

Navy urged to protect sea resources

KAPTAI, Mar 15: Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Amr Ahmed Mustafa has extolled the important role played by the officers and sailors of the Bangladesh Navy in safeguarding national maritime interests, according to an ISPR press release, reports BSS.

He was addressing a batch of young sailors of various branches of the Bangladesh Navy at an impressive parade to mark the completion of their training at BNS Shaheed Moazzam here Thursday.

He urged all BN personnel to keep constant vigil on the country's territorial waters, ensure proper protection of the sea resources and to curb the menace of smuggling in

the coastal area with an iron hand.

The Navy Chief recalled the glorious role played by the dauntless BN personnel in the Liberation War of Bangladesh and maintained that their chivalry, bravery and patriotism will always remain a source of inspiration for the posterity and imbibe patriotism and sense of dedication.

He reminded the young sailors that their training did not end on passing out from this institution but the real training has only started. He cautioned them that their career would demand of them strict discipline, complete devotion to duty and attainment of highest professional skills to build themselves as worthy sailors.

"Bangladesh Navy is equipped with modern and highly demanding weapon systems which you will be required to maintain in an excellent state of readiness," he told them.

The impressive passing out parade was witnessed, among others, by Commodore Zulfiqar Ali, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff, Commodore Commanding BN Flotilla, Commodore SS Nizam and senior civil and military officers and their wives.

Sikder relieved as Secy-Gen of BCPFA

A meeting of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association was held at its present office at Dhanmondi on Thursday. Sadek Khan, Senior Vice-President of the Association presided over the meeting, which was largely attended, says a Press release.

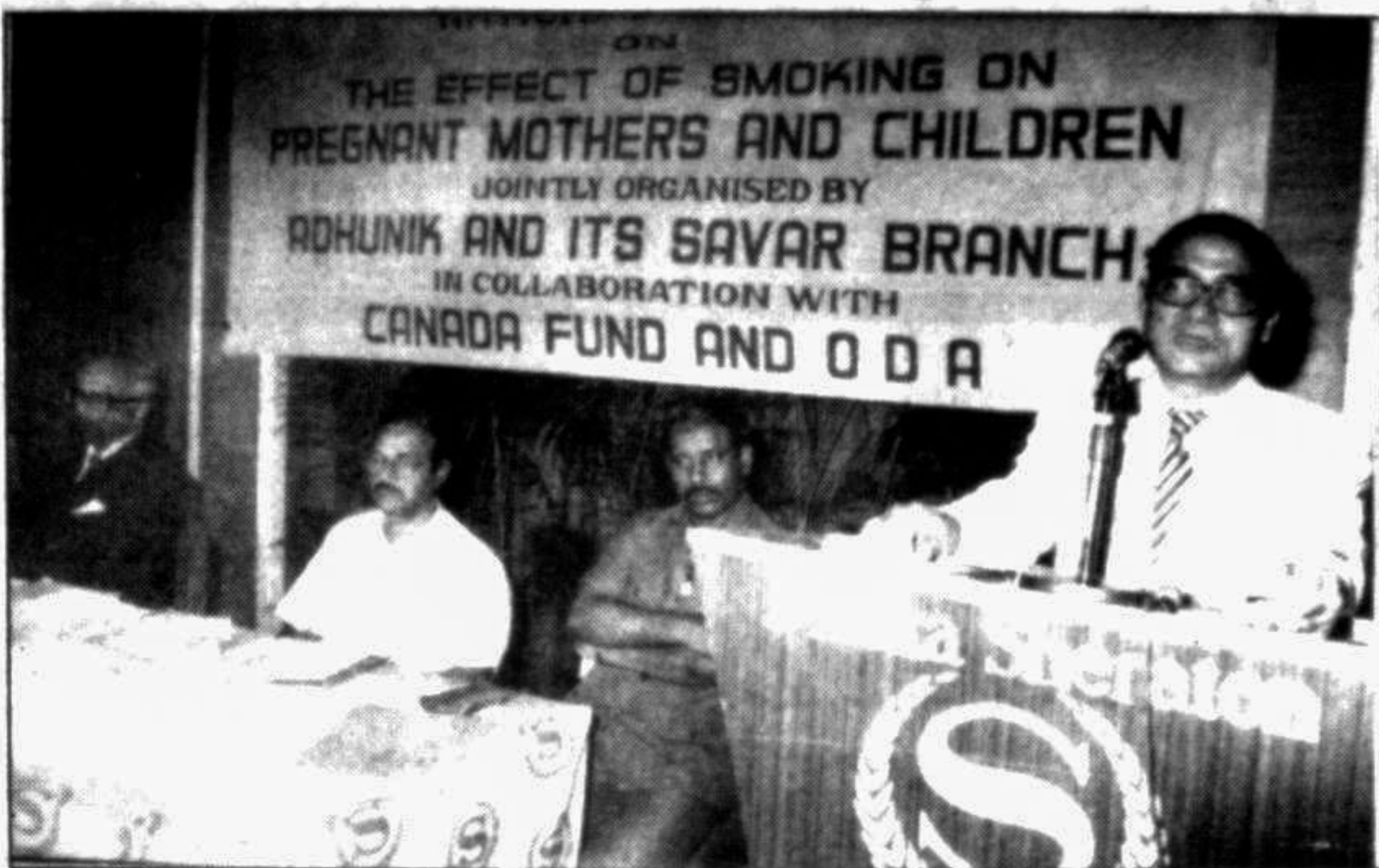
The meeting discussed about the contents of the "Gazette Notification" of 8th July, 1985 under P. O. No. 45 of 1972 and in view of the same, S. A. Sikder, the Secretary General of the Association has been relieved of his present post.

Then the E. C. meeting empowered Tofazzal Hossain, the Joint Secretary of the Association to act as the Secretary General.

The meeting further decided that according to the provisions of the constitution of the Association, the Biennial General Meeting and Election of National Council of the Association will be held on March 31, which could not be held as scheduled earlier, due to illegal and unconstitutional activities of Mr. S. A. Sikder, the press release signed by I. M. Shahnewaz, Publicity Secretary added.

BSEHR team to probe Thakurgaon incident

The Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) on Thursday sent a team to Thakurgaon to investigate the Ansar action there in which 30 civilians were injured.



National Professor Dr Nurul Islam speaking at a seminar on effect of smoking on pregnant mothers and children in Dhaka on Friday. Reazuddin Ahmed, President, BFUJ, is also seen (second from left).

50 lakh women smoke in Bangladesh

Former Presidential Adviser Mr. Alamgir M.A. Kabir Friday called upon the people to imbibe with anti-smoking habit in building a tobacco free society, reports BSS.

"From the womb to the tomb no one is safe from tobacco. Children, infants and adolescents all suffer from environmental hazards of tobacco," Mr. Kabir was speaking as the chief guest at the Third National Convention and seminar on "the effect of smoking on pregnant mothers and children" at hotel Sheraton Friday morning.

Jointly organized by ADHUNIK (Amra Dhurpan Nibaran Kar) and its Savar branch in collaboration with Canada fund and ODA, Prof. Shamsul Haque, Chairman, University Grants

Commission and Mr. Reazuddin Ahmed, President, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists were present on the occasion as the special guests.

National Professor and celebrated physician Nurul Islam, who is also founder President of ADHUNIK presided over the seminar.

Significance of Ramzan in daily life discussed

Bangladesh Secret Mission Thursday held a discussion on "holy Ramzan and our responsibilities" at Sheorapara here with the Mission's Chairman Moulana Shah Abdus Sattar in the chair, a Mission press release said, reports BSS.

Moulana Hossain Ahmad, Moulana Hafiz Mohammad Fiazullah, Moulana Masudur Rahman, Prof. Abu Bakr Siddiqui and Khaleque Bin Joyennuddin took part in the discussion explaining various aspects of the significance of the holy Ramzan in our daily life.

The Mission also adopted a number of resolutions demanding closure of hotels and restaurants during day time in Ramzan forming committees all over the country to maintain its sanctity.

It also called for extensive coverage on radio, television and print media of the significance and importance of the month.

ADHUNIK, an anti-smoking national voluntary organisation steeped into its mission in 1987 with objectives of making people aware of the detrimental effects of tobacco and smoking.

Dr. Nurul Islam said, to abstain from smoking is not only the problem of a populous country like Bangladesh, rather it's a global concern adding that there are 20,000,000 smokers in Bangladesh of whom, 5,000,000 are women and of them 3,000,000 women smokers are from rural areas.

JU teacher gets Hariprashanna Gold Medal

The Syndicate of the Dhaka University Thursday awarded Hari Prashanna Roy gold medal for 1987 to Mr. Ehtas Mullah, for his outstanding contribution to the scientific research, reports BSS.

Mr. Mullah, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry of Jahangirnagar University, received his doctorate degree from the University of Sussex, has a number of research works.

Arms recovered: 4 arrested

Police seized three sophisticated fire arms and two ram dao and arrested four persons in this connection during a raid in two houses of Rampura Thursday, a CID police press release said, reports BSS.

No plan yet on sound environment

Industrial effluents being discharged into rivers

By Staff Correspondent

There is virtually no interest or capacity within the private industrial sector in Bangladesh for promoting environmentally sound development.

Industrial effluents and their disposal are uncontrolled and there are very few studies which have reliable data on the levels and impacts of industrial pollution, most of which is discharged into the major rivers. Benefit-cost studies which could demonstrate an advantage to by-product recovery would be helpful, but are not available.

Research institutions with some interest and capability in environment consist of many agencies, both within the government structure and the private sector. For example, a national research network in agriculture is co-ordinated by the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and includes the following agencies: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI), Directorate of Fisheries, Directorate of Livestock Services (DLS), Forest Research Institute (FRI), Sugarcane Research and Training Institute, Bangladesh Tea Research Institute and Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU).

Some universities are also involved in agricultural research as well as the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) and Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation. The latter is an important agency, in view of its prominent role in water resource development, as is the Bangladesh Water Development Board, under whom the influential Master Plan Organization was constituted for the national water plan project.

Neither the Fisheries Research Institute nor the forestry Research Institute have the facilities or staff to have an impact on national policies or planning. The River Research Institute is similarly handicapped, which is unfortunate given the need for river basin studies.

Among the six Universities,

Dhaka University and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) are the most capable of doing research related to environment. Most of the universities have departments in botany, zoology, soil science, geography, geology, etc. But none offers a degree in environmental sciences, ecology, natural resource management, etc.

The Institute of Forestry in Chittagong is the sole institution with university level education in forestry. There were 8 graduates in 1985 out of a total student body of almost 6000. A forest college at Chittagong offers a 2 year B.Sc course and forestry schools in Sylhet and Rajshahi have 2 years' diploma courses. Courses in marine biology are also available at Chittagong University and BUET has environmental engineering courses.

The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) has a solid capacity for macro-economic research. To date, little has been done in either the environment sector or with

gender and development issues, but some interest is being expressed among individual researchers.

In the industrial research sector, the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) and Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) have the capacity for research on the environment, but not really the mandate. Similarly, Petrobangla and Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation have high political profile and adequate staffing, but are geared towards energy and mineral resource exploitation rather than conservation.

In Dhaka, two agencies are important in the urban sector — the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority and the Dhaka Municipal Corporation. The former is responsible for the planning, design, implementation of all water supply and sewerage facilities, including industrial areas. The latter agency's responsibilities include roads, drainage and solid waste management. Both agencies have been chronically ineffective in their respective

spheres.

The Space Research and Remote Sensing Agency (SPARRSO) has been involved in studies related to agriculture, fisheries, forestry, oceanography water resources, geology, weather forecasting and cyclone warning. Mosaics from Landsat imagery and aerial photography have been prepared for development planning purposes. The agency could play a very important role in environmental monitoring.

A number of agencies in the private sector have been identified as having some experience with natural resource issues in a consulting or research capacity: Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Bangladesh Consultants Ltd., Multidisciplinary Action Research Centre, Development Design Consultants, Associated Resources Management Company, Engineering and Planning Consultants and Centre for Development Research.

Among these, BCAS has made a notable contribution in the sector by consulting to the IED/SIDA and DANIDA on environmental issues and undertaking the State of the Environment Report (SOER) mentioned previously. In addition, they have compiled a directory of environmental consultants.

With the increasing focus on environmental issues, it is likely that more use will be made of local private capabilities in the sector, and the initial indications are that capacity is available and competent.

NGOs in Bangladesh have gone through a transition from relief and rehabilitation activities in post independence days to various levels of sophistication in developmental activities. Relief and rehabilitation remain a necessary intervention, given the vulnerability of the country to natural disasters, and NGOs have demonstrated an ability to respond to such events with relative speed and effectiveness. They are involved in a broad range of other activities many of which relate to environmental concerns such as health, appropriate technology and skills training. Some NGOs have enviable records in family planning.

A number of NGOs have jointly undertaken a State of the Environment Report (SOER), including such agencies as Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, Gonoshasthya Kendra, CARITAS, Comilla Proshika, Nijerakeri, and others. BCAS in implementing the project, which attempts to identify the environmental issues and concerns which most affect the rural poor. The issues will be covered sectorally (water, land, forests, fisheries, etc) and spatially (Barind Tract, Charlands, Coastal regions) and would be related to direct experiences encountered by NGOs in their work.

Some NGOs have specialized in environmental issues but are relatively unknown. It is anticipated that the recent SOER initiative will result in more co-operation between the different agencies.

The international NGOs have had sporadic involvement in the country and a number of them have been noted as having undertaken some activities



Sonargaon Management and staff donated more than what was anticipated. Shandhani attended the hotel at the management's request with 60 bags hoping to fill them. However, due to the enthusiasm of the management and staff the Shandhani staff had to return to their office for 30 more bags. The first to donate was the hotel's General Manager Andrew McBurnie. The blood donation programme was held on March 13.

Dateline Chittagong

Jamaat for terror-free society

CHITTAGONG, Mar 15: Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Assistant Secretary General Mr. Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid Thursday said that the people would not forgive their elected representatives if they failed to ensure their basic needs and establish a terror-free society, reports BSS.

He said, the people would also not hesitate to launch a movement against those who have been voted to power if they fail to fulfil their pledges.

Mr. Mujahid was addressing a workers meeting of his party at Railway Wazuliah Institute here. Presided over by Principal Moulana Abu Taher, Amcer of Chittagong Metropolitan Unit, the meeting was also addressed by members - elect of parliament, Moulana Shahjahan Chowdhury and Mr. Enamul Haq Manju, central leaders Moulana Mohammed Shamsuddin and Mominul Haq Chowdhury, local leaders Mr. Ahasanullah Chowdhury and Badul Alam.

Mr. Mujahid claimed that

Jamaat had practically won the parliamentary election as the proponents of secularism and socialism had been defeated. He said, those who demanded ban on Jamaat were in fact banned by the people through ballots.

He demanded arrest of and punishment to the killers of Feroz Mahmud, a student of Chittagong University and leader of Islami Chhatra Shibir, within next 48 hours, otherwise movement would be launched to press home their demand.

Killing condemned

Jatiya Sangsad members - elect from Salkania-Lohagara and Chakaria Constituencies Shahjahan Chowdhury and Enamul Haq Manju Thursday condemned the brutal killing of Shibir leader Feroz Mahmud by rivals on Monday.

In a joint statement they said, the killing of Shibir leader was premeditated and part of a conspiracy at a time when the nation was poised to

make transition to democracy after a free, fair and impartial election. A vicious circle has been active to negate democratic process in the country and those within the circle have become desperate taking the advantage of the inaction of the law-enforcing agencies, they said.

They called upon the members of the law enforcing agencies to work without fear and round up the killers of Feroz immediately.

Ctg port officers club executives

Messrs Serajul Islam and Hadi Hussain Babul were elected President and General Secretary respectively of Chittagong Port Officers Club for 1991-92 at its biennial election held at Port Bhaban here Thursday.

Other office-bearers elected were Vice-Presidents Musharraf Hussain and Zahurul Haq and Treasurer- Abdul Baki Chowdhury.

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