

No starvation death, Lutfar tells Sangsad

State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman Khan Sunday said the present government will not allow any one to die for want of food, reports UNB.

"None died of starvation anywhere in the country", Khan said making a statement in parliament on relief activities in the flood affected areas, including the northern districts.

He assured that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure that not a single person dies for want of food.

Munir's martyrdom goes almost unnoticed

By Staff Correspondent

His sacrifice for the cause of democracy went almost unnoticed.

Muniruzzaman Munir, a student of the Polytechnic Institute at Tejgaon in the city, was killed in police firing on October 13 last year during an anti-government demonstration by the All-Party Students Unity.

Munir was the first martyr since the All-Party Students Unity was formed following the October 10 sit-in demonstration by the mainstream opposition parties during which over five people were killed and hundreds of others wounded.

The 56-day mass movement by opposition political alliances, parties and student organisations that culminated in the fall of the autocratic Ershad regime on December 6 started on October 10 last year.

According to available reports no programme other than that by the Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-A) was held on Sunday to mark the sacrifice of Munir.

Chhatra League (S-A) organised a brief rally in the Dhaka University campus to pay tributes to the martyr.

However, front organisations of both the ruling party and the opposition parties held separate programmes paying respects to an October 10 martyr. Jahid Hossain alias Jehad, a BNP-backed Chhatra Dal leader.

Chhatra League (S-A) leader Quamruzzaman Ansari told The Daily Star that his organisation drew the attention of other components of the now defunct All-Party Students Unity (APSU) to draw up programmes on the martyrdom of Munir. But no response was received, he regretted.

Work resumes at Chernobyl

MOSCOW, Oct 13: Employees of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant resumed their regular working schedule Sunday following a fire that destroyed part of the roof and temporarily shut down a reactor, an official said, reports AP.

Baker in Cairo

CAIRO, Oct 13: US Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Cairo today at the outset of his eighth Middle East Peace shuttle since the end of the Gulf war.

Khan gave a detailed break up of loss of life and damage to crops, property and infrastructure during three phases of flood this year.

Relief goods and cash money totalling Tk 102 crore were distributed among the victims in the third phase of flood that began September 6 and continued till October 7.

Of this, relief in cash and kind amounting to Tk 60 crore were distributed in 16 northern districts affected by flood, the State Minister said.

Relief in the northern districts include GR rice worth Taka 9 crore 56 lakh and GR wheat worth Taka one crore 98 lakh. Besides, wheat worth Taka 28 crore 94 lakh were distributed among the VGD card holders.

Khan categorically said none had died of starvation in the northern districts.

The State Minister for Relief said that the government divided the flood-hit northern districts into four zones for smooth coordination of relief operations.

He said that a number of high officials in the Relief Ministry, five Joint Secretaries and seven Deputy Secretaries are engaged in conducting the relief activities in the northern districts. Four ministers are also engaged in supervising the overall relief operations.

Khan said the Prime Minister herself is taking personal care and initiative directing the concerned authorities to conduct relief operation in the flood affected areas.

Taking the floor, Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim described 'untrue' the Relief Minister's claim that none died of starvation.

He urged the Speaker to allow the members to have a full-dress discussion in the House on scarcity of food and diarrhoeal situation in the northern districts.

"It's not true that none died of starvation. In the past also, many regimes uttered similar words. We want to discuss the situation and help the government."

Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali agreed with Nasim's proposal for discussion on the subject because of its urgency and advised him to move a fresh motion tomorrow under Rules 68.

DU rivals

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University of Maniruzzaman Manir, a martyr in the 1990 mass movement by holding a rally and procession on campus.

The BCL rally blamed the JCD of betraying the martyrs by creating anarchy through out the country to foil the student movement to realise its 10-point demand.

It alleged that both the BNP and its student front the JCD were showing autocratic attitude every aspect of dealing with the opposition.

If it continued further, they would have to face the same fate the autocratic Ershad government did.

The rally was addressed by Quamruzzaman Ansari, Mamtazuddin Mehedi and S M Kamal Hossain.



Shamsul Haq Chowdhury, Convener of Coordination Council for Bar Associations presenting a bouquet to Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at a reception in his honour on Sunday.

G-7 to help USSR rise from ruins of socialism

BANGKOK, Oct 13: The seven leading industrial powers reached a historic agreement Sunday to help the Soviet Union rebuild its economy from the ruins of socialism and join the world community, reports AP.

A communique issued by the "Group of Seven" finance ministers after two days of talks with the Soviets made no specific pledges of assistance apart from the billions of dollars in humanitarian aid and technical help already promised.

Grigory Yavlinsky, leader of the Soviet delegation, said, "The goals we jointly want to achieve are not far from us."

"What we are seeing here is really for the first time the Soviet Union engaging the West in a level of detail which is unprecedented," US Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan told reporters. "We are actively engaged in discussions on a range of issues which will shift a centrally planned economy to a market economy."

Greenspan said the Bangkok agreement "is not a watershed" but "the beginning of what is going to be a very long and very detailed process."

The communique said

deputy finance ministers of the seven countries would go to Moscow soon to discuss specific programmes for economic reconstruction.

Several officials said the problem of helping the Soviets was made worse by a lack of detailed information on the economy and Soviet unfamiliarity with generally accepted economic practices.

"It's like the basic things that we learned as a kid with a paper route, they never have learned, although the Baltic countries have some idea what a market economy is all about," said one senior Canadian finance official, asking that his name not be used.

"They suffered cardiac arrest and they need the whole bloody team of doctors," US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady refused to set a timetable for rebuilding the Soviet economy. But he added that the United States and the other industrial powers "will be as responsive as we possibly can in the shortest space of time."

G-7 officials stressed, however, that the process of rebuilding will be long and difficult.

German officials said the Soviets did not make clear how they plan to continue re-

paying their debt, estimated at 68 billion dollars, but gave assurances that both Moscow and the breakaway republics were aware of their responsibilities.

"This is not yet a complete solution for the concrete servicing of debts," German Finance State Secretary Horst Koehler said.

French Economics Minister Pierre Berégovoy said the Soviets can meet their debt payments, for two months. After that, he said, the outlook is uncertain.

Canadian Finance Minister Donald Mazankowski said he was encouraged that the Soviets wanted to restore their economy in a manner "that will put in place the basic fundamentals for a truly market-oriented economy."

"There was clearly a request on their part to engage in on-going dialogue with the Western community and we have undertaken to do that, and to work with them in solving some of the difficult problems that they face, of both an economic and financial nature," Mazankowski said.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has asked for 10 billion dollars in short-term aid.

Shahabuddin

From Page 1 Col. 8

tion arranged in his honour by the Supreme Court Bar Association for reassuming the post of the Chief Justice.

"Some party leaders had requested me to contest the presidential election but I turned down the request as I was committed to the nation to come back to my former post and position," he added.

"When I took over the responsibility of the Acting President I got utmost co-operation and assistance from all quarters particularly from the lawyer community," he said.

Though it was agreed in principle to shift the upazila courts to the district headquarters it would require time as there is no necessary logistic facilities at the moment, he said adding "I will continue my endeavour to attain the objective".

Dr Rafiqur Rahman, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Istiaq Ahmed, Shamsul Haq Chowdhury and Aminul Haq, Attorney General also addressed the reception attended by lawyers of the Supreme Court.

Biswas

From Page 1 Col. 8

and fair polls were aware of the problems and needs of the people and hoped that the government would make its best efforts within its capacity and limitations to ensure the welfare of the masses.

Later, a group of women students of Rokya Hall, Shamsun Nahar Hall, and Bangladesh Kuwait Maitree Hall called on the President to congratulate him.

Referring to the problems being faced by the woman students the President assured them that he would look into their problems.

The son of Pir Shahid of Charmonal, Mosadeque Billah and Principal of Charmonal Alia Madrasa, Maulana Zahirul Haq also congratulated Biswas.

Panni

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the House Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury and seconded by Salauddin Kader Chowdhury of the National Democratic Party.

The election of Deputy Speaker held during last night's sitting of the House was presided over by Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali.

After Panni's name was proposed, Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali put it to a voice vote and it was passed without any opposition.

The post of the Deputy Speaker fell vacant with the election of Sheikh Razzak Ali to the post of Speaker Saturday.

Sheikh Razzak Ali performed as Deputy Speaker since April 5 this year.

Awami League was likely to contest for the post of Deputy Speaker, but finally it did not put up any candidate. During the election, the AL and other opposition members did not oppose the election of Humayun Khan Panni.

Sheikh Razzak Ali was also elected Speaker unanimously on Saturday.

Humayun Khan Panni has a vast experience as a parliamentarian and diplomat.

Born on November 18, 1922, in the renowned zamindar family of Karatia, Humayun Khan Panni had his early education at St Paul's Kindergarten School in Darjeeling. He passed Senior Cambridge from St. Xavier's School of Calcutta and graduated from the Calcutta Presidency College.

Panni was elected to the then East Pakistan Provincial Assembly in 1965 and became the Chief Whip. He was ex-officio member of all the house committees.

He was Ambassador to Sri Lanka from 1967 to 1971, to Syria from 1971 to 1974 and to Somalia from 1974 to 1977. He attended the General Assembly session of the United Nations as a member of Pakistan delegation in 1967.

He is father on one son and two daughters.

Salvage

From Page 1 Col. 6

Port authority by undertaking some emergency measures made the channel temporarily workable for berthing of ships.

When asked the Port Chairman said that night navigation, now suspended for safety reasons, resume after installation of navigational aids including buoys and lights which were shattered by the cyclone.

The Chairman also said six million dollars, a residual part of an earlier 42 million dollars World Bank loan, would also be spent for perfectly furnishing the navigational aids for smooth port operations.

The Chairman said most of the loan amount was spent for the construction of multi-purpose berth and backup facilities.

Chittagong port handles about 200 ships annually with a capacity of six million tons of cargo.

The Midnight File

10 Blacks killed in renewed fighting

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 13: Ten Blacks were fatally shot in a series of attacks, including eight gunned down in a troubled city of Johannesburg police said Sunday. After a month of relative peace, the black townships around Johannesburg have again erupted in violence, with more than 40 deaths reported in the past week, reports AP.

105 crushed to death in melee

BEIJING, Oct 13: Pushing and shoving among people jammed into a park in a northern Chinese city led to a melee that left 105 people dead and 99 injured, an official newspaper reported. The Friday edition of the Shanxi Daily (Shanxi Ribao), which arrived Sunday in Beijing, said a crowd had gathered in Yingze Park in the city of Taiyuan to see a lantern exhibition on Sept 24. The newspaper said people began to crush against each other at 8:35 pm, but it gave no other details of the incident, reports AP.

US-Soviet C-in-C's talk doctrine

VIENNA, Oct 13: The US and Soviet armed forces Chiefs-of-Staff, Generals Colin Powell and Vladimir Lobov, met for the first time here today on the sidelines of a seminar of the 38-state Conference on Cooperation and Security in Europe (CSCE) reviewing military doctrine, reports AFP.

Japanese mountaineer dies

KATHMANDU, Oct 13: A Japanese mountaineer died while descending from the summit of Mount Makalu-I, the fifth tallest mountain in the world, the Tourism Ministry announced Sunday. Takumi Ishizaka, 26, died while he was coming down to the base camp along with four other Japanese and one Sherpa climber, the ministry said, reports AP.

C'wealth role

From Page 1 Col. 3

Zimbabwe by Queen Elizabeth II, head of the Commonwealth, and her husband the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Queen, as is the custom on these occasions, will meet the leaders informally and hold a banquet in their honour.

This year's conference is being held in the backdrop of momentous changes in the global politics. The summit will see ten new faces, three alone from the sub-continent — Bangladesh, India and Pakistan — since the last summit in Kuala Lumpur.

The other countries where new faces are at the top include Great Britain, New Zealand, Grenada, Singapore, Nigeria, Namibia and Tonga.

A four-member senior official delegation left for Harare in the early hours of Saturday to attend the CIOG senior officials meeting, which will be held on October 14. The officials are: Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, Director General of International Organizations (IO) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, M Ruhul Amin, Syed Jamaluddin, joint chief of the External Resources Division (ERD), and Director IO in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, M Amir Hussain Sikder.

To forge a Commonwealth role for the 1990s and into the next century, Heads of Government at Kuala Lumpur set up a High-Level Appraisal Group of ten national leaders to identify tasks the Commonwealth could fulfil and examine the adequacy of its institutions.

The Group is chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, host to the 1989 summit. Other members are the Heads of Government of Australia, the Bahamas, Britain, Canada, India, Jamaica, Nigeria, Singapore and Zambia. The meeting of the ten Heads of Government was first scheduled to be held in London in January 1991 but postponed because of the Gulf conflict. It was rescheduled for 11-12 June, 1991, but again postponed when political de-

velopments in India and Australia prevented those Prime Ministers from attending. The ten leaders are now due to meet in Harare, on October 15, on the eve of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to which their report will be submitted.

The Commonwealth increased from 48 to 50 members during the last two years.

The Prime Minister Begum Zia will come back to the country on October 23 via London. During her stay in Harare she is likely to call on Queen Elizabeth II, and other Heads of Government.

Met office in its latest bulletin had advised maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla to hoist cautionary signal number 3 rpt 3.

Riverports of the districts of Borguna, Bagerhat, Patuakhali, Laxmipur, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Barisal, Noakhali, Chandpur, Feni and Chittagong were advised to hoist signal number 2 rpt 2.

The country experienced heavy to moderately heavy falls late Saturday and Sunday. Rainfall recorded in 12 hours till 6 pm Sunday were: Feni-117 mm, Comilla 82 mm, Dhaka-76 mm, Khepupara-72 mm, Sylhet and Bhola-56 mm each, Teknaf-43 mm, Patuakhali-35 mm, Kutubdia-32 mm, Faridpur-26 mm, Cox's Bazar-24 mm, Srirangal and Tangail-20 mm each, Khulna-18 mm, Mymensingh-12 mm, Sandwip-11 mm, Barisal-8 mm, Rangamati-6 mm, and Chittagong-3 mm.

The Met office also forecast heavy falls at a few places in Khulna, Chittagong and Dhaka divisions during the next 18 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday.

Bills to raise remuneration

From Page 1 Col. 7

8,000 to Taka 14,000 per month and states that the PM's sumptuary allowance would comprise the full amount spent on entertainment in a year.

The Bill also seeks to increase the insured amount for life from Taka five lakh to Taka 14 lakh and enhance the rate of house rent and some other allowance of the Prime Minister.

The Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill proposes to increase their remuneration Taka 6,000, Taka 5,000 and Taka 4,000 to Taka 12,000, Taka 11,000 and Taka 10,600 respectively.

The Bill also seeks to allow a Minister, a State Minister and a Deputy Minister sumptuary allowance of Taka 3,000, Taka 2,000 and Taka 1,500 per month respectively; increase the insured amount for life from Taka three lakh to Taka five lakh; and enhance house rent and some other allowances.

Replying to Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim's objections to the introduction of the Members of Parliament (Remuneration and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz said that under the new parliamentary system MPs would have to be more active and spend more time in their constituencies.

Requesting the members to express what they genuinely had in their minds, the Law and Justice Minister, however, proposed that keeping in view the sufferings of the people due to the recent floods the MPs may donate the enhanced portion of their remuneration for one month as relief to them.

The Bill was introduced after leave was granted by a voice vote because Sheikh Selim refused to withdraw his objection.

The Presidents (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill was objected to in principle by Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganatantrik Party who questioned the need for promulgating an ordinance to enhance the remuneration and privileges of the President.

He said that the govern-

ment employees had to suffer lathi charge for waging movement to get new pay scales. Sengupta, however, did not oppose the introduction of the bill.

Tofael Ahmed raised objection to the introduction of the Prime Minister's (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill saying it was not proper to do this by promulgating an ordinance.

He questioned the logic behind allowing the payment of the entire amount spent for entertainment by the Prime Minister as sumptuary allowance and making the Secretary to the Prime Minister the drawing and disbursing officer for the allowance.

He said what was the need to enhance to remuneration and privileges of the present Prime Minister who does not receive any salary. He said during the rule of the Awami League there was no such enhancement of remuneration and privileges.

Tofael Ahmed said that it did not look proper that a democratically elected government was enhancing its own remuneration and privileges at a time when the people were not getting enough to eat.

In reply Local Government

Test relief

From Page 1 Col. 4

Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Abdus Samad Azad, demanded immediate discussion on the issue.

He said by withdrawing the rights of the elected MPs from the test relief programmes, the dignity and privileges of all the MPs have been lowered. Awami League MPs Tofael Ahmed and Col(Retd) Shawkat Ali, Jatiya Party Member Advocate Fazole Rabbi and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Moulana Matiuur Rahman Nizami also spoke against the withdrawal of the rights which were earlier enjoyed by the MPs.

At the stage, the Speaker assured that he personally felt that the issue was important and that he would look into it. Intervening the Deputy Leader of the House, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, also admitted the significance of the motions and assured that the privilege committee would finalise the issue within four or five days,

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh

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নিজের স্বার্থে চেয়ে দেশের স্বার্থ অনেক বড়


বেলের মালামাল চুরি করা এবং চোরাই মাল কেনা মানেই দেশের ক্ষতি করা। কেননা রেলওয়ের মালামাল জনগণেরই অর্থে কেনা সম্পত্তি।

রেলের মালামাল চুরি করে মাল কেনা মানেই দেশের ক্ষতি করা। কেননা রেলওয়ের মালামাল জনগণেরই অর্থে কেনা সম্পত্তি।

রেলের মালামাল চুরির ফলে—

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- স্বাস্থ্যঝুঁকন বিস্তৃত হয়

নিজের ক্ষুদ্র স্বার্থে যারা রেলের মালামাল চুরি করে তাদের প্রতিরোধ করুন। চোরাই মালের সন্ধান পেলে কর্তৃপক্ষকে জানান। আপনার পরিচয় গোপন রাখা হবে। এ ধরনের সন্ধানের জন্য ১০,০০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হবে।



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আপনার আহ্বাই আমাদের অনুপ্রেরণা