

Evolving appropriate technology stressed

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday called for evolving indigenous technology to cater to the country's development needs, reports BSS.

"Development, first of all, calls for evolving appropriate technology, suited to our environment, our climate, our needs and capabilities of our people," she told a seminar on "Promotion of manual irrigation in Bangladesh," organised jointly by the Embassy of Switzerland and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) on the occasion of 700 years of democracy in Switzerland at hotel Sonarghon.

The Prime Minister also called upon the countrymen to participate in the canal-digging programme to achieve autonomy in different fields of national life.

"There is no need to wait for government directives," she said.

Begum Zia said all should come forward to take part in the implementation of the programme at the local level under the leadership of the local public representatives.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M. M. Hossain, Charge d' Affaires of Switzerland, Albert

Mehr, head of SDC programme Dr Urs Heierli and World Bank representative Ross Wallace.

Begum Zia said considering the socio-economic realities of Bangladesh, Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman initiated the country-wide canal-digging programme for the dual purposes of flood control and irrigation measures.

Describing the seminar as a "commendable step", the Prime Minister expressed her firm belief that the exchange of valuable ideas and recommendations would contribute to the promotion and development of the irrigation system.

The Prime Minister was happy to know that the simple treadle pump machine, the centerpiece of the seminar, was invented and developed by a Bangladeshi. She said her government would always patronise such innovations.

The Prime Minister said the irrigation device had already proved its utility and efficacy, adding "if we could popularise it in the rural areas, the lot of our marginal and landless peasants will be radically transformed."

The innovator of the pump, Narendra Nath Deb of Ulipur Upazila under Kurigram district, was introduced to the participants attending the seminar.



Awami League leader (top) and mother, wife and daughter of Dr Milton (above) placing wreaths the mazar of the martyred physician yesterday. -Star photo

Milon monument

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Mannan, Amir Hossain Amu, Begum Matia Chowdhury and Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin.

Speakers at a discussion meeting organised by Bangladesh Federation of Medical Teachers Associations (BFMTA) at the auditorium of the Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR) stressed for restoration of law and order and peace in society and punishment for the killers to consolidate democracy. The speakers observed that political intolerance was mainly responsible for the severe deterioration of the law and order throughout the country. This was a threat to democracy, they observed.

The meeting presided over by Prof Anwarul Azim was addressed by Prof M A Mazed, Deputy Leader in the parliament, Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed, JSD (Inu) leader Hasanul Huq Inu, Barrister Moinul Hossain, Prof M A Mazed, President of Bangladesh Medical Association, Dr T A Chowdhury, Director of IPGMR, Dr Gazi Abdul Huq and Prof Syed Modasser Ali.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said autocratic elements were still active in the political arena and observed that tolerance and understanding was now needed to protect the hard-earned democracy. He alleged that killers of Dr Milton have been sheltered politically. "They would not be able to hide them for long and they (killers) will be punished."

Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed said the present parliament was different from the previ-

ous ones as it was elected in fair polls after a mass upsurge. People have vested great responsibilities in the parliament and cooperation between the political parties was needed now to fulfil people's aspirations, he said.

Hasanul Huq Inu alleged that major political parties were engaged in mud-slinging and politicking on issues which would not benefit the people. He urged them to stop the trend.

Barrister Moinul Hossain said the political parties should not forget the people's power. He urged the ruling party to hold national interest above its party interest. Otherwise, it would give rise to the autocratic forces and result in failure of democracy, he observed.

Milon Smriti Sangsad organised a discussion meeting at the Dhaka University which was addressed, among others, by Energy Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharrar Hossain, Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Dhaka University Teachers Association President Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, Sammilite Sangskritik Jote Convener Faiz Ahmed, Lawyers Coordination Council Convener Advocate Shamsul Huq and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Hasanul Huq Inu. Bangladesh Medical Association President Dr M A Mazed presided.

The Energy Minister in his speech called for cooperation from all quarters for arrest and trial of the killers of Dr Milton.

Sajeda Chowdhury said that killers are being sheltered by political parties since 1975.

There should be a consensus of political parties on this issue, she said.

CPB, NAP, Samyabadi Dal and Gono Azadi League held a joint rally at the Purana Pallan crossing in observance of the day.

The rally presided over by Alhaj Abdus Samad was addressed among others by Nurul Islam Nahid of CPB, Pankaj Bhattacharya of NAP, Shaikur Rahman Majumdar of Samyabadi Dal and Habibur Rahman of Gono Azadi League.

Earlier in the morning, the leaders laid wreaths at the grave of Dr Milton and at the monument site.

National Democratic Party (NDP) held a discussion meeting at its office. The meeting, presided over by Giasuddin Kader Chowdhury was addressed among others by Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Abdus Salam, Foni Bhushan and Mamunur Rashid Mamun.

Janadal also held a discussion meeting at its office.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Chhatra League (S-A) and Democratic Students Unity (DSU) held separate rallies in the city.

The students organisations also laid wreaths at the grave and at the monument site.

Others who placed wreaths included Abdullah Sarkar of BCD, Chhatra Union, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu), Doctors Association of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Medical Association, Dhaka Medical College Teachers Association, Members of Dr Milton's family, Internec Doctors Association, Dhaka University Central Students Association (DUCSA) and doctors of Mymensingh Medical College.

11 file nomination papers for Bakerganj-5

Eleven candidates, including three independents, Wednesday filed nomination papers for contesting the coming by-election, to Jatiya Sangsad seat Bakerganj-5, Election Commission sources said, reports UNB.

The seat fell vacant following the election of Abdur Rahman Biswas to the office of the President.

Party candidates who submitted their nomination papers with the Returning Officer are: Majibur Rahman Sarwar (BNP), Fazlul Haque (Awami League), Showkat Hossain (Jatiya Party), Maulana Abul Hasanat (Jammate-Islami), Prof Abdul Sattar (Five-Party Alliance, Delwar Hossain Dilu (Freedom Party), Krishak Sadek Hossain (Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon) and Khandaker Mahbubur Rahman (Jatiyatabadi Andolon).

Names of the three independent candidates were not immediately available.

Scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held today (Thursday).

The last day of the withdrawal of candidature is December 4 and the polling will take place on December 21.

RU teachers slate Hasina's letter

RAJSHAHI, Nov 27: Fifty teachers of Rajshahi University in a statement today protested Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina's letter to foreign missions and donor agencies, reports UNB.

"It's undemocratic and against the country's independence and sovereignty," the statement said.

The varsity teachers urged Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, to refrain from such 'irresponsible' act and called upon all to resolve problems through democratic means.

Awami League has defended exchange of views with the foreigners through the letter as a democratic practice, but protested misreporting of its content.

Among the signatories of the statement are: Abdur Razzak, Prof Saiful Islam Faruqi, Prof Azharul Uddin, Dr Abdul-Muhtit, Abbas Uddin, Dr Sohrab Uddin, Korban Ali and Prof Shahadat Hossain.

Plea to dissolve engineering cells in govt depts

By Staff Correspondent

The National Association of the Public Works Directorate Employees Wednesday demanded of the government to cancel the engineering cells created in different ministries and government departments.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, president of the association Abu Ahmed alleged that creation of such engineering cells (mini PWDs), violating the government rules, would ultimately lead to the dissolution of the Public Works Directorate.

The association president also demanded inclusion of all employees in the permanent set-up of the directorate, regularisation of their services and promotion of employees in different sections.

Association general secretary Abul Kashem Azad, joint general secretary Joyinal Abedeen and other central leaders were also present at the press conference.

One killed as buses collide

GAZIPUR, Nov 27: One person was killed and 35 others were injured when two passenger buses collided near Ershadnagar on Dhaka-Tongi highway this morning.

The victim, a woman in her sixties, could not be identified. She died on the spot. Of the injured, 29 were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Dhaka Pangu Hospital and Tongi Hospital in a serious condition.

The fire brigade and nearby villagers immediately rushed to the spot and started rescue operations.

Of the ill-fated buses, the one bearing the registration No Dhaka Cha-37 was coming to Dhaka while the other Dhaka Cha-3947 was on its way to Gazipur.

Both the drivers of the buses managed to escape. A case has been registered with Tongi police station.

Our DMCH correspondent adds: Nine seriously injured persons were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Three of the injured could not be identified as they remained unconscious till writing of this report. Six others are: Humayun (20), Anu (2), Halim (24), Sunil (35), Mita (21) and Gedu Mia (50).

The Midnight File

Croatian town shelled

BELGRADE, Nov 27: Croatian radio said the town of Osijek came under fire today but a ceasefire appeared to hold in many other parts of Croatia after Yugoslavia asked the United Nations to launch a peacekeeping operation. The radio said mortar shells, artillery and rockets fired from areas held by the federal army and Serbian irregulars pounded all parts of Osijek in Eastern Croatia but the attacks eased towards dawn, reports Reuter.

Chatichai planning comeback

BANGKOK, Nov 27: Thailand's former prime minister Chatichai Choonhavan, faced with forfeiture of his "abnormally acquired" assets, pledged today to stage a political comeback to defend his reputation, reports Reuter.

ROK opposition MPs begin sit-in protest

SEOUL, Nov 27: South Korea's opposition members of parliament began a sit-in protest today after President Roh Tae-woo's ruling party forced disputed bills through parliament, an opposition spokesman said. Fists flew on Tuesday night as opposition politicians pushed and showed ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) members, accusing them of railroading through a series of late-night votes, reports Reuter.

Doctors to get jobs

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Jehad, Nur Hossain and Dr Milon, Begum Zia said democracy had been restored with their supreme sacrifice. The dream for democracy would only be fulfilled if a peaceful and progressive society could be offered to the next generation, she said.

Begum Zia also assured financial assistance for the DMC library, students' union, transport and canteen. Number of scholarship for the medical students will also be increased.

The Prime Minister referred to the recent government announcement on abolishing the system of deputating of doctors at upazila level.

Chinese science delegation in city

A six-member Chinese science and technology delegation led by Chen Xutao, the Vice Chairman of Chinese State Science and Technology Commission arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS.

The Secretary of Science and Technology Division, Lt. Col. Heshamuddin Ahmed (Retd) welcomed the delegation at Zia International Airport.

The delegation will sign a protocol for 1991-92 under the Bangladesh-China science and technology cooperation agreement signed in Beijing last year.

The delegation will also visit Bangladesh Council for Science and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Atomic Energy Commission

Shevardnadze

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business leaders in Moscow. Last December, Shevardnadze predicted the August hardliner's coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev during a speech to parliament when he quit as Foreign Minister.

In the interview with Kyodo, Shevardnadze - who regained his post last week - alluded to the disintegration of the Soviet Union's central authority and warned that "instability in the Soviet Union poses a greater threat to the world than nuclear weapons and environmental destruction."

He predicted, however, that the Soviet Union would continue to exist as a "superpower", the agency reported.

Questioned about Japanese-Soviet relations, Shevardnadze said he wanted a substantial development in economic cooperation from Tokyo, calling for aid to transform the Soviet Union's military industry into a civil one.

Shevardnadze said that he hoped to visit Japan in the near future.

Women seats

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Prime Minister and the lady Leader of the Opposition amply shows that there is no longer any necessity for the amendments to the reserved 30 seats or any women seat. That is why the framers of the Constitution made reservation of the women seat limited for only 10 years.

The hearing will resume today.

Shopowners

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to be launched from December 15. They also alleged that smuggled items enter through the border in connivance with a section of dishonest officials and demanded action against those corrupt officials.

Earlier, Bangladesh Shopowners Association and the Committee jointly held a rally at New Market where the speakers condemned the move to search shops for smuggled items. This would falsely discredit the shopowners as smugglers, they said.

Help Bangladesh

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at the recent aid group meeting for the current fiscal year stood around US dollar 2.3 billion, which is close to the suggested levels. Expected additional commitments by some donors are expected to increase the total amount of aid commitments, it said.

The report said some other international actions including alleviation of its debt and debt service burden and withdrawal or dismantling of trade barriers, particularly in the textile sector, would also benefit Bangladesh.

The issues of environment and economy of Bangladesh and those of the region need to be quickly and adequately addressed, the trade and development report maintained. Recurrent disasters not only negate the gains of domestic efforts, but also reduce the effectiveness of donors' contributions to development, the report viewed.

Giving a brief account of the cyclone damage suffered by Bangladesh, the report predicted requirement of considerable additional food imports following damage to standing crops, loss of private stock and also loss of a cropping season in the coastal areas. Increased imports of capital goods has also been mentioned following damage to buildings, infrastructures and

DUTA urged to find out ways to keep varsity open

Twentyfive teachers of Dhaka University has urged the university teachers association to reconsider the decision on abstention from classes in the greater interest of the students, reports BSS.

In a statement issued on Wednesday night, the teachers hoped that the association would find out ways and means to end violence by keeping the university open. The teachers said the government and the opposition should cooperate sincerely to eliminate violence originated from the outside and the university authorities take effective measures for the safety of students, teachers and officials.

The teachers hoped that teachers, students and guardians would join hands to find out ways to eliminate campus violence.

The statement was signed by Dr. Serajul Islam Chowdhury of English Department, K.M. Mohsin of History, Taushidul Anwar of Journalism, Mahmuda Haque, Quaiyum Choudhury, M. Kibria, Shamim Shikdar, Kazi Basat, A.H.M. Ali Sulaiman of Fine Arts, Abul Kalam of International Relations, Syed Rashidul Hasan of Marketing, Jalaluddin Ahmed of Finance, Belayet Hossain of Marketing, K.M.Saiful Islam, Library Science, Raashidunnabi and Nurul Alam Depart of Political Science, Fatunnessa Begum and Narayan Biswas of Sanskrit and Pali, Syed Mansurul Islam of English, M. Asaduzzaman of Public Administration, Galib Khan and Kawsar Mustafa of Philosophy and Chumilal Roy Choudhury of Sanskrit and Pali.

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Samphan flown to Bangkok

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As he left Bangkok early this morning for Phnom Penh he said he expected to stay through until UN supervised elections scheduled to be held in early 1993.

He and Son Sann are the Khmer Rouge representatives on the Supreme National Council, a reconciliation body bringing together the Phnom Penh government and three allied guerrilla armies.

It was due to hold its first meeting on Cambodian soil next Wednesday.

Earlier, more than 10,000 students demonstrated peacefully in the streets of Phnom Penh on Tuesday against the return of a Khmer Rouge leader. The rally was the largest public protest in the city in the 16 years since the Khmer Rouge seized power and tried to turn Cambodia into an agrarian utopia.

Demonstrators called for Khmer Rouge leaders to be returned to genocide before an international court.

The protest was well-organized and appeared to have the backing of the Phnom Penh government which has fought the Khmer Rouge the last 13 years.

While the Khmer Rouge maintains some support among

the peasantry in this impoverished, rice-growing nation, it generally is despised in the cities.

AFP adds: Cambodia's Phnom Penh government army and its former foe, the guerillas loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, have signed a coordination and cooperation agreement, the official SPK news agency reported.

The report, monitored here today, said Lieutenant-General Phnuong Siphan of the Phnom Penh Army and Major General Kruech Yoeurn, of the Sihanoukist National Army, signed the agreement on Monday at the end of a two-day working session.

The military agreement came after the armies' respective political wings forged an alliance.

The two sides pledged to effectively implement the peace accord signed in Paris on October 23 so as to stabilise the political and social situation in Cambodia," SPK reported.

In a statement issued in Bangkok on Tuesday Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Prince Sihanouk's son and the Commander of the guerrilla army loyal to his father, said the political and military al-