

Rains worsen flood situation

Flood situation in different parts of the country deteriorated Monday as a result of heavy downpour that swelled further most of the rivers and reports said fresh areas in Serajganj went under water, reports UNB.

Serajganj experienced torrential rains Monday evening. Three villages in between the old and new embankment — Palashat, Naton Nagha and Dompura — in Serajganj Sadar Upazila were inundated.

A large area near Meghal College, Meghal Hat, Kazipur Sadar Union Parishad office and Kazipur Thana was inundated following rains and rising Jamuna.

Meanwhile, erosion along the Jamuna, still flowing well below its danger level, threatened Belkuchi Police Station and officials said that they might have to remove impor-

tant documents of the station within a few days.

The Water Development Board sources here warned that the situation in Moulvi Bazar, Habiganj and Parshuram will aggravate, with the rise of the rivers Manu, Khowai and the Muhuri due to heavy rainfall.

Continuous rainfall in the catchment areas of the Muhuri caused abrupt rise in its water level at Parshuram yesterday and the river was flowing 106 cm above its flood level, the Flood Forecasting Centre said.

The Surma at Sunamganj and the Kushiara at Sheola were flowing 43 cm and 24 cm above their respective danger marks this evening, the Centre informed.

River Someshwari at Durgapur, flowing above its flood level since Sunday, is likely to rise further.



Two rival student groups, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (above) and Chhatra League (S-A), which fought a night-long gun battle at Jagannath College on Saturday brought out separate processions in the city yesterday blaming each other for the violent incidents. — Star photo

42 more police stations likely

By Staff Correspondent

A proposal to set up 42 new police stations is under consideration of the government. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia told the Jatiya Sansad Monday in reply to a question from principal Nazrul Islam of Awami League.

Answering another question from Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury of Jatiya Party she said that the Police Commission Implementation Committee has recommended supply of transports to all police stations. The recommendation will be implemented when allocations will be available.

Begum Zia who also holds the Home Affairs portfolio said the government will examine the necessity of setting up new river police stations to ensure security and safety of the people. At present there are one

river police station at Chushmara in Kurigram district, and 49 river police outposts elsewhere in the country, she said.

Answering another question from A T M Alamgir of BNP she said that a total of 1,042 police personnel including officers were dismissed from service on charges of corruption since 1972.

In reply to another question from Abdul Matin Khasru (Comilla-3), the Prime Minister said twentythree retired Army officers were now in police service.

She said none of them are on deputation. The Ministry of Establishment appointed the retired army officers to the police force following suggestions from the Ministry of Home Affairs, she said.

Hasina

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be permanently uprooted from the campus following the fall of the Ershad regime.

She said the expectation was that a true atmosphere for education would prevail in the campus and steps would be taken for increasing the scope for education. But, Sheikh Hasina stated, it was a "hoax" to increase the age limit for employment while not creating scope for employment.

She alleged that when tolerance was needed for institutionalizing democracy, the ruling party had unbridled killings, arrests and terrorism on the opposition student organisations.

She said that a conspiracy was being hatched to make the administration a puppet of the ruling party. She said that a new process was going on to tarnish the character of the youths by giving them arms. Sheikh Hasina urged the student community to play a leading role in establishing democratic human rights.

PDB strike

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forward by different unions of the PDB workers and employees include annulment of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) Ordinance; stoppage of transfer of power lines from PDB to Rural Electrification Board (REB); payment of overtime bills and bonus; and rescheduling office time.

The workers and employees continued demonstrations and rallies in support of 5-point demand at the offices and installations of PDB throughout the country on the second day of their strike yesterday.

Meanwhile, the financial problems of Power Development Board (PDB) have multiplied over the years due to about 40 per cent system loss, and non-recovery of dues from consumers.

Because of cash flow problems, PDB cannot service its huge debts, running into several thousand crore taka. In his budget speech, Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman underscored the need for streamlining the financial and operational management of PDB. "Nowhere in the world can an utility service survive if its system loss is 50 units out of 100 units generated", he stated.

Several donors including World Bank and Asian Development Bank have threatened to freeze all development assistance to the power sector unless the financial management of PDB is streamlined.

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City College students union polls today

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City College students union polls will be held today after a break of 34 years.

The last election was held in 1957 when the College was established named Dhaka City Night College.

Since then college authorities banned all sorts of political activities including the formation of a students union. The student union election has been permitted this year following demands by the students over the past few years.

BSEC chairman made OSD

Chairman Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) Major (ret) Ali Ahmed Khan has been transferred, said an official handout Monday. He has been appointed Officer on Special Duty (OSD) under the Establishment Division, reports UNB.

Clash at Malibagh

By Staff Correspondent

Several persons were injured in a clash between two groups of people at Malibagh Kutcha Bazar in the city Monday night who fled after police rushed the area.

McNamara: Link cut in arms budget to aid

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Westminster type of democracy for ensuring this process, but the important thing is to provide the opportunity for this process."

Below is the text of the question-answer interview with McNamara:

Question: Mr McNamara, you have recently suggested in your address to the World Bank Conference on Development Economics that financial aid to developing countries should be tied to reduction in military expenditures aimed towards a target of reduction of such expenditure by 50 per cent in terms of GDP by the end of the decade. You have also suggested that international financial institutions like the World Bank can catalyze the process for accelerating economic and social development. Did this possibility occur to you during your term as President of the World Bank? How can this be achieved in practice?

Mr McNamara: I did not consider this as extensively in

those days. We were in the midst of the cold war and many Third World conflicts but were reflections of the cold war situation. I tried this idea with some countries, but opportunities were limited then. There is much better opportunity now with the end of the cold war.

The World Bank and other financial institutions should examine the military budgets of aid-recipient countries, though it is recognized that some nations may have problems with their neighbours and it may not be easy to determine the adequacy for military expenditure for a particular country. But most military budgets are excessive compared to the perceived threats, and can be reduced. Second, the World Bank can work with those countries who are exporting arms and dissuade them from supplying arms to countries seeking foreign aid. This is a unique opportunity for the world community for enhancing economic development by reducing unnecessary military expenditures.

Question: For many developing countries, particularly low-income countries, there has been decline investment arising from lower saving, particularly public savings. This is true for most countries of

South Asia. Instead of concentrating on particular type of expenditure, would it not be better to link it indirectly, but effectively, only to one condition? Countries requesting increased financial aid must be made to increase their public savings in real terms every year. If this condition is effectively applied, the rest will fall into their places, like budget deficit, tax reforms, public enterprises reform, pricing of public sector goods and services, and reduction of unproductive expenditure.

McNamara: This measure can be useful but complementary. The major effort would call for special examination of military expenditure.

Question: Some major donors, including the President of the World Bank have, in recent times, emphasized good governance, in particular, move towards democracy as highly important for economic development. Wouldn't you agree that economic development have been associated with different forms of government like South Korea, Indonesia, China, Pakistan, Malaysia, etc? They range from democracy through authoritarianism to totalitarianism. Secondly, would you support a change in the Article of the World Bank to ensure this like

the Article of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development?

McNamara: Importance of good governance is based on the ground of moving towards greater participatory development, participation of the people, greater accountability of the government, greater transparency in public policy-making process, greater press freedom, and freedom to discuss alternative policy packages. There is no need to have Westminster type of democracy for ensuring this process, but the important thing is to provide opportunity for this process. This can have significant impact on economic decision-making and help economic growth.

I do not think it is necessary to change the Articles of the World Bank for this, but the countries should opt for these in the interest of their economic growth.

Question: Most donors and international development institutions are putting greater emphasis on reduction of poverty and special measures for this purpose through public investment policies, review of public expenditure, and reallocation of resources. Is there anything new in this ap-

Advani squeaks past Rajesh Khanna in New Delhi

NEW DELHI, June 17: Hindu-revivalist leader Lal Krishna Advani narrowly squeaked past the post in his prestigious Delhi seat though his party was set today to stake its claim as the nation's second strongest, reports AFP.

Advani, 63, was already assured of a seat in parliament with a stunning victory in Gujarat state under Indian election laws which allow a candidate to run from two places.

Results from VP Singh's seat withheld

NEW DELHI, June 17: The Election Commission has withheld poll results from a crucial northern Indian constituency contested by former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the incumbent, officials said here, reports AFP.

Deputy Election Commissioner RP Bhalla said the results from Fatehpur constituency were withheld after the Congress (I) Party of slain premier Rajiv Gandhi complained of malpractices in vote counting.

Alleged killer of bank officer arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Police Monday arrested Mosharrif Hossain Miru, in connection with the killing of bank officer Mamun in the city on April 20.

Mamun, an officer of National Bank, Imamganj branch was killed allegedly by Miru and his associates near Dhaka College.

Miru also named his seven associates in the incident who were absconding.

CPI (M) headed

From Page 1 Col. 5

Impact of Gandhi's death (in Kerala). There is no doubt", NE Balram of the Communist Party of India (CPI) said, referring to the defeat of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) of which his party is a member.

Kerala went to the polls June 12. Elections were held in West Bengal on May 20.

National Television said the Congress(I)-led United Democratic Front (UDF) had gained a majority in the 140 seat assembly in Kerala, which in 1957 installed the world's first elected communist government.

Debacle in Kerala

Candidates of the CPI, the more powerful Communist Party of India (Marxist) and their allies were also trailing behind Congress(I) nominees in most of Kerala's 20 national parliamentary constituencies, National Television said.

The CPI(M), however, marched towards a stunning and widely predicted victory in West Bengal's assembly as well as in most parliamentary constituencies.

The communists easily trounced candidates of the Congress(I), which this year made a determined effort to take power in West Bengal.

Balram said the West Bengal outcome would have been no different even if polling there had been held after Gandhi's death. He attributed the West Bengal result to the communists' "pro-poor policies, land-reforms and rural backing."

The Midnight File

Gorbachev's response to arms treaty positive: Bush

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE, June 17: President George Bush said today that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had responded positively on US-Soviet differences holding up a strategic arms control treaty but that difficult problems remained before a summit could be scheduled. He said he had received two letters from Gorbachev over the weekend, including one dealing with arms control and the treaty known as START, under negotiation in Geneva, reports Reuter.

Benazir for polls under neutral govt

ISLAMABAD, June 17: Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto threatened today to launch a nationwide campaign against alleged vote rigging in general elections last October which she says robbed her people's democratic alliance (PDA) of victory. "I will go from Khyber (in the north) to Karachi (in the south) to say this and speak the truth," she said. Bhutto said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government must resign and fresh elections be held under a neutral government, reports Reuter.

JSD man shot dead in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, June 17: Armed assailants shot dead two persons including a political activist in the district Monday. A JSD worker Toakkel Ali was shot dead at Habibpur in Sallakupa upazila here this night. Another businessman Abdur Rashid Khan was shot dead at Suddalpur bazar in Court Chandpur upazila on Sunday night, reports UNB.

'Budget formulated in conformity with needs'

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Minister spoke of highest allocation to the education sector, the allocated money was less than last year's.

Last year's budget was prepared by the fallen Ershad regime, he said.

Taking part in the debate, Md Miamatullah of the Treasury Bench termed the budget as a revolutionary one. He appreciated the Finance Minister's proposal to expand the tax-free base to Tk 50 lakh from Tk 25 lakh as wealth tax.

He also hailed the government for reducing the tax on Biman fare.

He called upon the government to reduce the registration fee on buses and trucks to give relief to the owners who were already paying high taxes.

Terminating the budget as highly aid dependent, Salahuddin Yusuf of the Awami League said it had paved the way for imperialists to poke their noses in our country's affairs.

He said the budget did not reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people who had fought a relentless battle for democracy and helped oust the autocratic government.

Referring to the appointment of primary teachers, he said corrupt practices were being observed in these appointments.

He said that Tk 20,000 as bribes was being charged for the appointment of a primary school teacher. Both agriculture and health sectors have been left uncared for.

Demanding punishment to those who had transferred huge funds outside the country, Yusuf said that it was a general practice that corrupt people were not usually punished.

Lutfunnesa Hossain of the BNP said that the budget was a realistic one. She said that it had become highly reasonable to reduce taxes on corrugated iron sheets and various raw materials.

She said that the opposition should not oppose the budget for the sake of opposition only. Maulana Abdus Sattar of the Jamaat said that the proposed

budget was without any sense of direction. Besides, it also lacked human values.

Defending the subsidies on various sectors, Maulana Sattar said that interest-free loans should be given to the farmers which was being followed in our neighbouring state.

Government khas land should also be distributed among the real landless instead of among a section of the tows.

Proposing withdrawal of expenditure on family planning pills, he said that the pills used in the country and outside have been proved ineffective in checking the birth rate.

He said that scheme should be prepared to build a Tk 1300-crore Zakat Fund to help the distressed people on the streets.

Advocate Abu Yusuf Md Khalilur Rahman of the BNP termed the budget as realistic and uniform. He said that exemption measures were not appreciated by the opposition bench which was very unfortunate.

He said tax proposals of the Finance Minister on items like soyabean and ball point pen ink should be reconsidered.

On the smuggling of bullocks from across the border, he said that import of bullocks should be arranged from our neighbouring country so that the government derives taxes from it.

Dr Kazi Abu Yusuf of the Awami League said that Bangladeshi nationalism in place of Bangali nationalism was confusing the whole nation.

Highlighting the tradition of Bengali culture, he said it was the negative attitude of late President Ziaur Rahman to make it Bangladeshi flavoured.

Dr Yusuf was also critical of the introduction of village doctors.

He said this was a very sub-standard system and it must be discouraged.

The discussion on the budget was also participated by Ziaul Haque Zia of the BNP, Moshatque Ahmed of the Awami League and Shamsuddin Ahmed of the BNP.

Netrokona

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(A-A) activists at the Netrokona Government College after results of the college student's union election gave the latter a sweeping victory.

Witnesses said JCD activists armed with lethal weapons and hockey sticks attacked the college hostel and ransacked its rooms after the Chhatra League had bagged all 19 seats of the union.

The clash later spread to the town and continued today, compelling the authorities to impose Section 144 to ensure security of public life and property, officials said.

JCD, BCL

From Page 1 Col. 8

Hostel. Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) called for strike only at the Dhaka University while Chhatra League (S-A) at all the city educational institutions.

The JCD called the strike at a rally in the Press Club premises while the BCL (S-A) in another on the DU campus Monday.

The JCD rally was addressed by the DUCSU Assistant General Secretary Najmuddin Alam. JCD Joint Convener Rizvi Ahmed, and other central leaders including Elias Ali and Ali Akkas Nadim.

BCL(S-A) held its rally in front of the Madhu's Canteen on the DU campus, accusing the JCD of Saturday night's killing of Manab Kanti Dey alias Swapan, at JN College. The speakers demanded arrest of the killers and punishment for them.

'No political prisoner'

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in the Jatiya Sansad on Monday there was no political prisoner in the country now.

Replying to a question from Jatiya Party MP Monirul Huq Chowdhury she said 432 persons were in custody under the Special Powers Act and on security grounds and prejudicial activities, till June 1.

Winners, losers

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elected from the Badagara Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala while the former Maharashtra Chief Minister A R Antulay won his Kulaba parliament seat in Maharashtra. Orissa Chief Minister JB Patnaik lost the Cuttack Lok Sabha seat.

Following are the winners: Ajit Singh (Baghat Lok Sabha seat in Haryana), Rajesh Pilot (Dausa, Rajasthan) M Balram Jakkhar (Sikar, Rajasthan), Mani Shankar Aiyar (Mayiladuturai, Tamil Nadu), Ms Uma Bharti (Khajuroo, MP), Ms Shieela Kaul (Rae, Berilly, UP), Yunus Saleem (Katihar, Bihar), V C Shukla (Raipur, MP) and Mr S C Mathur (Bilwara, Rajasthan).

Losers: Rajmohan Gandhi (Sabarkanta, Gujarat), Kalyan Singh Kail (Barmer, Rajasthan), H K L Bhagat (East Delhi), Ramesh Bhandari (South Delhi), V N Gadgil (Poonra, Maharashtra) and Rao Binendra Singh (Mahinderagr, Haryana).