

'Stop earth filling of low-lying areas'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) yesterday urged the government to take immediate steps to stop earth filling of low-lying areas in and around the capital.

earth filling of the area in future. Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra said the land grabbers must be stopped to avoid future disaster. "If flood water cannot flow through Ashulia during the rainy season, the whole of Dhaka city would be submerged breaking the Dhaka Protection Embankment", he added.

Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, country director of the Hunger Project Bangladesh, said as underground water level of Dhaka city is falling every year, it is a must to stop filling up of low-lying areas around the capital.

Presided over by Abu Naser Khan, secretary general of BAPA, the rally was also addressed by Pof Naser Azizul Haque of Jahangirnagar University, Prof Mahbuba Nasreen of Dhaka University and Prof Sarwar Jahan of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

US general Gregson leaves

UNB, Dhaka
The Commanding General of the US Marine Forces Pacific Lt. General Wallace C Gregson left Dhaka yesterday ending his five-day visit.

During his stay, the US General visited the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations and Training Centre at Rajendrapur Cantonment and the National Defence College at Mirpur Cantonment.

He placed wreaths at the Shikha Anirban at Dhaka Cantonment and visited the National Memorial at Savar.

He also called on Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba at the Naval headquarters and the Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Major General AM Mahduzzaman at the Armed Forces Division.

The Naval Administrative Authority Dhaka, Commodore SMM Zaman, saw him off at the Zia International Airport.

ALPP meets tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

A meeting of Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held at the parliamentary committee conference room of the Opposition Party in the Jatiya Sangsad tomorrow.

ALPP Secretary Abdul Jalil MP has requested the parliament members to attend the meeting, said a press release.



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri made a courtesy call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday.

Hasina, Kasuri for improving economic ties

UNB, Dhaka

Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri made a courtesy call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday.

They discussed matters of mutual interest during the meeting.

Both the leaders stressed the need for improving economic relations between Dhaka and Islamabad, and strengthening the SAARC to fight poverty in the region.

Former prime minister Sheikh

Hasina said her government had undertaken various plans to improve the socio-economic conditions of the poor and to empower women.

The hour-long meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, said Hasina's press advisor Jawadul Karim.

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP, Kazi Zafrullah MP, Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Syed Abul Hossain MP, and Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Iqbal Ahmed Khan were also present.

Ending his three-day official

visit to Bangladesh, the Pakistani minister left Dhaka yesterday for Sri Lanka.

Kasuri came here to hand over a formal invitation to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to attend the 12th SAARC summit to be held in Pakistan in January next.

During his stay, he called on the president and had meetings with the finance minister, the foreign minister and the leader of the opposition in parliament.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan bade farewell to the Pakistan foreign minister at the airport.

Call to take steps to minimise quake damage

UNB, Dhaka

Adequate preparations are needed to minimise loss of life and property in case of a powerful tremor in the city, experts told a seminar on Thursday.

Their suggestions came from a seminar titled 'Possibility of Earthquake in Dhaka City: Possible Damage and Our Responsibility' at Geology and Environment

Department of Dhaka University.

The Volunteers Against Disasters (VAD), a forum of the third year students of the department, organised the seminar as many city dwellers fear that a powerful earthquake may hit the capital at anytime.

Professor Aftab Alam Khan of Soil Science Department said the tremors that hit the capital in the last 100 years measured between 4 and 5 or a little bit above on the

Richter scale.

"If an earthquake with the magnitude of over 6 hits the capital, the casualties would be too high because of unplanned construction of high-rise buildings," he said.

Prof M Abdur Rob of Geology and Environment Department said more than two millions people of the capital would directly be affected if a big earthquake rocks the city.

Hijacked car recovered, three held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered a private car from Fatikhkhari an hour after it was hijacked by three miscreants yesterday.

The three who hijacked the Dhaka-bound car were also arrested.

The three intercepted the car on Dhaka-Chittagong road at Mastan Nagar in Mirersarai at around 9.00am, police and witnesses said.

They dragged the driver out of the car at the dagger-point and sped away, sources said.

On information, a team of Merarsarai police led by SI Hossain Sarker managed to intercept the hijacked car at Heyanko in Fatikhkhari after an hour-long chase.

The arrested -- Jainal Abedin, 25, Moslem Uddin, 24 and Nuruzzaman, 23, of Yakub Nagar under Sitakunda upazila -- are members of an organised gang, sources added.

Meanwhile, police arrested three top criminals in the port city in the early hours of yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, Bakalia thana police conducted a raid on Dubaiwala colony and Razarkhil area at around 2:30am and arrested Md Arun Miah 35, and Md Titu, 20.

And Double Mooring police arrested Saiful Islam alias Jewel, 30, a listed criminal, at Madarbari.

In the last 24 hours ending at 6.00pm yesterday, the police rounded up 103 people on various charges from different areas in the city.

Robber beaten up, dies in hospital

UNB, Khulna

An alleged robber, caught and beaten up by local people on Thursday night, died at Batiaghata upazila health complex yesterday.

The dead was identified as Shawkat Sheikh, 24.

Police said Shawkat and his three accomplices attacked a shrimp enclosure at Gaoghara village and looted Tk 22,000, leaving the enclosure owner injured.

Hearing hue and cry, villagers rushed to the spot, chased the robbers and caught Shawkat. They beat him up severely, leaving him critically injured. He succumbed to his injuries yesterday morning.

Police recovered a pipe gun along with a bullet from the spot.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period, Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and the lowest of 24.0 degree at Dhaka.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:05pm today and rises at 5:44am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.6	24.0	97	79
Chittagong	34.5	25.6	69	79
Rajshahi	31.8	26.0	97	86
Khulna	33.5	27.0	93	89
Barisal	32.3	25.6	80	82
Sylhet	33.8	25.2	97	80
Cox's Bazar	32.3	25.0	75	93