

Unique way to prevent child marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A class eight student, who was being forced to marry against her will, was saved thanks to the courageous step taken by her classmates.

It was a unique sight for the people of the small town, when some 50 schoolgirls took to the street yesterday demanding that the wedding of their 13-year old classmate Habiba Sultana, be called off.

Next, they submitted a memorandum to the officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar Police

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BB plans to curb credit growth to tame inflation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) plans to curb the loan-disbursing capacity of the banks to keep the inflation rate between 6.5 and 7 percent in the fiscal year 2008.

It will take the measure to make its tight monetary policy meaningful in the current fiscal. Despite a cautious policy, the results at the end of last fiscal were not up to the expectations.

The central bank's half-yearly [July-December] monetary policy statement released yesterday hinted that cash reserve requirement (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) for the banks might be raised. In that event, the financial organisations will have to limit their credit flow towards the private sector.

The planned increase in cash reserves will tighten the liquidity position of the banks and help the BB go on pursuing the strict monetary policy and keep the inflation target on course.

Currently, the banks have to keep 5 percent of their liabilities in CRR and 13 percent in SLR.

The policy statement was released at a press conference at the BB office in presence of Governor Salehuddin Ahmed.

"Despite cautious monetary policy pursued by Bangladesh Bank, the actual growth of several monetary aggregates exceeded the programme levels," Salehuddin Ahmed said quoting from the policy statement.

"Considering the unfolding price developments, we may review SLR and CRR for the banks [including Islamic ones] which have remained unchanged since 2005," he added.

The governor, however, said private sector would receive necessary policy attention to achieve the desired level of economic growth.

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PHOTO: PID

From left...Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed hands over the commissioning order of the Bangladesh Navy frigate BNS Khalid bin Walid to its commanding officer at a naval base jetty in Chittagong; the frigate.

CHT district councils reshuffled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, from Rangamati

The present Caretaker Government yesterday published the gazette notification of new interim councils of three Hill District Councils (HDC), dismissing existing councils formed by the past four-party alliance government, sources in the HDCs said yesterday.

The district council officials of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari said that they received simultaneous fax messages of the gazette notification about the changing of HDCs from the CHT affairs ministry yesterday afternoon.

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T&T staff hurt trying to escape Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Telegraph and Telephone (T&T) Board employee was injured yesterday as he jumped from a building to avoid being caught red-handed taking bribe by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Rab personnel, however, arrested him along with another T&T line-man at Tejuri Bazar of Tejgaon in the capital as they were taking bribe from a computer firm promising them of providing a land phone connection.

The arrestees are Azaharuddin, and Mejbah Uddin, who jumped from the second floor of the

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Five Lankan ministers due July 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five Sri Lankan ministers, including Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama will arrive in Dhaka July 16 on a three-day trip on invitation of the foreign adviser to discuss transport connectivity, telecommunication, and trade.

"My invitation was extended to him in line with our policy to strengthen our relationship with

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Saarc meet in Delhi this month to fight human trafficking

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

High officials from Saarc countries are expected to meet in New Delhi in the last week this month to work out a coordinated rescue and repatriation effort for the victims trafficked across the Saarc nations.

Official sources said the meeting, most likely to be held between July 24 and 27, would be attended by representatives from home and foreign affairs ministries as well as officials from Unicef (United Nations Children's Fund).

New Delhi claims that over 30,000 people are trafficked across India's porous borders every year -- mostly from Bangladesh and Nepal.

Foreign ministry sources said the Saarc regional taskforce is expected to recognise human trafficking as a growing problem and establish a prevention mechanism in line with Saarc Convention of 2002 to combat especially women and children trafficking for prostitution.

According to officials, trafficked young girls are usually forced into prostitution while many children are forced to work as camel jockeys or domestic help. They are even sold for organ transplants.

An official at home ministry said

Fertiliser hungry farmers go berserk at dealer's shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Farmers went berserk at a fertiliser dealer's shop in Bidirpur Bazar of Matikata union under Godagari upazila in Rajshahi leaving a policeman injured yesterday.

Police constable Paritosh Das received injuries from brickbats pelted by the farmers towards police. He was taken to Rajshahi Police Lines after primary treatment.

Thousands of fertiliser-starved farmers lined up in front of dealer Wali Ahad's shop at Bidirpur Bazar

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Shajahan Siraj's daughter-in-law sued for tax evasion

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Farzana Khan, daughter-in-law of former BNP lawmaker Shajahan Siraj, after the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed a tax evasion case against her.

Meanwhile, hearing on the

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Govt plan to shift 6 commercial wings

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

The caretaker government is considering shifting of six commercial wings of Bangladesh missions abroad including those in Tehran and Los Angeles to other places for global geopolitical and economic factors.

The commerce ministry has also suggested establishing a new commercial council office at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia as trade between the two countries has increased.

It has proposed shifting of the commercial council office in Tehran to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, due to UN sanction on Iran over nuclear issue.

Trade between Dhaka and Tehran has decreased by \$10.5 million during the last 10 months due to the ban on two Iranian banks which were mostly used for Bangladesh's trade with that country, an estimate by the ministry said.

It pointed out that after the dissolution of Soviet Union, trade restrictions have been withdrawn from Central Asian countries.

The ministry has suggested

shifting the Los Angeles commercial council office to Milan, Italy, for its failure to woo investors in information and communication technology (ICT) sector. It has totally failed to collect information on ICT sector in Los Angeles, inspire investors to invest in Bangladesh and achieve technology transfer in ICT sector, the ministry noted.

On the other hand, investment and trade ties between Bangladesh and Italy have greatly expanded and a large number of Bangladeshis are working in Milan.

"Shifting of Los Angeles commercial office to Milan will help support Bangladeshi workers," a working paper of the ministry said.

The suggestions by the commerce ministry are based on the views of a high level committee assigned to review export, and look into the issue of changing or shifting the commercial wings of the country's missions abroad.

The committee headed by Mostafa Mohiuddin, joint secretary of commerce ministry, met several times.

The ministry suggested shifting Kula Lumpur commercial wing to Warsaw, Poland, to expand trade

and commerce with East European countries.

It also proposed to shift Canberra commercial wing to Sydney, Ottawa commercial wing to Toronto, Yangon commercial wing to Seoul, South Korea.

A high official of the commerce ministry said Bangladesh has to consider its trade interest first in establishing and running commercial wings abroad as the government is keen to cut misuse of expenditure.

"The government does not have enough funds to continue commercial wings at such places where trade is not developing," said the official, also a member of the committee.

Faridul Hasan, director general, Export Promotion Bureau, Omar Faruk, director, EPB, Supal Chandra Saha, deputy director, EPB and BM Arshad Hossain, deputy secretary, commerce ministry are also on the committee.

Maoists blow up TV, power stations in Andhra Pradesh

AFP, Hyderabad

Maoist rebels destroyed TV and power sites near a major port in southeast India yesterday, less than a week after they killed 24 troops in an ambush in a nearby state, police said.

The attacks on a television transmission tower and a power station took place in a town near the busy port city of Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh state, a hotbed of left-wing insurgent activity.

"They used gelatine sticks (dynamite) to blast the TV centre, the power station and a state guest

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Prayer Timing		
July 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		



