

No decrease in aid: Dutch minister

Dutch Development Cooperation Minister JP Pronk on Saturday dismissed apprehension of any decrease in assistance from the European Community to the developing countries, reports BSS.

"Assistance to the East European countries will not be at the cost of the developing nations," he firmly stated on arrival in Dhaka leading a 12-member EEC delegation.

The Netherlands is the current chairman of EEC.

Pronk said we have confirmed our (EEC's) position on development assistance during the recent meetings of ECOSOC and UN General Assembly. "So far there was no decrease in development assistance," he said adding there would not be any action "detrimental to the interests of the developing countries."

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman received Pronk, the leader of the delegation at the Zia International Airport on its arrival from Bangkok.

The delegation will hold talks particularly on the next stage of EEC's role following the completion of emergency assistance in the aftermath of April's cyclone.

The delegation has made a similar trip to Ethiopia and on

their return will submit a report about the development cooperation taking place in this country.

UNB adds: Bangladesh is one of the largest recipients of EC emergency aid. After the late April cyclone, the country received one lakh tons of foodgrains in emergency aid from the Commission.

Till date, EEC assistance to Bangladesh totals about 300 million US dollar, all in grant, for 28 projects.

In addition, a large quantity of food items have also been received from EEC, including 27,00,000 metric tons of wheat, 18,500 tons of flour, 36,800 tons of butter oil, 21,100 tons of vegetable oil and 56,000 tons of powdered milk.

During its stay here the EEC delegation will meet senior government leaders, including the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker, the Finance and the Agriculture Ministers.

EC delegation will meet Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at her parliament office today at 5:30 pm.

The team is also scheduled to visit Chittagong port and some cyclone-prone off-shore islands.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on her way back home addressing BNP leaders and workers who gathered at the Gatewick airport to receive her on Saturday morning. — PID photo

No famine-like situation

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army were quite satisfactory and beyond any question. There was no report of misuse of relief materials, he added.

He also urged the journalists to be objective in reporting on the situation in the northern districts and if necessary to visit the affected areas with him.

He also said that there was no sign of cholera as was reported in a section of dailies. However, he said that medical teams were working day and night to combat diarrhoea and that more army medical units would be sent to accelerate relief operations.

Speaking at the press conference Food Minister Shamsul Islam said that there was no dearth of food grains in the country. He disclosed that about 1,21,300 metric tonnes of foodgrains arrived at Chittagong and Chalna Ports during the last week.

He also gave a breakdown of food stocks in different districts of the flood affected areas.

A total of more than two and a half lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains has been stored in the Rajshahi division alone, he said, adding to maintain stability in prices the government has intervened through open-market sales since last July and was still continuing the sales.

He said that in Dinajpur more than 50,000 metric tonnes of foodgrains are stored in godowns while in Takurgaon the total foodgrain stock is 20,000 metric tonnes. In Rangpur, 8340 metric tonnes; in Nilfamar 6750 metric tonnes; in Kurigram 3150 metric tonnes; in Gaibandha 9650 metric tonnes; in Bogra 58,750 metric tonnes; in Naogaon 13,000 metric tonnes; in Pabna 21,000 metric tonnes; Sirajganj 17,650 metric tonnes; and in Santahar 17,400 metric tonnes.

He also gave a breakdown of the lifting of rice from open sales. Explaining the reason for

low sales in the open market, the Food Minister said that it was due to price stability in the local areas. Besides, the government has recently started relief operations and test relief programmes through the relief ministry resulting in the lower lifting of foodgrains from the open market sales as was expected, he added.

"There is a bumper production of crops in the areas this year and it is expected that the farmers will be able to harvest their produce within the next three weeks," he said.

Health Minister Kamal Ibne Yousuf said that there was no lack of initiative in combating the menace of diarrhoea in the areas. However diarrhoea is a common phenomenon particularly in September and October every year in the areas, he added.

He said that this year a total of 1,74,570 persons were attacked with the disease while the total death figure was only 1714 in 29 affected districts.

He said that 2394 medical teams with a total of 1447 doctors were working day and night in the affected areas.

However he confessed that the number of doctors was not adequate and that the government was taking an initiative to increase the number of medical teams there.

He, however, refuted the report of cholera and said that the people were affected not by cholera but by 'strong diarrhoea'.

He said that lack of pure drinking water was mainly responsible for this water-borne disease.

State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan said that five ministers had been engaged in Rangpur to supervise relief operations in the flood affected areas.

He said that the situation in eight districts out of 29 flood affected districts was grave and that the government had attached the topmost priority to save the situation.

He said that a total 371250 VGD (Vulnerable Group Development) cards had been distributed among the poor people through district councils, upazila union parishad chairman and members.

He said that since the onset of the floods the government had spent Taka 112 crore in cash and kind to mitigate the miseries of the local people, and for this a total of Taka 48 lakh had been allocated in addition to the normal allocation for relief.

He said that prior to her departure for Harare Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had granted another 9 crore taka for distribution among the affected people.

He said besides there were regular visiting card holders in these areas totalling about 75,137, in eight districts including Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Nilfamar, Kurigram, Rangpur and Gaibandha.

He said that the relief ministry has recently introduced test relief work under which 20,130 metric tonnes of wheat has been allocated for these eight districts. Besides he said that every district got Taka 8 to 9 lakh each as general relief, and for post-flood house construction the government has distributed Taka 10 lakh in each district as grant.

Lutfur Rahman Khan said that the government was monitoring the situation day and night and keeping a watch on developments every moment through the local district authorities.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda concluding the press conference said that the BNP government was facing the situation boldly by taking the people into confidence.

He said that the BNP government had the support of the people and if necessary it would not hesitate to go to the people and inform them about its successes and failures for the sake of democracy.

12 BCL activists held in Sirajganj for murdering cop

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Oct 19: Police today arrested 12 Chhatra League (S-A) activists for stabbing a police constable to death yesterday.

Shawkat Hossain (35) was stabbed by some unruly BCL activists while he was on duty at a puja pandal at the local government college premises at night. The body was sent to his village home at Gaibandha today. The incident was sequel to a clash in the morning between police and BCL processionists in the town protesting arrest of this leader Golam Haider, police said.

The processionists also ransacked the ASP office and damaged the jeep of additional district magistrate.

Golam Haider was arrested for his alleged connection with a murder, police said.

UNB adds: Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami condemned the killing of a police constable by 'armed hooligans' in Sirajganj on Friday.

In a statement Saturday, Nizami, also leader of the Jamaat Parliamentary Party, noted with concern that 'a particular ring of armed terrorists' had taken up law in hand in a motive to nip democracy in the bud.

The killing of the police constable in Sirajganj is part of this conspiracy.

The Jamaat leader demanded of the government to take stern measures against elements responsible for the killing and violence.

Beheaded body recovered

FARIDPUR, Oct 19: An unidentified youngman was found killed in a hotel room of Faridpur town this morning. Kotwali police recovered the beheaded body which was lying in a pool of blood from a room on the second floor of Rupali Hotel in Goalkhat area of the town, reports UNB.

Burmese border guards' firing

From Our Correspondent
COX'S BAZAR, Oct 19: Burmese border guards showed bullets on Bangladesh fishermen fishing in the river Naf along Teknaf on Friday. BDR sources said Saturday. None was reported hurt. The BDR sources told The Daily Star that such firings by the Luntin, the Burmese border guards, are frequent in recent days. A protest letter has been sent to the Burmese authorities.

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The Midnight File

Palestinian leaders accept invitation to peace conference

JERUSALEM, Oct 19: Palestinian leaders today accepted an invitation to the Middle East peace conference and gave the United States a list of 14 delegates from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The list was given to a US consular official by Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini, Palestinian sources said, reports Reuter.

Intifada activists held

JERUSALEM, Oct 19: Israeli rounded up dozens of activists of the group Hamas which led the Palestinian uprising popularly known as 'Intifada', including its deputy leader, Arab reporters said Saturday. Arab reporters said 17 Hamas activists were detained in the Shati refugee camp, 10 in Gaza City, and many more in the Nusseirat refugee camp. The sweep came hours after US Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin announced that the peace conference would begin October 30 in Madrid, Spain, reports AP.

Azeri Parliament proclaims independence

MOSCOW, Oct 19: Legislators in Azerbaijan on Friday proclaimed the independence of the southern Soviet republic. After a stormy debate the Azeri Parliament unanimously adopted legislation 'restoring the national independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan', Interfax news agency reported, says AFP.

No word on Radu's fate

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: A deadline for the execution of a top Romanian diplomat being held by Sikh separatists passed Saturday without any word on his fate. The abductors of Romanian Charge d' Affaires Liviu Radu had threatened to kill him unless the government freed three jailed Sikhs by 7 pm (1330 GMT) Saturday, reports AP.

Khaleda returns

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Mugabe. Begum Zia had meetings with Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, Zimbabwean President Robert G. Mugabe, Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. She discussed matters of common interest with them. The Prime Minister had also an exclusive meeting with the South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd made a call on Begum Zia at the Monomatapa Hotel where she stayed during her visit. The Foreign Secretary assured of Britain's continued assistance to Bangladesh for its overall economic development.

Begum Zia had an exclusive luncheon meeting with Queen Elizabeth at the state guest house. She was one of the three heads of government who were invited by the queen to have lunch with her.

The Prime Minister also attended a banquet hosted by Zimbabwean President for the

heads of government and their spouses.

The members of her entourage included Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, members of parliament Begum Raushan Elahi, Ahsanul Haq Mollah, Sardar Sakhiwai Iloosain Bakul and Shahidul Islam, Foreign Secretary Reza Rahman and Bangladesh High Commissioners to Zimbabwe and the UK.

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman will be leading the Bangladesh delegation for the remaining days of the conference which ends on October 23.

Our staff correspondent adds: The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has requested its party workers and others to refrain from all ceremonial activities while receiving Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on her return from Harare today.

A party press release said, the Prime Minister after assuming office issued a circular advising all sections of the people to abstain from garlanding, erecting arches, lighting and other ceremonial activities.

8 vehicles burnt

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BCL activist and their hallmate was held by police at about 1 pm from the BUET.

Police took Boby away before the BCL (S-A) activists started the violence and there was no encounter between the two.

Police later raided the Salmullah Hall from where they recovered four pipe-guns and 11 rounds of bullets. Police also detained four persons during the raid but released all later.

Campus sources said, Golam Rabbani Boby Friday demanded toll from a contractor working for construction of BUET's council building. On refusal, Boby snatched his motor cycle and threatened him. On Saturday at around 12 noon, Boby again went to the construction site riding the hijacked motorcycle and looked for the contractor. At that time, the contractor followed Boby from the second floor of the BUET Registrar Building. He and his associates held Boby and informed the BUET Vice-Chancellor of the matter. The VC Prof. M Shahjahan called in police who arrested Boby.

The BCL workers on hearing the news rushed there and started firing shots exploding bombs and then burning and damaging vehicles, mostly parked around BUET buildings, witnesses said. At one stage, the protesters tried to enter the EME instrumental laboratory of the BUET and then moved towards the automobile workshop. But the employees there resisted.

Meanwhile, our DU Correspondent adds: The BCL held a rally in front of the Teacher-Student Centre of the Dhaka University in the evening to protest arrest of its worker Boby. Addressing the meeting BCL's DU unit General Secretary Quamruzzaman Ansari alleged that Boby was arrested on false charge of involvement in the killing a JSD (Inu)-backed Chhatra League leader Mahabubur Rahman. He also demanded immediate release of Boby.

Boby, who joined BCL from the pro-BNP Chhatra Dal a few months ago, is one of the ten

suspects in the Mahabub murder case. Mahabub was murdered on the DU campus on June 20 last during an armed clash between the BCL factions backed by the Awami League and the JSD(Inu).

Handout on BUET incident

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Saturday expressed its determination to take all kinds of legal action in performing its constitutional obligation of maintaining peace and discipline in the public life, reports BSS.

In an official handout issued in Dhaka on Saturday night, the Minister of Home Affairs clearly stated that collection of tolls and ransom was a heinous crime and the public life was at stake due to torture and harassment.

Referring to an incident regarding collection of tolls forcibly from a contractor of Engineering University by some students of Salmullah Hall of Dhaka University, the Home Ministry handout said such a tendency of taking revenge by damaging vehicles of innocent members of the public by the toll collectors for arrest was under no circumstances in harmony with the democratic social system.

The government cannot allow the destruction of public property by those who study in the university.

The handout said: On October 18, one student of Salmullah Hall of Dhaka University identified as Golam Rabbani alias Boby along with some of his associates demanded toll from a contractor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). Failing to collect toll, they took away the motorcycle of the contractor forcibly.

The following day, October 19 at about 12 noon Golam Rabbani and his accomplices went to the BUET again with their hijacked motorcycle. At that time, the employees of the contractor with the help of the students of the BUET rounded up Golam Rabbani along with the hijacked motorcycle and reported to the Metropolitan Police. Police arrested Golam Rabbani along with the hijacked motorcycle.

In protest against this incident, a section of unruly students of Salmullah Hall attacked the students of the Engineering University with lethal weapons and set ablaze six vehicles seriously damaging them. Besides, another section of unruly students of the same Hall set fire on another vehicle in front of the British Council and damaged it.

Later, the General Secretary of the Students Union of Zahirul Huq Hall of Dhaka University in a letter requested the contractor to arrange release of Golam Rabbani.

When police raided the Salmullah Hall for arresting the unruly persons, the culprits fled. Police, however, managed to recover 4 pipeguns and 11 rounds of ammunition the handout said.

Two Shantibahini men shot dead

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Oct 19: Security forces shot dead two Shantibahini men at the Boradum village under Dighinala upazila of Kagrachari district Thursday night. An hour long exchange of fire took place when the insurgents fell in the ambush of security forces.

SKOP

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Leaders the 19 federations which from the SKOP were present at the meeting, with the minister.

The minister, Abdul Mannan Bhuyan told The Daily Star over telephone that the government was trying to resolve the problem through discussions. He said, "the demands are long-pending and complicated."

The minister said that throw discussions would continue from Sunday to find out an acceptable solution of the problem but refused to elaborate saying, "I would not like to comment more than the SKOP statement and the PID hand-out."

A handout said, both the parties agreed that since some of the demands of the SKOP have far reaching significance, further discussions are needed in different sector corporations including jute and textiles.

The Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Mohammad Ashraf Hossain was present at the meeting. SKOP leaders Abdus Salam Khan, Iskandar Ali, Nazrul Islam Khan, Mohammad Nurul Islam, Abdullah Sarkar, Abdul Bashar, Tipu Biswas, Shafiqur Rahman Majumder, Iqbal Majumder, Shahjahan Kabir, Protobuddin Ahmed, Moklesur Rahman, Abdul Kader, Fazul Huq Mantu, Abdul Wazed, Golam, Mohiuddin, Abdur Razzak, Yakub Ali Bhuyan, S M Rumi, and Shahjahan Kabir Zahir, participated in the discussions.

High officials of the Labour and Manpower Ministry and the Labour Directorate represented the government side.

Hasina

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also of failure in running the administration efficiently.

Opponent political forces had branded Awami League as pro-Indian, but now in power, they have bowed down to India, she added.

The opposition leader alleged deterioration of law and order situation, abnormal price-hike of essentials and collapse of the education system due to inefficiency of the government and terrorism by the ruling party workers. People were dying of starvation in flood-hit northern districts, she also alleged.

The AL chief claimed that her party, despite being in the opposition in the Parliament has fulfilled its election pledge by establishing parliamentary democracy by forcing the ruling party to accept it.

Referring to the overall political situation she observed that anti-liberation forces have raised their heads due to disunity of the pro-liberation patriotic forces. She called for solid unity of the pro-liberation forces to protect national interest and bring about people's economic emancipation.

Central AL leaders including Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the parliament Abdus Samad Azad MP, Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim MP, Begum Matia Choudhury MP, Prof. Abu Sayeed, Obaidul Kader, Mamataz Hossain, and Abdul Mannan were present on the occasion.

Libya will never recognise Israel

ROME, Oct 19: Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi declared Saturday that Libya will never recognise Israel and accused Arab leaders of ignoring Arab public opinion in agreeing to a Mideast Peace Conference.

ATP scandal: Framing of charges now on Nov 5

The date of framing of charges in the ATP purchase scandal earlier fixed on October 20, has been shifted to November 5, the Attorney General's office said on Saturday night, reports BSS.

The shifting has been necessitated as the judge presiding over the special tribunal has been transferred. A replacement is now to be made, the office added.

Former President H M Ershad and three others including two former ministers, have been charge-sheeted in the case which involves the purchase of three ATPs (advanced turbo prop aircraft) from British Aerospace at higher than the market price.

Ganges

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Ganges and urged the Indian side not to mix up the issue of the Ganges water sharing with that of 53 other common rivers.

But Indian side emphasized on the sharing of waters of all common rivers, including the Ganges, at a time.

During the last secretary-level meeting held in Delhi, the Bangladesh side gave a proposal for an interim arrangement of sharing the Ganges waters.

They tried to convince the Indian side that the sharing of waters of the Ganges was most essential for Bangladesh to continue its development activities.

The Irrigation Minister said that after the two secretary-level meetings the positive response from India indicated the neighbouring country's willingness to resolve the issue.



INTERNATIONAL FINANCE INVESTMENT AND COMMERCE BANK LIMITED

BSB Building (19th floor) 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.

Notice of The Fourteenth Annual General Meeting.

Notice is hereby given that the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of International Finance Investment And Commerce Bank Limited will be held at Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka on Sunday November 03, 1991 at 2.30 p.m. The agenda of the meeting is given below:

1. Chairman's address.
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting held on November 14, 1990.
3. Consideration of the Report of Directors and Auditors.
4. Consideration and approval of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Accounts for the year ended as on December 31, 1990.
5. Declaration of Dividend.
6. Election of Directors.
7. Appointment of Auditors and fixation of their remuneration.
8. Vote of thanks by the Managing Director.

By order of the Board
for and on behalf of IFCB Ltd
A. H. Anwar Hussain
Secretary.

Date: 20th October, 1991.

Note:

1. Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Saturday October 26, 1991 to Sunday November 03, 1991 (both days inclusive)
2. Votes may be given either personally or by attorney or by proxy through any person or persons or in the case of a corporation also by a representative duly authorised by a resolution of the Directors of such corporation.
3. The instrument of proxy duly stamped by Revenue Stamp of Tk. 2.00 and power of attorney or other authority if any under which it has been signed or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority must be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company at least 72 hours before the time for holding the meeting at which the person named in the instrument of proxy proposed to vote and in default the instrument appointing the proxy shall not be treated as valid.
4. The other retiring Directors shall be elected/nominated as provided in the Articles of Association of the Company.

Editor: S. M. Ali