

War hits Ctg port

Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 28 : Escalation of Gulf war adversely affected the country's major port in Chittagong while the number of ships calling at this port had lessened abruptly.

According to an official source, arrival of poor number of ships had slowed down the activities of Chittagong Port leading it to an inactive position as cargo handling marked downward trend since August 2 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.

Reports said, during the period from January 15 to 21 last, only 13 ships took berth at Chittagong Port while over the past three weeks of current month, the number of ships called at this major port totalled around 60 that posed a vacant look to its most of the 19 jetties.

About 3,14,000 tons cargo were handled over the past three weeks of current month.

In the 5(five) months' period upto December, 1990, Chittagong Port handled 624 ships with 31,38,285 tons of cargoes as against 717 ships with 35,36,970 tons cargoes during the same period of previous year.

Besides, 1223 ships with 7386457 tons of cargoes were handled in the year 1990 as against 1375 ships with 84,66,084 tons of cargoes in the year 1989 that recorded a dwindling in volume of traffic, official reports said.

A senior port official said, import restriction imposed by the government in view of the Gulf crisis and fall in export contributed to the calling of less number of ships at Chittagong Port.

Before the Gulf crisis, ships numbering around 90 to 100 were due for arrival at Chittagong Port in every month which later came down to around 25 to 30 that slowed down the port functioning, the official said adding that it aggravated further with the outbreak of the war in the Gulf.

It is apprehended that the present scenario of Chittagong Port, an income generating organisation of the country, will cast a bad impact on overall economic activities.

Muslim body to manage Kaa'ba urged

Leaders of Al-Quds Committee, Chittagong, Sunday called upon Muslim countries to constitute an international committee of ulama and intellectuals for management of the holy Kaa'ba in Makkah and the holy shrine of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) in Medina, reports BSS.

In a statement they pointed out that these two holy places do not belong to any nation, rather they belong to entire Muslim Ummah and as such an international committee of Muslims should take over their management. In order to protect the sanctity of these holy places there is no alternative but to hand over their management to an international committee of Muslim ulama and intellectuals, they said.

The leaders also pointed out that when the two places would be administered by an international committee. Then no alien force would be able to enter there to desecrate those places. They also criticised Saudi Government for calling in what they called Zionist forces on the sacred Arab soil.

Messrs Bazlus Sattar, Syed Ahmadul Huq, Prof. Ahmad Hussain and Chowdhury Gulam Rabbani are among the signatories to the statement.

Al-Quds committee, Chittagong, is a socio-religious organisation formed here recently by eminent citizens.

Steps to recover illegal arms demanded

Convening a Committee of Sammlito Peshajibi Sangsad at a meeting here on Sunday called upon the caretaker government to adopt stringent measures for the recovery of illegal arms and rounding up terrorists to ensure a free and fair election, a Sangsad press release said, reports BSS.

The meeting held at Dewan Bazar with Sangsad Convener Advocate Badiul Alam's presiding was addressed by Joint Convener Advocate Shamsuddin Ahmed Mirza, Member-Secretary Principal Muhammad Taher, Joint Secretary Dr. Fazul Huq, Members Engineer Nurul Karim, Ayub Ali Khan and M. Shahjahan.

Adviser visits ADB project

Communication, Post and Telecommunication Adviser A.B.M.G. Kibria Sunday visited the development and rehabilitation works on Dhaka-Chittagong highway under Taka 55-crore project financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), reports BSS.

The Adviser gave on-the-spot direction for speedy completion of the rehabilitation works of the highway from Feni to Chittagong, according to an official handout.

Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Directorate (RIHD) M.A. Bari, the Project Director and foreign consultants accompanied the adviser.

Later, the Adviser visited Comilla Telephone Exchange and Comilla General Post Office and directed the officials and the employees for providing improved post and telecommunication service.

PROGRAMME

Workshop on election reporting today

The three-day workshops on "Election Reporting" will begin today (Tuesday) at the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) in Dhaka, a press release said, reports BSS.

Twentyfive journalists and radio and television officials will participate in the workshop.

The workshop contents include election rules, constituencies, the election commission and its functions, practical aspect of election and craft of writing. Election Commission officials, constitutional experts and senior journalists will conduct different sessions of the workshop.

Discussion meet

A discussion meeting will be held at the Seminar Hall of Psychology Department of Dhaka University tomorrow (Wednesday) at 9-30 A. M. on the occasion of anniversary of death of Professor Mir Fakuruzaman and Professor MU Ahmed.

The meeting has been jointly organised by Bangladesh Psychology Association and Psychology Department of Dhaka University.

All members of the association have been requested to attend the discussion meeting.

Fire renders 70 families homeless in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Jan 28 : Seventy families were rendered homeless, a jute godown, seven small industries and two other structures were destroyed in separate fire incidents here Sunday. Fire Service sources said, reports BSS.

None was injured. Seventy thatched houses, two grocery shops, a cottage industry, four small aluminium factories and a club house were burnt completely by the fire which lasted for two hours at Mirzapur near here.

In another fire, a jute godown of A. K. Khan Jute Mills was gutted at Majhiraht. The origin of the fire was not known.

BNP procession in support of Mirza Abbas

Motijheel unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party on Monday brought out a procession in the city in support of its candidate, Mirza Abbas.

Earlier, a road side rally was held near Shahjahanpur Inter section addressing the rally, the BNP leaders called upon the people to rally round their party to establish a representative government.



NOT REALLY A GULF WAR FALLOUT -- While millions in the Gulf war zone have made it a point to wear gas-masks to ward off effects of chemical weapons, the innocent man in the Star photo, taken on Monday, is distressed by swarms of mysterious insects now sweeping the national capital like missiles in the Gulf. Will the city father -- City Corporation of Dhaka -- be a little active in unveiling the mystery and stem the rot? But then, the DMC's performance in wiping out mosquitoes is no better. Insects and mosquitoes are equally on rampage in the city these days just under the nose of the Corporation.

Democratic Front to boycott polls

By Staff Correspondent

Democratic Revolutionary Front (DRF), consisting of nine left socio-political organisations, has boycotted the parliamentary elections saying that polls under the present state mechanism can bring no fundamental change in the society.

The decision was announced at a press conference at the front office at Purana Paltan on Sunday.

Holding of polls never brings basic change in the social structure or helps for restoration of democracy. It only helps for continuation of the existing system, Prof. M. Nurun Nabi of Ganosangskantik Parishad, a component of the DRF, said in his written speech.

Menon depllores mud-slinging

The Five-Party leader, Mr. Rashid Khan Menon, Monday said that the code of conduct for the election would not be meaningful and effective without the cooperation of the political parties, reports BSS.

Addressing an election meeting at Rahmatpur in Babuganj, he urged the two main political leaders not to indulge in mutual mud-slinging since the people of the country were more or less in the know of the past.

Mr. Menon, who is also the leader of the Bangladesh Workers Party, said charges and counter-charges of the two women leaders would make the success achieved in the fall of the Ershad regime look smaller, a party press release said.

He said this situation would go to the advantage of the Ershad's associates who were already in the field to drum up support with huge black money they accumulated and the illegal arms they possessed.

NDP favours free economy

By Staff Correspondent

Salauddin Kader Choudhury, Secretary General of National Democratic Party at a public meeting on Monday said that uninterrupted growth of free economy was the only way to salvage the national economy from ruination.

The meeting was held at Pakua High School ground of Rauzan Upazila in Chittagong.

A. K. Khan's wife dead

Begum Shamsunnahar Khan, wife of Mr. A.K.Khan of Chittagong, died of old-age illness Monday afternoon at a city clinic. She was 73, reports BSS.

All her five sons and four daughters were present at her bedside when she breathed her last. But Mr. Khan, a pioneer in the industrialisation of the country and a former Central Minister of the then Pakistan, was at another clinic.

Her body will be taken to Chittagong today (Tuesday) morning by air. Her Namaz-e-Janaza will be held after Zohar prayer and she will be buried in the family graveyard at Thalali Hills.

Her eldest son Zahiruddin Khan, a leading industrialist and a former President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries was a BNP member of the Third Jatiya Sangsad. Her eldest son-in-law M.R.Siddiky, was a Commerce Minister and an Ambassador to Washington during the Awami League government.

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Dateline Khulna

Goods worth Tk. 5 cr. recovered, 472 smugglers held

Khulna Bureau

KHULNA, Jan 28 : The jawans of BDR recovered illegal goods worth about Taka five crore from the border Sakhira area during the last year. The BDR jawans also arrested 47 smugglers from the area during the same period.

According to a source close to BDR here, the value of recovered illegal goods were estimated to be about Taka three crores while the value of smuggled out goods were estimated at Taka about two crores.

Price spiral

A meeting to review the present trend of price spiral after the outbreak of Gulf war was held here Friday with the Divisional Commissioner in the

chair. The meeting reviewed with grave concern the supply and price situation of essential commodities including food stuff.

The Divisional Commissioner Mr. Fazul Huq Mia urged upon the concerned officials and members of the business community to help arrest the present trend of price hike in the greater interest of the consumers. Members of the business community assured him for full cooperation. Representatives of Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry, members of trading community and concerned officials including the Deputy Commissioner, Khulna and DIG

Khulna Range were present in the meeting.

Election Election will be held in 454 polling centres under six electoral constituencies of Khulna district in the ensuing parliamentary polls.

Of the total centres constituencies, Khulna-1 will have 79, Khulna-2 60, Khulna-3 54, Khulna-4 82, Khulna-5 90 and Khulna-6 will have 89 polling centres. Two thousand and ninety-three booths will be set up.

According to an official source 11,57,745 voters will have the opportunity to cast their votes of whom 6,15,161 are male while the rest were female. About 17 thousand new voters have been enrolled following government decision of inclusion of new voters in the electoral roll for the February 27 Jatiya Sangsad election.



KHULNA : An anti-war rally here on Sunday calling for peace in the Gulf region.

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