policies benefit people across the globe, the prevailing malaise afflicting the world today could be confronted together and eliminated through joint efforts of all nations and people," she added.

Referring to the reality of globalisation, she said that in the present interdependent world "it is only realistic for developed nations especially the USA, while formulating policies, to take cognisance of the rest of the globe."

There is no doubt, she said, that most of the USA's "well thought policies" has done the world good and have left the rest of the developed world to follow the suit.

On current debate on outsourcing of jobs and investment, Hasina said outsourcing has become inevitable, real and an intrinsic part of the global economy as market forces and economies play a dominant role in the globalisation process.

The former prime minister said that during her rule Bangladesh became "one of the most open

economies" among the developing countries. She mentioned package of lucrative incentives, including legal protection to investors and unrestricted repatriation of capital and profit, her government had provided to attract foreign investment in Bangladesh.

"Indeed our efforts attained fruition when Bangladesh came to be considered as a country with a window of opportunities," she said adding that the US investment sharply rose to 2 billion US dollar during her rule from paltry 25 million US dollar.

Hasina said Bangladesh also welcomed direct investment in power generation, and oil and gas exploration due to the energy sector's major role in generating rapid economic growth.

Citing positive economic indexes, including 6 per cent GDP and low inflation of 2 per cent achieved during her five-year rule, she said banks made profit, loans to industrial sector enhanced while export-import sustainability increased.

"Our policy was to allow the private sector to play a key role in our economic development... We allowed energy, power, telecommunications, civil aviation, electronic media, etc to the private sector," Hasina told the seminar.

On empowerment of women, she listed various steps taken by her past government to establish equal rights, status and dignity of women in Bangladesh through empowerment.

Hasina said she had adopted an overall policy and working plan ensuring separate quota at all level of bureaucracy, including in the police force and the armed services. Women were inducted in the cabinet, appointed Secretary and High Court judge, she added.

She also referred to various micro-credit schemes like "Ashrayan" and "One House-One Farm" by her government to ensure economic self-sufficiency of women and their participation in the nation-building activities.

5-member JS panel of chairmen nominated

BSS, Dhaka

Speaker Barrister Mohammad Jamir Uddin Sircar yesterday nominated a five-member panel of chairmen comprising Major Gen. (retd) Mahmudul Hassan and Prof Kazi Golam Morshed of BNP, AHK Sadek of Awami League, Hafizuddin Ahmed of Jatiya Party and Shahjahan Chowdhury of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The Speaker announced the panel of chairmen in the House at the commencement of the 14th session of the current parliament as per the Rules of Procedure.

In the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, the person whose name is on the top of the panel, from amongst those present at the sitting, shall take the chair.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Asir Rahman, mother of Waliur Rahman Bhuiyan, managing director of BOC Bangladesh Ltd and former president of Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will be held at Azad Mosque (Gulshan-2) in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Afia Rahman, a retired teacher of Banglabazar Girls High School, died on October 25 at Dr. Salahuddin Hospital in Dhanmondi at the age of 75.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



PHOTO: STAR

(From left) Prof Anisuzzaman, US Ambassador Harry K Thomas and Mohiuddin Ahmed of UPL observe one minute's silence in memory of Archer K Blood and martyred freedom fighters at a memorial meeting in the city yesterday.

Tribute paid to Archer Blood

UNB, Dhaka

Scholars and intellectuals paid homage to former American diplomat Archer K Blood for his courageous contribution to Bangladesh's liberation war at a memorial meeting in the city yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, US Ambassador Harry K Thomas said Bangladeshis proved their courage and commitment to their ideals through the Liberation War which was a crucible.

"Standing up for what you believe in sometimes exacts a terrible price... We all have a debt to pay to the Liberation War and the many casualties of that time," he said at the meeting.

Archer Blood had been in Dhaka as US consul general in 1971. He sent messages to the US State Department about the genocide of innocent Bangalees by Pakistani army and criticised the policy of then US President Richard Nixon.

In his historic message sent to the State Department on April 6, 1971, Blood said, "Our government has failed to denounce the suppression of democracy. Our government has failed to take forceful measures to protect its citizens while at the same time bending over backwards to placate the West Pakistan-dominated government."

This message was also signed by 20 staffs of the US Consulate General in Dhaka, prompting the Nixon administration to transfer Blood from his position immediately. He was placed into virtual exile within the State Department.

Blood, who wrote a book titled 'Cruel Birth of Bangladesh', died on September 3 this year at the age of 68.

Professor Anisuzzaman, noted cultural personality Aly Zaker, Liberation War Museum trustee Dr Sarwar Ali and proprietor of UPL Mohiuddin Ahmed also spoke at the function.

"It saddens me that Mr Blood was punished as he was simply speaking what he felt was the truth. From Archer Blood's example we can take hope. Even at their darkest hour, the Bangalees had influential and brave friends who knew the truth and spoke out," Thomas told the meeting.

Recounting the dreadful events during the Liberation War and Blood's contribution, the US envoy said, "It is my belief that Archer Blood's legacy of love for Bangladesh and its people lives on in the current US mission in Bangladesh, and I am proud of that."

He said as a result of Archer Blood's bold action, the State Department is now more accepting of dissent and even has a dissent channel to allow employees to send messages directly to the Secretary of State.

10,000 die in road accidents a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 10,000 people die in road accidents every year in the country, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They feared that the number might increase up to 20,000 by 2010 if the present trend continues.

The speakers said professional weaknesses and lack of trained traffic police for effective enforcement of traffic rules are mainly responsible for accidents.

They also highlighted the health, social and economic aspects of road accidents.

The seminar on 'Road accidents and emergency measures' was organised by Franco-Bangladesh Association of Scholars and Trainees (FBAST) at LGED Bhaban in the city.

Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan attended the seminar as chief guest and

Ambassador of France to Bangladesh Jacques-Andre Costilhes as special guest.

Dr Moyeen Khan said road safety demands public awareness and respect for traffic rules.

He said trauma centres should be set up at different points to provide immediate treatment after the accident.

While presenting the keynote paper, Prof Mazharul Hoque, director of the Accident Research Centre, said there is awareness about the road safety problem, but the knowledge and technique to tackle the problem are absent.

Presided over by ASM Alamgir Kabir, president of FBAST, the seminar was participated by Dr Firoz Kader, associate professor of Dhaka Medical College, Jalal Ahmed Khan, news editor of daily Al Azan, Dr AKM Momin, director of the CRP, and Aftab Ali, manager of the National Road Safety Council.