

# Flood control project 35 city canals to be re-excavated

By Staff Correspondent

The government is planning to re-excavate 35 derelict canals of Dhaka, once used as the city's natural sewer system. Re-excavation of these canals is expected to start from next month, officials said Thursday.

The canals would be dug as part of the ongoing Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection (DIFP) Project to get storm water out of the capital.

The officials said that 21 of these 35 canals in Dhaka would be re-excavated in the first phase of the DIFP Project.

The total length of these 21 canals will cross 78 kilometres, informed an official of WASA.

Drawings and designs on the re-excavation work have already been finalised and submitted to the government for approval, he said.

These canals are located at Dholakhal, Paribagh, Segun Bagicha, Begunbari, Rayer

Bazar, Kanthal Bagan, Mohakhali, Ibrahimpur, Khilgaon, Basabo, Jirani, Kalyanpur, Ramchandrapur, Katsur, Abdullhampur, Banunia, Gulshan-Banani, Mogda and Diabari.

Explaining the objectives of the planned re-excavation, the WASA official said these canals would work as trunk channels to bring in water from the storm sewers of the city.

The canals would bring water to the ring dam around the capital which would then be passed out through sluice gates or pumped out on to the rivers during monsoon, he said.

"People have built houses on some of these canals, set up shops and raised gardens," the official said.

However, the government has no plan to evict the people living there, he said. WASA would construct box-culverts on the land where they now live to let water pass under the structures.



Broken propeller of the ATP plane that met an accident yesterday. — Star photo

# Flood grips low-lying areas in Pabna

PABNA, July 16: Incessant rainfall during the last two days raised the water level in river Jamuna, flooding low-lying areas of three thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Affected thanas are Sadar, Bera and Sujanagar.

Erosion in the worst affected Bera thana rendered about 200 families homeless during the last 24 hours.

The affected unions are Ahmedpur and Tatibondh in Sujanagar, Dhalarchar and Bhatunaria Nakalia in Bera and Ataikula, Hemayetpur and Goyespur in Sadar thana.

Standing crops on about 200 acres of land were also damaged during the period.

Moreover, 20 villages of the char region were also flooded. Meanwhile, the turbulent

Jamuna continued to devour villages, leaving some 320 families homeless in five thanas of Sirajganj in the last 24 hours.

Officials and villagers said today 27 villages had been affected by the unabated erosion, and three of them in Belkuchi thana entirely went down the gorge of the mighty river during the period.

The homeless people have taken shelter in different flood centres and on the WAPDA embankment.

About 35 feet of the Kazipur Thana Health Complex was engulfed by the river.

District Civil Surgeon office said the existence of Kazipur Health Complex and Family Welfare Centres in Khasrajbari and Maizbari unions were under threat of erosion.

# Private member

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The Private Members' day we have the time to consider some important resolutions," he added. Razaq then requested the Deputy Speaker to allow Suranjit the floor.

Suranjit angrily said that when a member was on a point of order it was his right to get permission to speak. At this point, the Deputy Speaker interrupted to know what Suranjit's point of order was.

Suranjit replied saying that "Either you stop or I stop." Continuing his deliberations Suranjit said that for the first time he had been denied permission to speak in the House.

He said that if by definition the Treasury benches were private members then what would be the status of the Deputy Leader of the House? If the Deputy Leader, not a minister, became a private member then who would lead the Treasury bench, added Sen.

Mentioning Erskine May and Kaul, the two authorities on procedures of parliament, Suranjit said that "We are bound by conventions. We have not heard that on a private members' day Treasury benches move a resolution." With these words Suranjit asked for a ruling from the Chair on the issue.

At this stage Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury rose to say that the definition of a private member was clearly spelled out and any member of the House, other than a minister, was a private member.

Quoting from the Rules of SB probing Titas Gas incident

By Staff Correspondent

Belal Hossain Bepari, the pipe construction supervisor of the Titas Gas, was buried at the Banani graveyard Thursday, one week after he was killed in a union riot at the Titas Gas headoffice in Dhaka.

The body of the Titas Gas employee, also a leader of one union of the company, was kept at the BIRDEM mortuary. Meanwhile, one general manager of the company informed that The Special Branch had taken up the case and investigating into the clash.

# Israel

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might approve a formula under which all spending in the territories would be subtracted from the loan guarantees granted.

In Cairo, a spokesman for Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Israel's decision to suspend signing new contracts "helps create a suitable climate" for a Rabin-Mubarak meeting.

Rabin said Wednesday plans were under discussion for him to visit Egypt "in the near future."

Rabin has said he would stop construction in "political" settlements in areas with large Arab populations, but continue to build in settlements

# Probe

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inflated price.

Mannan said that the ill-fated aircraft was on its flight back from Saidpur to Dhaka and was about to land at 10.04 in the morning. Because of heavy rains, the aircraft came in to land from Direction 32 and made a positive landing.

He said that during rains, touchdown landings were not advisable as chances of a plane's skidding off the slippery runway were there. Touchdown landings in such a situation could also cause brake failure, he added.

Using an aviation terminology, the minister said that during heavy showers the Captain opted for aqua planning which was also known as hard landing.

The minister said that as he was coincidentally present at the airport yesterday morning he was immediately informed of the incident. He then rushed a bus to carry the passengers, totalling 48 including three children, he added.

The minister further said that the passengers were completely unaware of what had happened and that there was even no panic.

Even the Captain of the plane did not realise that the nose wheel had broken. However, the plane did not go out of the runway, he added.

Mannan said that because of this damage the plane could not be tucked away and that heavy rains also delayed the operation.

Moreover, as the plane was in the centre of the runway, the runway was closed to traffic till 1.15 pm.

The runway was declared open at 1.54 pm, the minister added.

# Enemy property

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culated in respective areas for information of the people in general.

He said such a measure is essential to free the land owners from the harassment of corrupt settlement officials. Once the gazetted list is available to be people, such officials will refrain from declaring others' land as enemy property.

As many as 10 members from Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami spoke in support of the resolution who described as 'inhuman' the declaration of enemy property.

Earlier, a resolution demanding connection and distribution of gas to Lakshimpur district was moved by Treasury Bench member Khairul Enam. It was however withdrawn on assurance from the Energy Minister Mosharrar Hossain that all the districts will be covered by the gas supply network in phases.

Yesterday was private members' day when five more resolutions were introduced in the House. These included one moved by Mohiuddin Ahmed seeking extension of house building loan facilities at 5 per cent interest to the rural areas.

Another resolution moved by Khan Tipu Sultan (AL) sought introduction of double shifts in all government schools and colleges of Dhaka City.

The resolutions may come up for consideration of the House on the next private members' day on Thursday.

# ATP accident

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was declared open to flight operations. All the diverted and delayed flights reached the airport afterwards while other flights left for their destinations.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M A Mannan who happened to be at the airport when the accident took place rushed to the spot and personally supervised the rescue operations.

The cause of the accident could not be ascertained. However, some senior officials of Biman said that a hard touch down might have been the cause of the accident. "Though it was raining heavily, visibility was there," they mentioned.

Soon after the accident, the Civil Aviation authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) initiated the process of inquiry into the

incident.

A Biman official said that it would take some time to repair the aircraft and bring it into operation. However, a CAAB official said that the affected aircraft even after repairs would not be allowed to resume operations until the inquiry was completed.

The two ATP aircraft, procured from British Aerospace, have been in operation on domestic routes since November last year. Previously, the ATPs were grounded after some snags and accidents in which the newly procured aircraft were involved.

A total of three ATP aircraft were purchased during Ershad's rule and two of the aircraft were delivered to Bangladesh. But the present government did not take delivery of the third.

# US equipment to face natural calamity handed over

CHITTAGONG, July 16: The United States has handed over different types of equipment and materials worth 20 million US dollars (about Tk 78 crore) to Bangladesh to face natural calamity, reports BSS.

State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan yesterday formally received the goods from US Ambassador in Bangladesh William B Milam at a function held at the Chittagong Prot, a PID handout said.

The equipment and goods included 20 jeeps, 60 pickup ambulances, 13 jeep ambulances, 60 ambulance kits, nine landing crafts, 200 parachutes, 63 different types of radio sets, 15 blankets, 100 tents and 44 water trailers.

# Four Tamils

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province and claimed that they were all studying computer engineering in Sri Lanka.

According to the airport record, they held Sri Lankan passports and had Biman tickets for Bombay when they left Dhaka but they had no documents with them on their arrival after being deported from Amsterdam.

"They possibly destroyed their passports and other documents on board and sought political asylum in Holland," an airport official said.

Another source alleged that on a previous visit to Bangladesh, they evaded arrest and managed to leave the country with the help of some immigration employees at ZIA.

Airport officials, however, refuted the allegation. The authorities formed an enquiry committee headed by General Manager, Customer Service, Capt (Retd) S M M Rahman.



Children taking a merry dip in road-turned-stream at Neemtaly in old city during rain yesterday. — Star photo

# Refugee camp firing : Death toll two

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 16: The official death toll in Tuesday's police firing at Naikhyangchhari refugee camp in Bandarban district rose to two as the inmates handed over the body of one refugee to the authorities.

Myanmar refugees living at the Naikhyangchhari camp handed over the body of Fatz Ahmed (28) to the authorities at about 5 pm today.

Earlier, Muhammad Hossain, a passer-by was shot dead. The body of the refugee was brought to the Cox's Bazar District Hospital for autopsy.

At least 20 people, including refugees and policemen, were injured in a clash between the camp inmates and the authorities.

# \$ 8m OPEC loan for education project

VIENNA, July 16: Bangladesh will receive eight million dollars from the OPEC fund for international development as loan to finance an education project under an agreement signed in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The project is a part of the nation-wide programme to increase primary school enrollment and retention and significantly improve the literacy rate in Bangladesh by the year 2000. It includes the construction and furnishing of 140 primary schools in Khulna division. The schools are to be built in blocks of three class rooms each.

According to an official press release, it is expressed that 42,000 children of school age would complete (in two shifts) their primary education, thus enabling them to pursue secondary schooling and or occupational training. The project will be implemented within a period of three years.

# "No surplus manpower in textile mills"

There is no surplus manpower in the textile mills both in the nationalised and private sector, said State Minister for Textile Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan, reports UNB.

He told parliament during the question hour yesterday that at present country's textile units had 82,255 workers, 10,915 employees and 2,080 officers.

# Accord to rebuild Karnafuli bridge

The 830-metre bridge over the river Karnafuli is expected to be reopened to traffic by the end of next summer, official sources said in Dhaka Thursday, reports BSS.

Bangladesh and Netherlands have signed an agreement yesterday to re-construct the bridge, badly damaged during the unprecedented cyclone and tidal surge of April 29, 1991, at a cost of 13.6 million Dutch guilders equivalent to Tk 27.25 crore. Out of the amount the royal Dutch government will provide 13.4 million Dutch guilders as projected aid while Bangladesh will contribute two million Dutch guilders equivalent to Tk 40 lakh in local currency.

# Myanmar

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Relief Commissioner informed that a Bangladeshi passerby, injured in the clash, was reported in critical condition at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

BSS adds: Tension is prevailing in 16 Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar following differences among the refugees on their repatriation to their homeland.

The refugees clashed at Naikhangchhari camp on Tuesday over repatriation issue and at least 50 of them were injured in the clash. Police had to open fire to disperse the clashing Rohingyas. The BDR was called in to maintain peace at the refugee camp.

Rival Rohingya refugees also clashed at Dechua Palong(2) camp Wednesday in which 20 were injured. Police resorted to lathi charge to separate the clashing refugees.

The concerned authority in Cox's Bazar has strengthened security measures around refugee camps by reinforcing police force. Barbed wire fencing has been erected around some of the camps to prevent the rival refugees from clashing.

The inquiry committee constituted for finding out whereabouts of a large number of missing refugees has been working since last few days. A fresh enumeration of Rohingya refugees has also been going on at different camps, official sources here said.

# The Midnight File

## WEU naval forces, aircraft patrolling Y'slav coast

BRUSSELS, July 16: Western naval forces and aircraft began patrolling the Yugoslav coast today in support of a United Nations embargo against Serbia and Montenegro, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) said. The monitoring operations began this morning. Major Stephen Wills at NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) told Reuters.

## Fresh fighting near Kabul University : 4 killed

KABUL, July 16: Fresh fighting near Kabul University has left at least four people dead and many injured, witnesses and hospital sources said today. The fighting broke out Wednesday in Kabul's southwestern district of Karta-i-Se, a stronghold of the Shiite Hezb-i-Wahdat Mujahideen faction, reports AFP.

## Hasina

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The people of Bangladesh, she said, had brought the downfall of the autocracy through a heroic struggle and added "We have been putting in due efforts to nurture and sustain the fledgling democracy despite the government's indifference about it."

The Leader of the Opposition said Bangladesh emerged through a bloody war of liberation and the then elected government had initiated various programmes for the overall development of the country.

But after the assassination of the country's founder Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and members of his family in August, 1975 martial law was imposed and subsequently democracy and democratic institutions were destroyed through farcical elections, Sheikh Hasina said.

The Leader of the Opposition exchanged views with them on different aspects of the world situation.

The leaders whom Sheikh Hasina met included US congressman G L Hamilton, former US vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, David Zin MP, Governor John Brown, Mayor David Dinkins, Lord Stanley David of Britain, British Permanent Representative to the United Nations James Whee, and British Labour Party Leader W I. Hafins, MP.

Sheikh Hasina also attended a dinner hosted in honour of her and other leaders attending the NDI convention by the Awami League branch of the United States.

## Newsman

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(BNP). Ituda said the government has decided to distribute advertisements considering the objectivity of a newspaper. The distribution of advertisements does not depend on the circulation of a newspaper as many papers increase their circulation by publishing sensational and untrue news items, he added.

The minister said the government will also give advertisement to mufassil newspapers and news weeklies if they are found publishing objective news.

In reply to Advocate Fazle Rabbi (JP), he said the advertisement to Daily Janata was stopped as the daily published "false" news after the fall of the autocratic Ershad.

However, he informed that the government has started providing advertisements to the daily after its management gave an undertaking that they would not publish any "false" news in future.

## Biman murder 9 accused surrender, 5 granted bail

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 16: Nine out of a total of 20 accused persons in the Aminul Islam Biman murder case surrendered to the CMM Court at 10:30 this morning.

Biman, a Shibir activists was killed when Nirmul Committee supporters allegedly attacked the Shibir office here on March 25 last.

Among the nine accused, who had been absconding till this morning, five were granted bail. The Court rejected bail petition of the four other persons; who are Nirmul Committee leaders.

Dr Kamal Hussain and Barrister Amirul Islam pleaded for the accused.

Hundreds of supporters both from the Nirmul Committee and the Jamaat-Shibir thronged the Court premises while special police and BDR contingent were deployed in the Court apprehending untoward incidents.

Following the bail, CPB declared half-day hartal in the city on Saturday in protest of the rejection of bail petition of the four other Nirmul Committee leaders. Supporters of the Chhatra Union also in the evening damaged four cars in the city in protest.

## SSF

From Page 1 Col 5

The SSF has been empowered, among other things, to make arrests without warrants and to fire upon anybody it feels a threat to the Prime Minister or other VIPs.

Convener of his faction of BSD Khalequzzaman in a statement said that the NBP government, encouraged by nine years of autocracy formed the SSF. "No statesman having a minimum of democratic values could move or live freely guarded by such a force with wild powers," he commented and demanded dissolution of the SSF.

Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote strongly protested and condemned the passage of the Bill saying that it truly reflected the BNP government's 'autocratic face.'

Badruddin Umar, M Nurunnabi, Lutfur Rahman, Abr Hassan and Fatjul Hakim in the statement called for a movement to demand nullification of the Bill.

The Awami League-backed Chhatra League held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday evening protesting the formation of the SSF.

Addressing the rally the BCL leaders said that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, following the footsteps of Ershad, had formed the SSF to protect herself from 'public wrath'.

## Tk 73000, gold robbed in city

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers robbed 73 thousand taka in cash and gold ornaments in three incidents in the capital Thursday.

The first incident took place at 8-30 in the morning near the under-construction police head office at Fulbaria. Staff nurse of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Rokeya Akhter, was stopped by three muggers who snatched away her gold ornaments.

In the second incident, Liakat Hossain an employee of a private electric goods manufacturing company, was stopped by three muggers riding a motorbike near Fakirer Pool.

The muggers stabbed him on the hand and on one leg before snatching away taka 73 thousand from him. He was taking the money to his office at Purana Paltan.

In the third incident, muggers halted Sirajul Islam, an Assistant Secretary of the Finance Ministry, and his wife near Fulbaria.

The muggers robbed a gold necklace, bangles and a ring from the lady at gunpoint.

## Sharma elected Indian President

NEW DELHI, July 16: Vice President Shankar Dayal Sharma was declared elected as India's ninth President on Thursday, PTI said.

Sharma's victory in Monday's electoral college election, as a candidate of Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's governing Congress (I) Party, was announced after seven hours of ballot-counting here.

The 74-year-old veteran polled 64.78 per cent of the value of the votes cast by federal and provincial lawmakers, relegating his Opposition rival George Gilbert Swell to a distant runner-up.

Sharma, who also enjoyed the support of the communists, won 329,379 'value votes' more than Swell, whose candidacy was sponsored by the centrist National Front and the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian people's party).

Supporters of the Chhatra Union also in the evening damaged four cars in the city in protest.

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