

GM Quader for generating trust in investors' minds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commerce Minister GM Quader called for "generating confidence in the minds of the investors."

"The Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) would provide an alternate to the court system and generate confidence in the minds of investors, particularly the FDI," he said at a dialogue, Arbitration for Settlement of Business Disputes, organised by the BIAC in the capital on Saturday.

BIAC Chief Executive Dr Toufiq Ali highlighted the changes in the country's laws which have made mediation mandatory, increasing pending cases in courts.

BIAC provides training in arbitration and mediation, which will help entrepreneurs and those seeking alternates to long delays in courts, he added.

As Bangladesh depends on trade with the outside world for growth, it is important for it to comply with rules and regulations, stated Netherlands Ambassador Gerben de Jong.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



He was 98, says a press release.

He had a great contribution to founding NGFF School at Fenchuganj in Sylhet.

NGFF School Alumni Association expressed deep shock at his death.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



He played a strong role in establishing democracy and rule of law and promoting the spirit of the Liberation War.

He was actively involved in the movement for war crimes trial.



Water for the past four years has been gushing out of this burst pipe of Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (CWASA) right under Guptakhal No 9 Bridge in Patenga of Chittagong city, said the locals. The CWASA did not take any steps in this regard despite repeated complaints, they said. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

PARDONING WAR CRIMES ACCUSED SCF condemns Turkish president's request

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF), a platform of sector commanders in the Liberation War, yesterday condemned Turkish President Abdullah Gul's recent letter to Bangladesh President and Prime Minister calling for "clemency" to the war crimes accused.

"Verdict of the trial of crimes against humanity is yet to be passed. In this circumstance, such a request is not only surprising but also regrettable," said a SCF statement signed by its acting secretary general Haroon Habib.

Such request is the outcome of the ignorance about the local laws, judiciary and the Liberation War of an independent country, it said.

"We think that the [war crimes] trial was being conducted following international standard and getting full support of Bangladeshi people," it added.

They urged the Turkish president not to pay heed over the propaganda against the trial and be respectful to the trial of the accused of the crimes against humanity charges.

Barind farmers incur loss for agri inputs price hike

Rally told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Farmers in the country's Barind region are counting losses due to increased prices of agricultural inputs like fertiliser, seeds, pesticides, diesel and electricity, said lawmaker Fazole Hossain Badsha.

Depletion of groundwater in the region is also adding to miseries of the farmers, he said while addressing a rally on Rajshahi Water Development Board premises as the chief guest yesterday.

Badsha, also politburo member of Workers' Party of Bangladesh, demanded that the government give more priority to ensure interests of the farmers and provide them with the farm inputs at subsidised rates.

Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad

(RRSP) organised the rally to press home a 23-point demand, including implementation of North Rajshahi Irrigation Project, establishing an Agriculture University in the region, and reopening of Rajshahi Silk Mills under state management soon.

Badsha urged the government to make Bangabandhu Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge toll free for carrying agricultural products to other parts of the region.

Several hundred farmers from Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj attended the rally chaired by RRSP President Liakat Ali.

RRSP General Secretary Jamat Khan, Abu Bakkar Ali, Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul, Debashish Pramanik, and Alamgir Kabir Tota spoke among others.

EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS Include challenged women entrepreneurs Discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable discussion yesterday urged the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to include women entrepreneurs with disabilities in their Tk 10 million fund allocation for women entrepreneurs' empowerment projects.

The government and NGOs should lend their support to initiate more projects that include active participation of women entrepreneurs with disabilities, they added.

The roundtable was organised by Access Bangladesh Foundation and ActionAid Bangladesh.

"Women entrepreneurs with disabilities would also feel more encouraged if the SME Foundation introduced the category of Best SME Woman Entrepreneur with Disabilities in their annual National SME Women Entrepreneurs Awards," suggested Managing Director of Access Bangladesh Foundation Albert Mollah in his keynote speech.

He also urged different ministries to reserve a 10 percent quota in all their training projects for the empowerment of women entrepreneurs with disabilities.

Tarik-Ul-Islam, secretary to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, said, "With appropriate support from the finance ministry, funds can be allocated for the empowerment of women with disabilities if a suitable project proposal is submitted."

Social activist Julian Francis, among others, also spoke at the discussion.

Remove Justice Nizamul from HC Demand pro-BNP-Jamaat lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP-Jamaat lawyers yesterday demanded Justice Nizamul Huq's removal from the office of the High Court judge through a Supreme Judicial Council and his trial for holding Skype conversations on ICT-1 with an expatriate Bangladeshi legal expert.

Justice Nizamul resigned from the post of International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-1 chairman on December 11 amid controversy over the conversations.

Justice Nizamul violated the constitution and his oath and committed misconduct by holding the conversations, Bangladesh Bar Council Vice-Chairman Khandker Mahbub Hossain told a press conference in the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium.

The lawyers will enforce stern programmes, including laying siege to the chief justice's office and boycotting courts if the chief justice did not meet their demands, said Khandker, an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Buriganga 'slightly' better Says environment minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Buriganga's condition has "slightly" improved due to effective drives against polluters, claimed Environment and Forest Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday.

"The concentration of dissolved oxygen at most points of the river rose to 1.5 milligram per litre (mg/l), which was zero before 2009," he said. The optimum concentration for survival of aquatic life should be between 4.5 and 8 mg/l.

The minister was addressing a press conference, held to announce the AL-led grand alliance government's success in the last four years, in Bangladesh Secretariat.

Hasan said now 77 percent of the coun-

try's factories use effluent treatment plants while it was 30 percent before the government came to power. "A total of 542 cases were filed in the environment courts and over Tk 100 crore was realised in fines since 2009."

On the recent transfer of Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, serving as a director at the Department of Environment, Hasan said Munir had more important works like taking action against persons who use formalin in food.

Munir, transferred to the commerce ministry in mid-December before completion of his three-year tenure, played the key role in taking action against polluters and increasing revenue income from fines by over threefold since August 2010.



Area Director Shahruk Rahman and President Zaheda Khatoon of Zonta Club of Dhaka II presenting a cheque to Dr Sayeba Akther to assist in operations on poor patients suffering from fistula. Club Secretary Farida Hashem, Treasurer Salina Parveen and Dr Musarrat were also present.

PHOTO: COURTESY

12 freedom fighters honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve veteran freedom fighters were accorded a reception at a book launching ceremony in the capital yesterday.

Bangladesh Sangad 71 (BDS 71) organised the ceremony at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Addressing the event, Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah, a sector commander of the Liberation War in 1971, urged the new generation for taking responsibility to build a developed and prosperous Bangladesh.

"Our generation has brought independence and building a prosperous nation was also our initial duty. We might have failed," he said.

Prof Sultana Zaman, wife of late Quazi Nuruzzaman Bir Uttam, another sector commander, unveiled the "71 Biratwa Birgatha Bijoy", a book containing the memories of valiant freedom fighters of the Liberation War.

Shoib Md Tarijullah, chairman of the BDS 71, said they have published the book to let the new generation know about the heroic tales of the freedom fighters.

The book contains the memories of 12 freedom fighters who were accorded the reception yesterday.

The freedom fighters are Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandakar, Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah, Cap (retd) Sahab Uddin Ahmed, Sergeant (retd) Touhidullah Bhuiyan, Shahjahan Siddiqui, Lt Col (retd) SIM Noor-Un Nabi Khan, Lt Col (retd) Jafar Imam, Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, Maj (retd) Wakar Hasan, Lt Col (retd) Modasser Hossain Khan, Lt Col (retd) Mohammad Nazrul Islam and Anwar Hossain Pahari.

Prof Sultana Zaman and journalist Nadeem Qadir also spoke at the programme where Dhaka Sarakalpan performed a recitation.

Moni Singh's anniversary of death today

UNB, Dhaka



Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Comrade Moni Singh, one of the leading organisers of the Liberation War and former president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB).

Different political and cultural organisations have organised programmes to observe the day. The traditional weeklong Comrade Moni Singh mela has been organised at Susang Durgapur in Netrakona, marking the day.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on this occasion.

A wreath will be placed at the tombstone of Comrade Moni Singh at Postogola cremation ground today around 7:30am on behalf of CPB and Comrade Moni Singh Mela.

Abdur Razzak remembered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers expressed grief and shock at the death of Awami League leader Abdur Razzak and remembered his immense contribution during the Liberation War in a condolence meeting yesterday.

Abdur Razzak, one of the main organisers of the country's Liberation War, breathed his last at the age of 69 at a hospital in London on December 23 last year.

Bangladesh Shanti Parishad organised the meeting at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum in the capital.

Speaking on the occasion, Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon said Abdur Razzak was a role model for the country's future generation of politicians.

Nahim Razzak Sammu MP, elder son of late Razzak, said, "I have learned from my father that politics is not a popularity contest; politics means working to enrich the lives of the general people."

The spirit of the Liberation War that he [Razzak] ignited forty two years ago will continue to inspire the future generations to build a prosperous nation, he added.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Sharif Nurul Ambia said Abdur Razzak was a leader in every way.

"He treated every party worker with affection and maintained a personal attachment with his peers within his party and even with members of other political parties," Ambia said.

Razzak, considered to be a "living history" of the birth of Bangladesh, was a versatile, charismatic leader; and noted for his subsequent emergence as a popular parliamentarian.

He was also remembered for his service in the party and government in different positions.

১৬-৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০১২
(সকাল ৯:০০-সন্ধ্যা ৭:০০)

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